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The shift in economic policy and ideology in most African countries has been accompanied by significant changes in power relations among social groups and in the effectiveness of established institutions. Neo-liberal market reforms have led to crisis and the breakdown of institutions. It has become common to observe that post independent structures in most African countries have begun to break down and to be transformed. It has already been argued that the end of the cold war has caused a global crisis of authoritarianism (Joseph, 1999:59). These developments are part of the globalisation of democracy and market fundamentalism. Whilst globalisation is believed to have unleashed productive forces throughout the world, on the other hand it has engendered fragmentation and marginalisation. In African countries in which an economic crisis is not politically handled pro-actively there is bound to be a breakdown of the rule of law leading to total state collapse.

Zimbabwe has been no exception. In 1990 the country embarked on an IMF/World Bank Structural Adjustment programme (ESAP). The Government was mainly responding to the demands from the business sector which supported a shift from a centralised system of resource allocation to a market determined one. Social capital was very limited at that time and there was very limited participation by different social groups. The labour groups were still very unorganised and under the armpits of the state. The neo liberal policies encountered a lot of criticism in the form of strikes and demonstrations, which led to the strengthening of the organised labour and other civic groups that demanded greater political and economic rights. There was criticism of the neo-liberal policies and their implementation.

This paper argues that A flawed implementation of liberal market reforms by an increasingly autocratic administration generated the social tensions and political energies that helped to mobilise civil society. A new citizen politics emerged in Zimbabwe. This new citizenship articulated a democratic philosophy. It has a broad constituency ranging from grassroots citizen organisations to new large national alliances between Labour unions, political parties, Intellectuals and professionals, community and church groups, women and civil rights organisations and the Business community. What type of citizenship is civil society advocating for vis-a-vis the market? What type of leadership is civil society providing in order to have a sustained restructuring of economic and social relations. What type of economy will cater for this diversity of interests from the businessman to workers and the politicians. In order to answer these questions, structured questionnaire has already been administered to a sample of these different groups to find out there preference for economic policy in a future Zimbabwe.