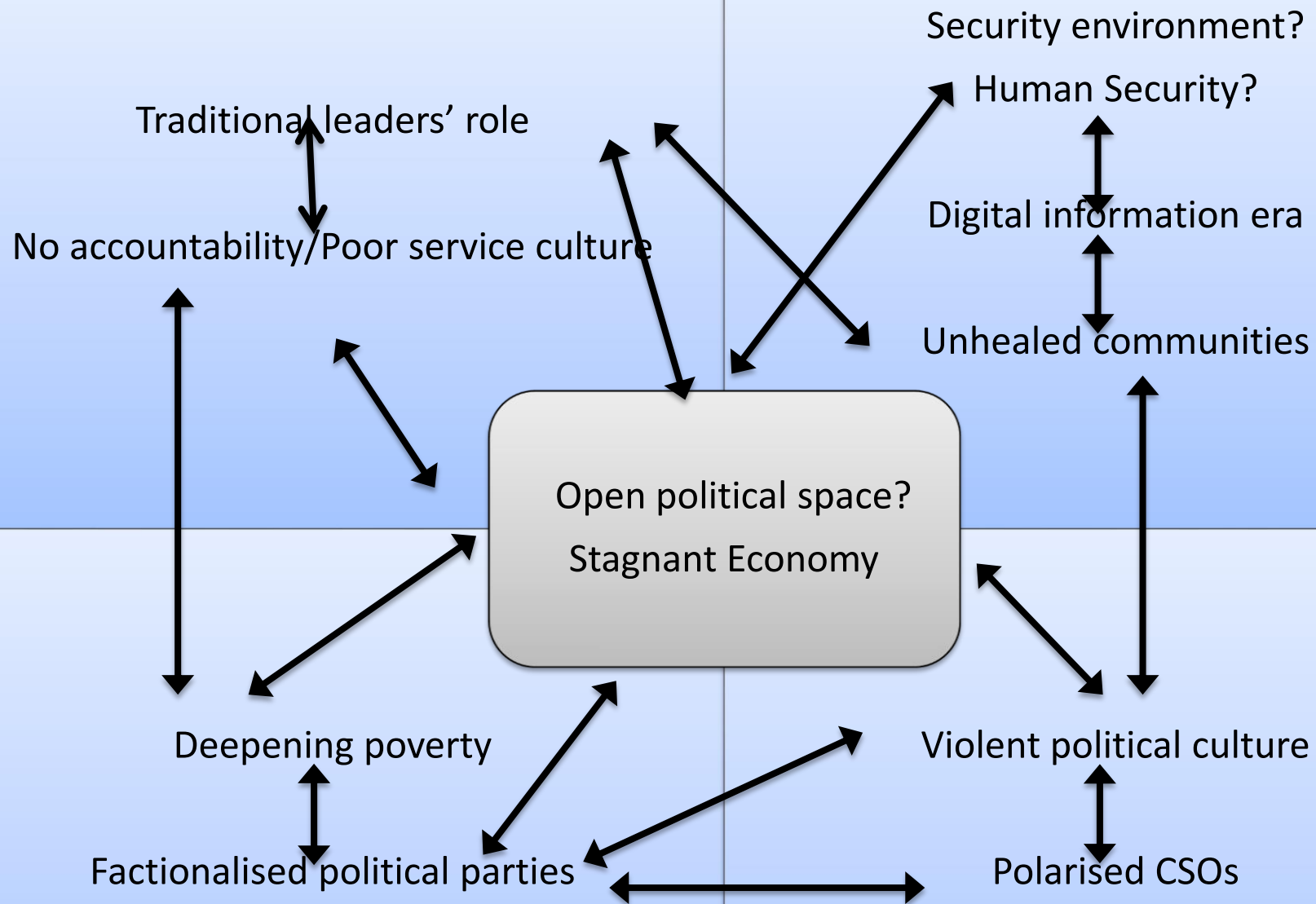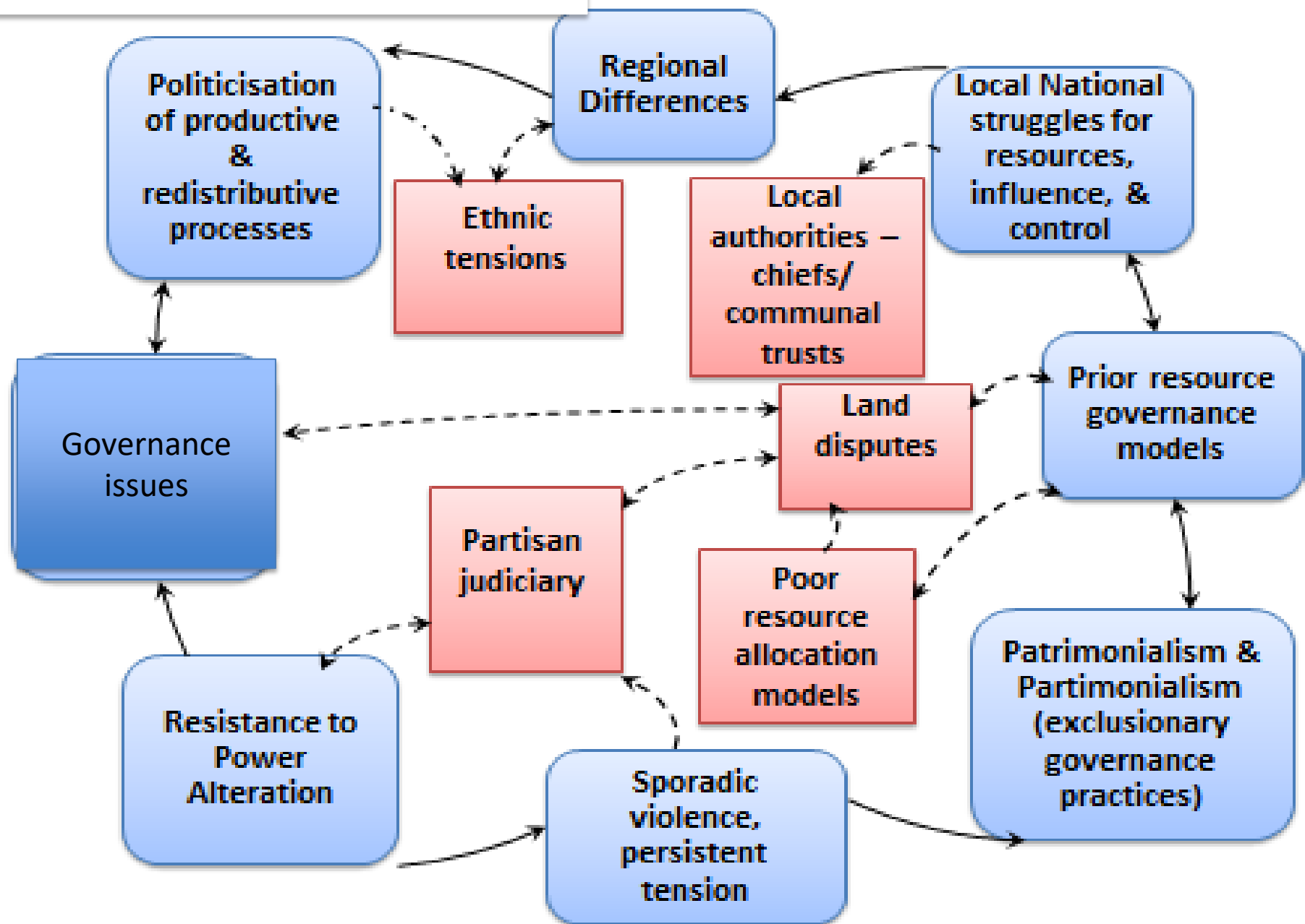# Civic society's contribution to the 2018 