



# The Assassination of Herbert Chitepo: Texts and Politics in Zimbabwe

By Luise S. White

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On March 18, 1975, Herbert Chitepo, an African nationalist in exile and chairman of the war council that struggled to liberate Zimbabwe from white-ruled Rhodesia, was killed by a car bomb. Since then, there have been four confessions and at least as many accusations about who was responsible. In *The Assassination of Herbert Chitepo*, Luise White does not set out to resolve questions about who was accountable for this horrible murder. Instead, in a style that is as much murder mystery as it is history writing, she uncovers what is at stake in the various confessions and why Chitepo's assassination continues to incite conflict and controversy in Zimbabwe's national politics. White casts doubt on official accounts of the murder and addresses how and for whom history is written and how myths and ideas about civic culture were founded in war-torn Zimbabwe. Although the truth about the assassination of Herbert Chitepo may never be known, readers will discover how one man's murder continues to unsettle Zimbabwe.

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#### **About the Author**

Luise White is Professor of History at the University of Florida, Gainesville. She is the author of *The Comforts of Home: Prostitution in Colonial Nairobi*, for which she won the Herskovits Award, *Speaking with Vampires: Rumor and History in Colonial Africa*, and co-editor (with David William Cohen and Stephan F. Miescher) of *African Words, African Voices: Critical Practices in Oral History* (Indiana University Press).

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