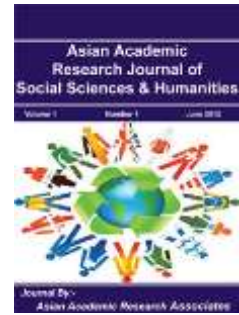




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**LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL: REFLECTIONS ON THE POLITICAL
VIOLENCE IN ZIMBABWE.**

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ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to explore the trajectory of political violence in Zimbabwe since 2000 but with special emphasis on the 2008 elections. Violence has manifested itself in so many ways and has taken different dimensions. Leaders of different political parties have continued to accuse each other of activities and statements which incite violence. In this regard, they have all condemned violence in public but privately promote it. Against this back-drop, it is important to note that the history of Zimbabwe has been littered with violence particularly prior, during and after elections. Efforts have been made to bring everlasting peace both at national and regional levels with no permanent solution on the horizon. The major reason being that the strategies and organs involved in peace building did not meaningfully engage the local traditional authorities. As a result, the approach has been accused of being elitist in nature. Therefore this paper argues that the traditional strategies should be revisited and take a centre stage in conflict management processes. Thus a multi-sectoral approach seems to be the best prescription to violence in Zimbabwe and Africa as a whole.