harmonised electoral processes and Key advocacy issues
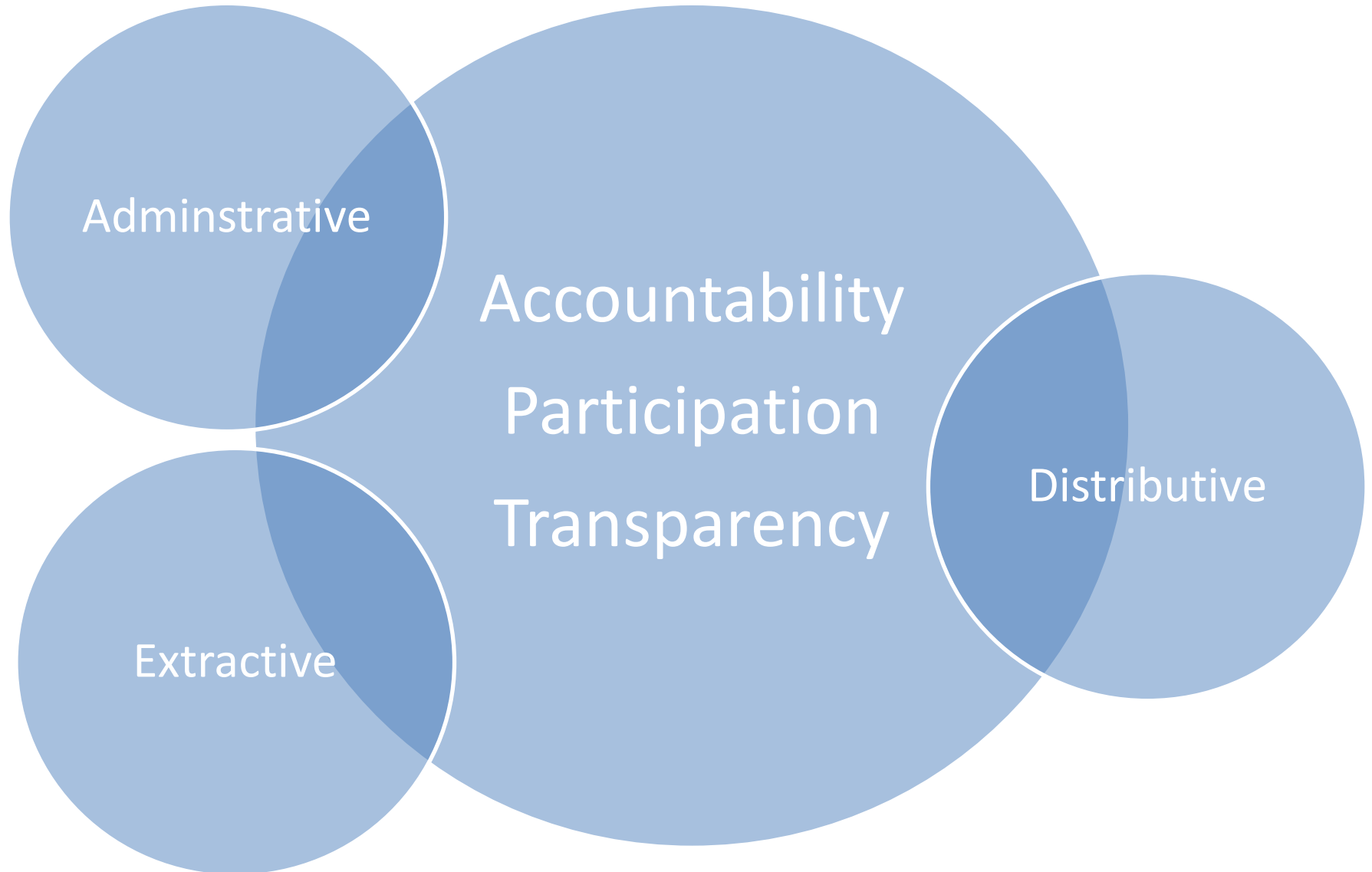
Prof Annie B. Chikwanha

