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Autore	Dombo Sylvester
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Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Colonialism and the Development of the Press in Zimbabwe -- 3. African Newspapers and the Development of the Private Press in Rhodesia -- 4. African Daily News and Early-African Politics in Rhodesia -- 5. 'We are at a political crossroad': Press and Politics in Rhodesia, 1958-1964 -- 6. Press and Politics in Independent Zimbabwe to 1999 -- 7. 'Telling It like It Is?': the Daily News and Zimbabwean Political Crisis to 2000 -- 8. 'Uneasy Bedfellows': The Daily News and The State 1999-2003 -- 9. Predictable and Unavoidable: the Closure of the African Daily News and Daily News -- 10. The Rise of the Alternative Media -- 11. Press and Politics in Zimbabwe: Concluding Remarks.

This book examines the role played by two popular private newspapers in the struggle for democracy in Zimbabwe, one case from colonial Rhodesia and the other from the post-colonial era. It argues that, operating under oppressive political regimes and in the dearth of credible opposition political parties or as a platform for opposition political parties, the African Daily News, between 1956-1964, and the Daily News, between 1999-2003, played an essential role in opening up spaces for political freedom in the country. Both newspapers were ultimately shut down by the respective government of the time. The newspapers allowed reading publics the opportunity to participate in politics by providing a daily analytical alternative, to that offered by the government and the state media, in relation to the respective political crises that unfolded in each of these periods. The book further examines both the information policies pursued by the different governments and the way these affected the functioning of private media in their quest to provide an "ideal" public sphere. It explores issues of ownership, funding and editorial policies in reference to each case and how these affected the production of news and issue coverage. It considers issues of class and geography in shaping public response. It also focuses on state reactions to the activities of these newspapers and how these, in turn, affected the activities of private media actors. Finally, it considers the cases together to consider the meanings of the closing down of these newspapers during the two eras under discussion and contributes to the debates about print media vis-à-vis the new forms of media that have come to the fore.
