

Armed groups have attacked pipelines and held foreign oil workers for ransom.

**2 IDENTIFY CENTRAL ISSUES** How did the conflicts in Katanga and Biafra reflect the challenges that new African nations faced after independence?

## The Wars of Southern Africa

Colonies in southern Africa were among the last to win independence. Unlike the peaceful transition to independence in much of Africa, the road to freedom in southern Africa was marked by long, violent struggles.

**Zimbabwe** During the colonial period, many whites had settled in British-ruled Southern Rhodesia. Whites made up only five percent of Rhodesia's population but owned half the land and controlled the government. White Rhodesians rejected any move to give up power to the black majority. When Britain supported demands for majority rule, whites led by Ian Smith declared independence in 1965.

They finally became an independent nation of Zimbabwe. Liberation leader Robert Mugabe was elected president.

Although popular at first, Mugabe grew increasingly dictatorial. He cracked down on opponents and ended many basic freedoms. Despite international pressure and an economic crisis, the aging Mugabe held on to power.

**Angola and Mozambique** Portugal clung fiercely to its profitable colonies of Angola and Mozambique. To achieve independence, nationalist groups had to wage a long guerrilla war. In 1975, Portugal finally agreed to withdraw.

Brutal civil wars, largely supported by foreign powers, soon developed in both countries. White-ruled South Africa feared the rise of strong, black-dominated governments on its borders. As a result, they funded rebel groups in both Mozambique and Angola. The Cold War also fueled tensions. In Angola, the Soviet Union financed Cuban troops who supported the left-wing government, while the United States backed insurgent anti-communist forces.

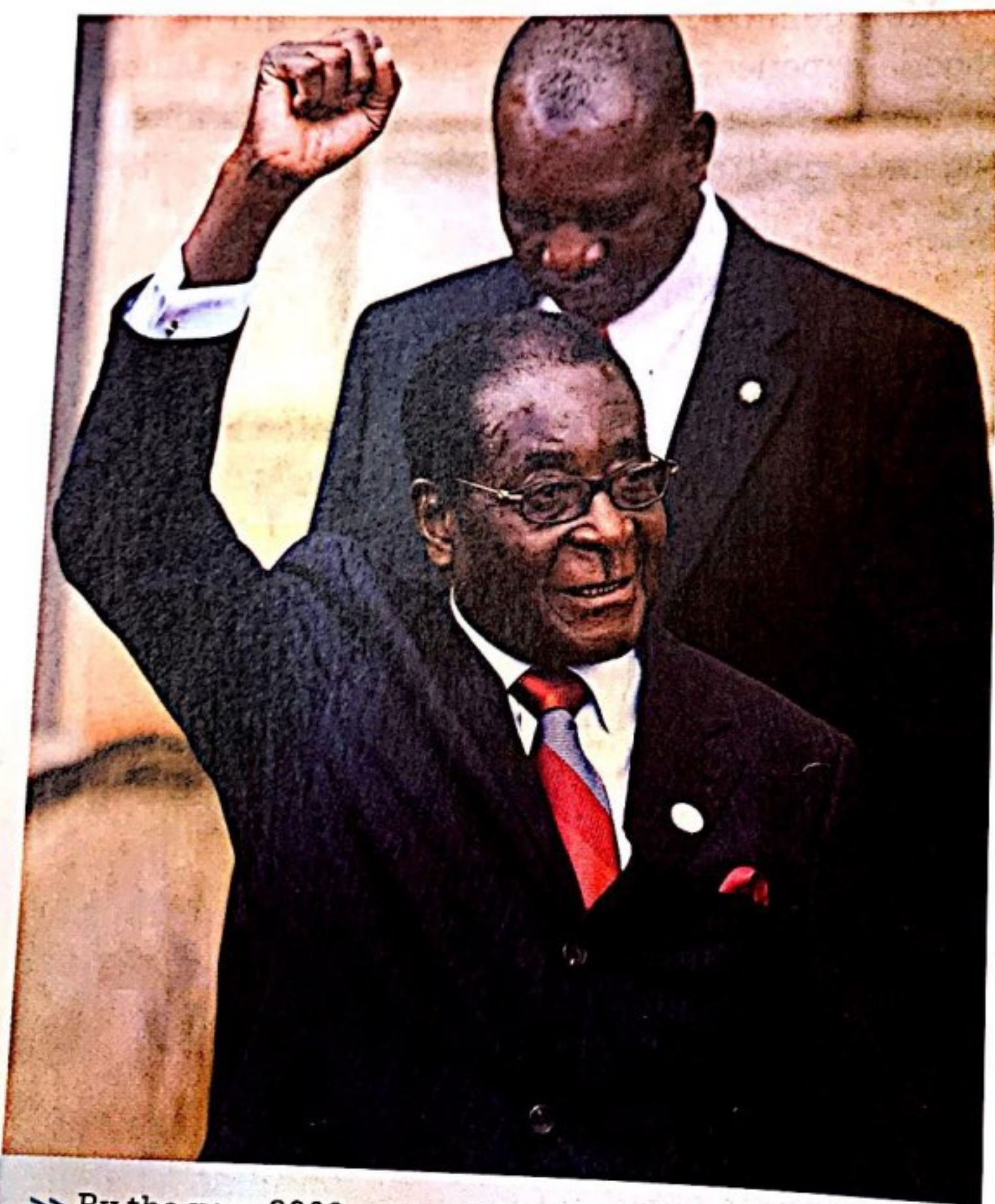
The fighting continued until 1992 in Mozambique and until 2002 in Angola. Decades of war had ravaged both countries, which slowly began to rebuild.