Zimbabwe's political environment
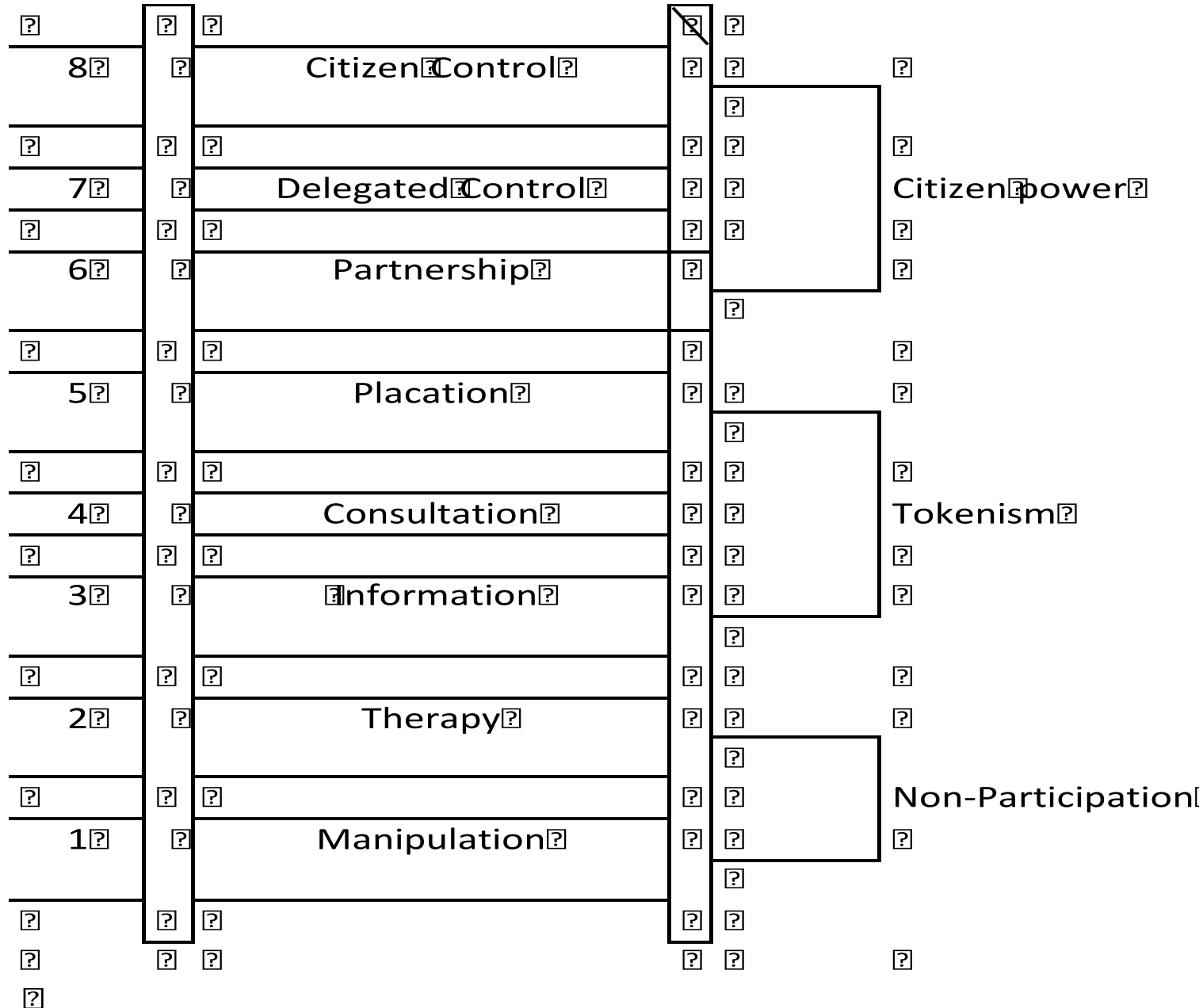
Mapping Zimbabwe's Conflicts

