



Comparative Economic Blocs in Zimbabwe: An Ethnographic Perspective

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Published: 20 May 2000 | **Received:** 24 February 2000 | **Accepted:** 24 April 2000

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18721445](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18721445)

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Abstract

Zimbabwe is a country deeply embedded in various regional economic blocs that influence its socio-economic development. Understanding these blocs from an ethnographic perspective can provide insights into how local communities perceive and interact with different economic arrangements. The research employs an ethnographic approach, combining participant observation, in-depth interviews, and archival data analysis to gather qualitative insights into the experiences of individuals and communities across different regions affected by regional economic integration initiatives. A notable finding is that small-scale farmers in the Zambezi Valley region perceive SADC's agricultural agreements as beneficial for their livelihoods, with a significant proportion experiencing increased market access and improved yields due to these partnerships. The ethnographic study reveals nuanced perceptions of regional economic blocs among Zimbabwean communities, highlighting both benefits and challenges. These insights are crucial for policymakers aiming to enhance the inclusivity and effectiveness of regional integration efforts in Africa. Policy recommendations should prioritise community engagement and tailor support programmes to address specific needs identified through this ethnographic research, ensuring that regional economic blocs contribute positively to all sectors of society.

Keywords: *Geographic, Regionalism, Anthropology, Economic Geography, Development Studies, Ethnography, Sub-Saharan*

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