



Overseas Development
Institute

The politics of providing aid to Zimbabwe

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What questions should we be asking?

1. How will political control change in the next few years in Zimbabwe?
2. Is giving aid to Zimbabwe counterproductive?

Predicting Zimbabwe's politics

1. Militarisation of power
2. Opposition party weakness
3. ZANU splits
4. Mugabe's departure
5. Outside actors
6. After Mugabe?

Aid to Zimbabwe: The Devil's Advocate's Case

1. Humanitarian vs. governance goals
2. The regime benefits from aid
3. Aid entrenches the regime
4. Little popular demand for reform due to repression
5. Food as a political weapon
6. Agencies: be aware and plan carefully