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This book was published by UNESCO for its social sciences programme on Southern Africa. Two other books (Racism and Apartheid in Southern Africa, PART II Rhodesia, by Reg Austin, published in December, 1975, and Southern Rhodesia: the effects of a conquest society on education, culture and information, published in 1976) together seek to study the Rhodesian situation.

Dr. Weinrich's book is an in-depth study of the African's life in one of the many African townships in Rhodesia - Mucheke in Fort Victoria. The book comes at a very appropriate time when a revolution has just started in Rhodesia. Reading it is an opportunity to focus on the long and unjust life the African in Rhodesia has lived. The
life in Mucheke is not unique to it but is, in fact, the order in the greater part of Southern Africa in general and Rhodesia in particular. One can only wish the people of Zimbabwe, a complete revolution that will wipe out contradictions like that between Fort Victoria and Mucheke.

Dr. Weinrich conducted field work in the area from 1968 to 1970, and she views Fort Victoria and Mucheke as one multiracial society divided into two distinct geographical and social communities. Mucheke depends on Fort Victoria for employment while Fort Victoria depends on the former for labour.

Mucheke, though an African area, suffers from the domination and control of the Europeans. Social institutions and recreational activities are controlled by Europeans, and even the national policies, e.g. on education, adversely affect Africans in Mucheke. The race laws ensure that Fort Victoria is European by night, hence the authorities vigorously encourage Africans to frequent their own beerhall in Mucheke.

Unlike the rural areas, in Mucheke, men completely outnumber women. This perhaps demonstrates that Mucheke is not made for family life, but rather, it is an abode for those who are able to offer their labour services to Fort Victoria. Also, lodgers are prohibited in Mucheke.
This emphasis on usefulness to the town has siphoned all the "talent" from rural areas to Mucheke, i.e. talent as defined by Fort Victoria. Despite this "talent" in Mucheke, more than two-thirds of the residents are poor, a direct result of low wages. As a result of this, there is evidence of low motivation to work among the African workers.

Rents in Mucheke are relatively high as compared with those in rich Fort Victoria. In fact, the rich are subsidized by these poor. Some relationship is established between quality of life and housing. Trades like prostitution are common in poorer sections.

In Mucheke, there are several social strata which determine participation in voluntary associations. This is more important for women than for men, and the women in higher levels of strata dominate the social groups. Men associate mostly with those from their own district of origin.

There is open resentment of the ruling regime including all those associated with it, e.g. chiefs, the police, or the Local Advisory Committee. It is usually the richer people who fall on the side of authority. It follows then that the majority who are poor sympathize with nationalists whose leaders are mainly in detention.

In the whole of Fort Victoria, blacks are increasingly becoming hostile to whites. The differences
between the African and European are of a class character as exemplified by the relationship between the domestic servant and the white master. Domestic servants are, however, a despised group in Mucheke and this kind of work is seen as women's work rather than men's.

Dr. Weinrich's book has a rich statistical appendix which could be very useful to economists. Perhaps its lack of an index will force many to page through it.