

Federation to UDI, 1953–1965

SCHOOL-BASED PROJECT · ABANTU ARCHIVES INTEGRATION · 27 CURATED SOURCES

SBP problem statement: *How did the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland's official promise of “racial partnership” compare to the political and economic realities that led to its dissolution and Southern Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence?*

1. Curriculum overview & learning objectives

Syllabus alignment: ZIMSEC Heritage Studies (Forms 1–4) & Cambridge O/A-Level History. Suitable for advanced secondary students and diaspora scholars.

Core learning outcomes:

- Compare official Federal government publications against nationalist and independent statements.
- Evaluate economic interdependence and resource allocation across Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, and Nyasaland.
- Analyse constitutional and franchise mechanisms used to delay African majority rule up to 1965.
- Trace how official, commercial and independent publications changed tone as the Federation approached collapse.

2. Differentiated resource tracks

Track	Core materials / access & execution
Local (rural / low-bandwidth)	Printed PDF pack, markers, wall-chart paper, local newspaper archives. Oral history interviews with community elders who lived through the Federation.
Diaspora (digital / global)	Digital timeline tools (TimelineJS, Miro, Canva), online archives. Abantu Archives digital search tool; digitised British and Central African press.

3. Curated primary & secondary sources (chronological)

Five sources marked ★ **NEW** were added in this revision to strengthen the official/commercial/independent-press comparison and extend economic and infrastructural coverage.

Source 1: African Highway: The Battle For Health In Central Africa (1953)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0041 | TYPE: Public health survey | AUTHOR: Sir Malcolm Watson, M.D.

A public health survey published the year the Federation formed, documenting disease control across the three territories.

Watson, Sir Malcolm, M.D., C.M., D.P.H., LL.D. 1953. *African Highway: The Battle For Health In Central Africa*. John Murray (Publishers), Ltd., London. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0041.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify health challenges documented across the region.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Why publish a health survey covering all three territories in 1953?

Source 2: The Next Step... Federation's Future (1955) ★ NEW

ACCESSION: AA-REP-0130 | TYPE: Official/promotional review | PUBLISHER: The Rhodesian Graphic (ed. Sydney H. Veats, C.B.E.)

A 1955 review of the Federation's achievements, government, African viewpoints and economic development — shows that arguments about the Federation's future were being made well before the 1961–65 crisis.

The Rhodesian Graphic. 1955. *The Next Step... Federation's Future*. Salisbury, S. Rhodesia. Abantu Archives, accession AA-REP-0130.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

List two claims the report makes about the Federation's future achievements.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does an optimistic 1955 forecast compare with what actually happened by 1963?

Source 3: C.A.A. Guide to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1956) ★ NEW

ACCESSION: AA-BK-0262 | TYPE: Commercial/tourism guide | EDITOR: L. S. Levin

An earlier edition of the C.A.A. guide (compare with Source 11, the 1961 edition) — shows how the Federation was marketed to travellers and investors at the very start of the union.

Ed. L. S. Levin. 1956. *C.A.A. Guide to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland*. A. J. Levin Ltd, London, Salisbury, Cape Town. Abantu Archives, accession AA-BK-0262.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify one way the guide presents the region to prospective visitors or investors.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Compare this 1956 guide with the 1961 edition (Source 11). What changed in how the Federation was promoted?

Source 4: Broadcasting Act 1957 (Amended 1963) (1957)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0203 | TYPE: Primary legal source | AUTHOR: Rhodesian Government

Federation-era legislation governing radio broadcasting across the territories.

Rhodesian Government. 1957. *Broadcasting Act 1957 Amended 1963*. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0203.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Note which areas of broadcasting the law controls.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Why did the government want tight control over radio during this period?

Source 5: African Nationalism (1959)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0046 | TYPE: Nationalist text | AUTHOR: Ndabaningi Sithole

A foundational text critiquing colonial rule as the Federation entered its final years.

Sithole, Ndabaningi. 1959. *African Nationalism*. Oxford University Press, Cape Town. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0046.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Summarise Sithole's main criticisms of colonial rule.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does Sithole's text respond directly to the idea of “partnership”?

Source 6: Kariba: The Struggle With The River God (1959)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0120 | TYPE: Critical/development account | AUTHOR: Frank Clements

Covers the construction of Kariba Dam and the resettlement of the BaTonga community. Compare with Source 7, the official souvenir account of the same project.

Clements, Frank. 1959. *Kariba: The Struggle With The River God*. Methuen & Co Ltd, London. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0120.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify what happened to the BaTonga during dam construction.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does the Kariba story complicate official development claims?

