MISSING LINKS IN ZIMBABWE’S HISTORY: AN EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

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At a time when Zimbabwe is emerging from a crisis defined by the land question, hyperinflation, sanctions, growing unemployment, the constitutional debate, drought and hunger, a volume of this diverse nature is required to rethink and redigest a number of issues. The political landscape during the Zimbabwean crisis gave way to an economic meltdown that entrenched spiralling inflation, heightened job losses, promoted disparities between gender and worsened the plight of disadvantaged groups, introduced debilitating brain drain, encouraged absconding and desertion and threw a general loss of morale among Zimbabweans. In this near pariah condition, it became clear that Zimbabwe needs the world but the world does not need Zimbabwe. The few ‘friends’ who have stayed around Zimbabwe have their own agenda as spelt out in one of the chapters of this volume. The adoption of a Government of National Unity in Zimbabwe brought with it, also, dimensions of politics that require thinking and rethinking. The purpose of this book, therefore, is to bring to the fore, issues around which we need to talk, issues that critics had not had ample and opportune time as well as courage to write about.