

Federation to UDI, 1953–1965

A source pack from the Abantu Archives collection

This pack collects eighteen catalogued primary and secondary sources spanning the formation of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (1953) to Southern Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence (1965). Entries are ordered chronologically and include the Federation's own official publications, memoirs of its two Prime Ministers (Huggins and Welensky), founding texts of the nationalist movements that opposed it, and contemporary context from the wider region.

Compiled to support ZIMSEC Heritage Studies (Forms 1-4) and O/A-Level History coursework, including independently citable School-Based Project research. Each entry gives a short contextual note, a ready-to-use Chicago-style citation, and the item's Abantu Archives accession number for reference or in-person consultation.

Regenerated 2026-08-16 against the current Abantu Archives catalogue (947 records). Physical items held at Abantu Archives, Harare.

1. African Highway The Battle For Health In Central Africa

Sir Malcolm Watson, M.D., C.M., D.P.H., LL.D. · 1953 · John Murray (Publishers), Ltd., London

Public health survey of Central Africa published the year the Federation formed, documenting disease-control efforts across the region.

Sir Malcolm Watson, 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.

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0041

2. Broadcasting Act 1957 Amended 1963

Rhodesian Government · 1957 ·

Federation-era legislation governing radio broadcasting -- a primary legal document from the period.

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

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0203

3. African Nationalism

Ndabaningi Sithole · 1959 · Oxford University Press, Cape Town

Foundational text of Zimbabwean nationalist thought by a future ZANU founder, published as the Federation entered its final years.

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

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0046

4. Kariba The Struggle With The River God

Frank Clements · 1959 · Methuen & Co Ltd, London

Covers the BaTonga resettlement and the 1950s Kariba Dam construction on the Zambezi.

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

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0120

5. Handbook to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

W. V. Brelsford; Director of Information · 1960 · Published for the Federal Information Department by Cassell and Company Ltd., London, and Printed by the Government Printer, Salisbury Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1960

Official government handbook, published by the Federation's own Ministry of Information, presenting its administrative structure and the economic case for the ten-year union of the three territories.

W. V. Brelsford; Director of Information. 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 Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1960. Abantu Archives, accession AA-BK-0178.

Abantu Archives accession: AA-BK-0178

6. A Geography of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland

Unknown · 1960 ·

Geographic survey of the three territories under Federation, covering physical and economic geography.

Unknown. 1960. A Geography of the Rhodesias and Nyasaland. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0194.
Abantu Archives accession: [AA-WEB-0194](#)

7. C.A.A. Guide to the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

Ed. L. S. Levin · 1961 · A. J. Levin Ltd, Salisbury

A Central African Airways-published practical guide to the Federation -- a primary-source snapshot of how the territory presented itself to travellers and investors two years before dissolution.

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.

Abantu Archives accession: [AA-WEB-0238](#)

8. Central African Survey: Facts and Figures of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

W. T. Blake · 1961 · Alvin Redman Ltd, London

A statistical survey of the Federation's three territories, useful for economic and demographic data from the period.

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

Abantu Archives accession: [AA-WEB-0260](#)

9. Congo Cauldron

D. P. Dugauier · 1961 · Jarrolds (Hutchinson Group), London

Account of the Congo Crisis (1960-65), offering regional context for the instability Federation leaders pointed to as justification for continued white-minority rule.

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

Abantu Archives accession: [AA-WEB-0214](#)

10. Zambia Shall Be Free An Autobiography

Kenneth Kaunda · 1962 · Heinemann Educational Books (African Writers Series, Editorial Adviser Chinua Achebe)

Zambia's first president; political autobiography and critique of colonial rule.

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

Abantu Archives accession: [AA-WEB-0080](#)

11. The Rhodesian Press

W. D. Gale · 1962 · Rhodesian Printing and Publication Co. Ltd, Stanley Avenue, Salisbury

A history of the Rhodesian Printing and Publication Co. Ltd, publisher of the Rhodesia Herald.

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

Abantu Archives accession: [AA-WEB-0137](#)

12. The Politics of Partnerships the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland with three Maps

Patrick Keatley · 1963 · Penguin Books Ltd, Harmondsworth, Middlesex (also USA and Australia editions)

Journalist's account of the Federation's political history, published the year of its dissolution.

Patrick Keatley. 1963. The Politics of Partnerships the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland with three Maps. Penguin Books Ltd, Harmondsworth, Middlesex (also USA and Australia editions). Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0106.

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0106

13. Links The Economic Inter-Dependence of Northern and Southern Rhodesia

Stuart Manning, Bulawayo · 1963 · Stuart Manning, Bulawayo

Examines the economic ties between the two Rhodesias as the Federation was dissolving.

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

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0173

14. Welenskys 4000 Days

Sir Roy Welensky, P.C., K.C.M.G. · 1964 · Collins, London

Memoir by the Federation's last Prime Minister, covering its formation, decade in office, and dissolution from the perspective of its chief settler-politician defender.

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

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0082

15. Huggins of Rhodesia – The Man and His Country

L. H. Gann and M. Gelfand · 1964 · George Allen & Unwin, London

Biography of Sir Godfrey Huggins (Lord Malvern), the Federation's first Prime Minister and the chief architect of the 1953 union.

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

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0219

16. The History and Extent of Recognition of Tribal Law in Rhodesia

Harold Child · 1965 ·

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

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

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0189

17. Revisions In Central African History to 1953

Ian Henderson; Philip Warhurst · 1965 · Central Africa Historical Association

Historiographical work reassessing Central African history up to the Federation's formation, published the year of UDI.

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

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0003

18. Malawi A Geographical Study

J. G. Pike (Hydrologist, Department of Hydraulics, Malawi) and G. T. Rimmington (Assistant Professor of Education, Acadia University, Nova Scotia; formerly Education Officer, Ministry of Education and Social Development, Malawi) · 1965 · Oxford University Press, London

Includes appendices of crop export/production data 1948-60. Published the year after Nyasaland became independent Malawi.

J. G. Pike (Hydrologist, Department of Hydraulics, Malawi) and G. T. Rimmington (Assistant Professor of Education, Acadia University, Nova Scotia; formerly Education Officer, Ministry of Education and Social Development, Malawi). 1965. Malawi A Geographical Study. Oxford University Press, London. Abantu Archives, accession AA-WEB-0072.

Abantu Archives accession: AA-WEB-0072