Source 7: Royal Occasion 1960: The Kariba Project (1960) ★ NEW

ACCESSION: AA-BK-0246 | TYPE: Official/commemorative account | COMPILER: H. C. P. Andersen

Souvenir publication commemorating the Queen Mother's visit and the official opening of Kariba Dam — the official, celebratory counterpart to Clements' critical account in Source 6.

Andersen, H. C. P., comp. 1960. *Royal Occasion 1960: The Kariba Project*. Rhodesian Graphic. Abantu Archives, accession AA-BK-0246.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify how the royal visit and dam opening are presented in this souvenir publication.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Read Sources 6 and 7 together. Whose experience of Kariba is centred in each, and whose is left out?

Source 8: Handbook to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1960)

ACCESSION: AA-BK-0178 | TYPE: Official government handbook | AUTHOR: W. V. Brelsford, Director of Information

Official government handbook presenting the economic case for the ten-year union.

Brelsford, W. V. 1960. *Handbook to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland*. Published for the Federal Information Department by Cassell and Company Ltd., London, and printed by the Government Printer, Salisbury. Abantu Archives, accession AA-BK-0178.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

List the economic benefits that the handbook claims for the Federation.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Whose interests does an official state handbook usually represent?

Source 9: A Geography of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland (1960)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0194 | TYPE: Geographic survey | AUTHOR: Unknown

Geographic survey covering physical and economic traits across the three territories.

Unknown. 1960. *A Geography of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland*. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0194.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify physical and economic geography features described.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Why would geography matter to decisions about political union?

Source 10: Survey of Developments Since 1953 (1960)

ACCESSION: AA-REP-0144 | TYPE: Official constitutional/economic review | AUTHOR: Committee of Officials (Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland Advisory Commission on the Review of the Constitution)

A factual government survey of the Federation's first seven years — a direct companion to the Handbook (Source 8), published the same year.

Committee of Officials. 1960. *Survey of Developments Since 1953*. Her Majesty's Stationery Office (Cmnd. 1149). Abantu Archives, accession AA-REP-0144.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Find the section on “Functions of Government.” List three areas where the Federal government claimed progress since 1953.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Source 8 and this survey were published the same year. What different purposes do the two official documents serve?

Source 11: C.A.A. Guide to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1961)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0238 | TYPE: Commercial/tourism guide | EDITOR: L. S. Levin

An airline guide presenting the Federation to travellers and investors on the eve of dissolution — compare with the 1956 edition, Source 3.

Ed. L. S. Levin. 1961. *C.A.A. Guide to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland*. A. J. Levin Ltd, Salisbury. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0238.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify how the guide presents the region to investors.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does a commercial tourism guide's image differ from nationalist accounts?

Source 12: Central African Survey: Facts and Figures (1961)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0260 | TYPE: Statistical survey | AUTHOR: W. T. Blake

A statistical survey detailing population, trade, and economic data.

Blake, W. T. 1961. *Central African Survey: Facts and Figures of Rhodesia and Nyasaland*. Alvin Redman Ltd, London. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0260.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Find one statistic on population, trade, or the economy.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Do the statistics suggest that development was shared evenly?

Source 13: The Central African Examiner, Vol. 5, No. 5 (June 1961) (1961) ★ NEW

ACCESSION: AA-MAG-0143 | TYPE: Independent periodical | EDITOR: J. Halpern

The earliest of three Examiner issues in this pack (with Sources 14 and 18) — lets students trace shifting independent coverage of the constitutional crisis across June 1961, July 1961 and September 1962.

Halpern, J., ed. 1961. *The Central African Examiner*, Vol. 5, No. 5, June 1961. Central African Examiner Ltd., Salisbury. Abantu Archives, accession AA-MAG-0143.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Read the lead article, “Realities for change.” Summarise the final proposals for Southern Rhodesia's new constitution.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does this June 1961 coverage set up the referendum discussed in the July issue (Source 14)?

Source 14: The Central African Examiner, Vol. 5, No. 4 (July 1961) (1961)

ACCESSION: AA-MAG-0142 | TYPE: Independent periodical | EDITOR: J. Halpern

An independent magazine's coverage of the Southern Rhodesian constitutional referendum — compare with the same magazine's June 1961 (Source 13) and September 1962 (Source 18) issues.