**2 DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Why did fighting continue after Angola achieved independence?

## Ethnic Conflict and Genocide

After independence, ethnic conflicts plagued some African nations. The causes were complex. Often one group held political and economic power at the expense of other groups. Weak or unstable governments were unable to build national unity. Regional and cultural differences also fed rivalries that on occasion led to tragic violence. At times, ambitious leaders took advantage of rivalries to increase their own power.

**Rwanda and Burundi** Power struggles between rival groups led to a deadly genocide in Rwanda, a small central African nation. The country is home to two main groups, the majority **Hutus** and the minority **Tutsis**. Though often considered separate ethnic groups, they speak the same language, share the same culture, follow the same Catholic religion and look alike. In colonial times, the Belgian government had favored Tutsis over the Hutus. After independence, the majority Hutu came into power and violence against



>> By the year 2009, when this photo was taken, Robert Mugabe was being forced to share power, but Zimbabwe still faced terrible inflation, food shortages, and disease epidemics.



Tutsis increased. Over the next 30 years, many Tutsis fled to neighboring countries.

In early 1994, a suspicious plane crash killed the presidents of Rwanda and neighboring Burundi. The crash triggered a coordinated attack on Tutsis. Urged on by extremist Hutu officials, civilians turned on their Tutsi neighbors. At least 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were brutally slaughtered within a few months. Even as the death toll rose, the world community was slow to act to stop the genocide. By July, a Tutsi-led army had invaded from Burundi, ended the slaughter, and set up a unity government.

Rwandan leaders tried to heal the horrors of the genocide. Almost two million people were tried in traditional community courts where the goal was to achieve truth and reconciliation. The hearings resulted in some convictions, but many of those who took part in the killings remained in their communities. The main leaders of the genocide, however, faced trials in an international court.

Burundi faced similar tensions between Hutus and Tutsis. Violence erupted, but did not lead to genocide as in Rwanda. In 2005, voters approved a new constitution that guaranteed both groups participation in the government and military.

**Rebellion and Civil War in Sudan** The large, geographically diverse country of Sudan has faced decades of conflict. After independence, the Arab Muslim north dominated the non-Muslim, non-Arab south. A long civil war pitted the north against the south, killing more than a million and a half people.

The Sudanese government and rebels in the south finally agreed to a peace accord. In 2011, the people of South Sudan voted to secede and set up their own independent nation. Relations between the two countries remain strained over disputed borders and the sharing of oil revenues, which both countries desperately need. Within South Sudan itself, tensions threatened civil war as rival groups jockeyed for power.

Another conflict raged in **Darfur**, in the western region of Sudan. There, the rebels were non-Arab Muslims who fought against the Arab-dominated Sudanese government. The government launched a campaign of genocide, encouraging Arab militias to destroy the villages and slaughter the black Sudanese residents. An estimated 300,000 people were killed and more than two million fled their homes.

The United States and other countries sent humanitarian aid to refugees in Darfur. The UN sent peacekeepers to prevent further violence but with little success. The International Criminal Court (ICC) charged Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, with crimes against humanity and genocide. However, the



>> The Kigali Memorial Centre in Kigali, Rwanda, displays photographs of people killed in the genocide. **Analyze Image** How could these photographs affect a person's understanding of the genocide?



>> Children celebrate with a Republic of South Sudan flag cake during Sudanese independence celebrations in 2011.



ICC is not recognized in Sudan, and he has never made. In 2010, al-Bashir won reelection, though many believe those elections were not fair or free. The conflict in Darfur has lessened but not ended. The situation is complex with many warring groups and no easy solution.

**? DESCRIBE** Why was there conflict between northern and southern Sudan?

## ASSESSMENT

1. **Analyze Information** Where did struggles for independence in Africa turn violent and why?

facing the 2010 elections in the Congo and Kenya as they achieved independence and what paths did those countries take?

3. **Synthesize** Why did many new nations in Africa have difficulty building democratic governments?
4. **Summarize** How did the ethnic conflict in Rwanda become a genocide?
5. **Compare** How was the conflict in Darfur similar to the conflict in Rwanda?