Halpern, J., ed. 1961. *The Central African Examiner*, Vol. 5, No. 4, July 1961. Abantu Archives, accession AA-MAG-0142.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Read the lead article, “The marginal choice.” Identify what the author sees as the stakes of the upcoming referendum.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does this July 1961 coverage compare with the June 1961 (Source 13) and September 1962 (Source 18) issues? Does the magazine's tone shift as the Federation's crisis deepens?

Source 15: Congo Cauldron (1961)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0214 | TYPE: Political commentary | AUTHOR: D. P. Dugauier

Account of the Congo Crisis (1960–65), used by settler leaders to justify minority rule.

Dugauier, D. P. 1961. *Congo Cauldron*. Jarrolds (Hutchinson Group), London. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0214.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Summarise the main events of the Congo Crisis described.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Why did federal leaders point to the Congo when defending minority rule?

Source 16: Zambia Shall Be Free: An Autobiography (1962)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0080 | TYPE: Political memoir | AUTHOR: Kenneth Kaunda

Political autobiography by Northern Rhodesia's independence leader critiquing colonial rule.

Kaunda, Kenneth. 1962. *Zambia Shall Be Free: An Autobiography*. Heinemann Educational Books (African Writers Series). Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0080.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify Kaunda's main criticisms of colonial rule.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does Kaunda's account compare with the promise of “partnership”?

Source 17: The Rhodesian Press (1962)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0137 | TYPE: Press history | AUTHOR: W. D. Gale

A history of the company that published the Rhodesia Herald.

Gale, W. D. 1962. *The Rhodesian Press*. Rhodesian Printing and Publication Co. Ltd, Salisbury. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0137.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Note the origins and role of the press company.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Why does press ownership matter when evaluating primary sources?

Source 18: The Central African Examiner, Vol. 6, No. 4 (September 1962) (1962)

ACCESSION: AA-MAG-0036 | TYPE: Independent periodical | EDITOR: Theodore Bull, assisted by Eileen Haddon

An independent magazine's editorial satirising security laws and the banning of ZAPU — the latest of three Examiner issues in this pack (Sources 13 and 14).

Bull, Theodore, ed. 1962. *The Central African Examiner*, Vol. 6, No. 4, September 1962. Central African Examiner Ltd., Salisbury. Abantu Archives, accession AA-MAG-0036.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify what the editorial accuses the government of deceiving itself about.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does an independent magazine's account differ from an official publication like Source 8?

Source 19: The Politics of Partnership: the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland with three Maps (1963)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0106 | TYPE: Journalistic analysis | AUTHOR: Patrick Keatley

A journalist's critical analysis published in the year the Federation dissolved.

Keatley, Patrick. 1963. *The Politics of Partnership: the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland with three Maps*. Penguin Books Ltd, Harmondsworth. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0106.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify what “partnership” meant in official rhetoric according to Keatley.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Does Keatley treat “partnership” as a success or a failure? Why?

Source 20: Links: The Economic Inter-Dependence of Northern and Southern Rhodesia (1963)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0173 | TYPE: Economic analysis | AUTHOR: Stuart Manning

Examines economic ties between the two Rhodesias as the Federation broke up.

Manning, Stuart. 1963. *Links: The Economic Inter-Dependence of Northern and Southern Rhodesia*. Stuart Manning, Bulawayo. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0173.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify the main economic links described between the two territories.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Why did economic ties make political breakup more complicated?

Source 21: Welensky's 4000 Days (1964)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0082 | TYPE: Political memoir | AUTHOR: Sir Roy Welensky, P.C., K.C.M.G.

Memoir by the last Federal Prime Minister defending settler policy.

Welensky, Sir Roy, P.C., K.C.M.G. 1964. *Welensky's 4000 Days*. Collins, London. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0082.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify Welensky's explanation for why the Federation collapsed.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does Welensky's perspective contrast with African nationalist memoirs?

Source 22: The Requirements and Supplies of High Level Manpower in Northern Rhodesia 1961–1970 (1964) ★ NEW

ACCESSION: AA-BK-0084 | TYPE: Economic/manpower survey | AUTHOR: U.C.R.N. Man Power Survey Sub-Committee

A technical manpower survey exposing the different skills and labour needs of the three territories — adds an economic dimension often missing from constitutional narratives.

University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Man Power Survey Sub-Committee. 1964. *The Requirements and Supplies of High Level Manpower in Northern Rhodesia 1961–1970*. Abantu Archives, accession AA-BK-0084.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify one skilled-manpower shortage the survey documents for Northern Rhodesia.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How might unequal manpower planning across the three territories have deepened the case for breaking up the Federation?

Source 23: Huggins of Rhodesia – The Man and His Country (1964)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0219 | TYPE: Biography | AUTHORS: L. H. Gann and M. Gelfand

Biography of Sir Godfrey Huggins, first Prime Minister and architect of the 1953 union.

Gann, L. H., and M. Gelfand. 1964. *Huggins of Rhodesia – The Man and His Country*. George Allen & Unwin, London. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0219.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify Huggins' original vision for the Federation in 1953.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How does a biography of Huggins differ from Welensky's memoir?

Source 24: The History and Extent of Recognition of Tribal Law in Rhodesia (1965)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0189 | TYPE: Legal history | AUTHOR: Harold Child

Examines how colonial courts recognised and limited customary law; published the same year as UDI.

Child, Harold. 1965. *The History and Extent of Recognition of Tribal Law in Rhodesia*. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0189.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify one example of how colonial courts limited customary law.

CRITICAL QUESTION

What does legal restriction reveal about claims of “partnership”?

Source 25: Revisions In Central African History to 1953 (1965)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0003 | TYPE: Historiographical study | AUTHORS: Ian Henderson and Philip Warhurst

Historiographical work reassessing Central African history up to 1953, published the year of UDI.

Henderson, Ian, and Philip Warhurst. 1965. *Revisions In Central African History to 1953*. Central Africa Historical Association. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0003.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Identify one historical assumption that the authors challenge.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Why do historians reassess regional history during political crises?

Source 26: Malawi: A Geographical Study (1965)

ACCESSION: AA-WEB-0072 | TYPE: Geographic study | AUTHORS: J. G. Pike and G. T. Rimmington

Includes agricultural export data from 1948–60, published the year after Nyasaland became independent Malawi.

Pike, J. G., and G. T. Rimmington. 1965. *Malawi: A Geographical Study*. Oxford University Press, London. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0072.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Find one crop export figure from the 1948–60 appendices.

CRITICAL QUESTION

How did Malawi's export economy shape its decision to leave the Federation?

Source 27: To Weather the Storm (1965)

ACCESSION: AA-BK-0256 | TYPE: Political pamphlet | AUTHOR: H. O. Wilsenach

A political pamphlet, written May 1964 and updated for 1965, proposing a merit-based franchise to delay majority rule ahead of UDI.

Wilsenach, H. O. 1965. *To Weather the Storm*. Self-published, Hartley, Rhodesia. Abantu Archives, accession AA-BK-0256.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

List the criteria proposed for a merit-based, multiple-vote franchise.

CRITICAL QUESTION

Was this proposal a genuine alternative to majority rule, or a way to delay it? What is your evidence?

4. Differentiated project deliverables

Track A — Parallel wall timeline

Build a parallel timeline chart (1953–1965) tracking official government actions on top and nationalist/independent responses on the bottom.

Requirement: write a report citing 3 sources — one official (Source 8, 10, or 11), one nationalist/memoir (Source 5, 16, or 21), one independent press (Source 14 or 18).

Track B — Digital timeline & analysis

Create an interactive digital timeline (TimelineJS or similar) with embedded source images and annotations.

Requirement: submit an analytical report citing at least 5 sources across different perspectives.

Adult learner & diaspora extension — media literacy essay

Write a 600-word essay comparing how the Federation's collapse was presented across three sources: an official handbook (Source 8), independent satire (Source 18), and a settler memoir (Source 21). Include a comparison of all three Central African Examiner issues (Sources 13, 14, and 18), tracing how the magazine's tone shifts as the crisis deepens.

5. Source criticism protocol

Students should identify the author/institution, date, intended audience, purpose, and what the source leaves out. Do not treat later histories, reprints, cataloguing profiles or retrospective studies as eyewitness evidence merely because they discuss an earlier event.

6. Catalogue accessions used

AA-WEB-0041	AA-REP-0130	AA-BK-0262
AA-WEB-0203	AA-WEB-0046	AA-WEB-0120
AA-BK-0246	AA-BK-0178	AA-WEB-0194
AA-REP-0144	AA-WEB-0238	AA-WEB-0260
AA-MAG-0143	AA-MAG-0142	AA-WEB-0214
AA-WEB-0080	AA-WEB-0137	AA-MAG-0036
AA-WEB-0106	AA-WEB-0173	AA-WEB-0082
AA-BK-0084	AA-WEB-0219	AA-WEB-0189
AA-WEB-0003	AA-WEB-0072	AA-BK-0256

Editorial note: Catalogue descriptions are finding-aid information. Teachers and researchers should consult the actual item where possible and distinguish the catalogue record from the historical source itself.