How state capacity intersects with democratic governance

Ladder of participation (Arnstein 1989)

8	Citizen Control
7	Delegated Control
6	Partnership
5	Placation
4	Consultation
3	Information
2	Therapy
1	Manipulation

Citizen power

Tokenism

Non-Participation

What CSOs Contributed

- Advocacy on electoral reforms- guaranteeing the leveling of the electoral playing field All based on evidence???

- Advocacy on, and Civic & Voter education- overall political participation

- Election monitoring & observation

- Advising political parties and representatives eg the Mayor etc

- Empowering communities/raising awareness of their rights/ building capacity to demand their rights

- **A LOT MORE TO DO still**

The Role of Civil Society

CSO challenges

- CSO initiatives in Zim largely ignore each other
- Not design to complement
- Fighting for turf – cooptation strategy
- Eg why are HR initiatives separate from Democracy/Governance –converge on Constitutional rights
- Or why meetings on same things never seemed to be held in conjunction with like minded orgs?
- Who can keep all this together?
- Forming a **Zim CSO A Team,** the starting point is for various interested people and parties/ organisations to find each other along common objectives (THEMES/ISSUES),

What causes incivility?

- Lack of feeling secure

- People lack restraint

- Mean spiritness

- Lack of self esteem

- expanded egotism/entitlement

- Excessive individualism and greed

- Isolation/loneliness

- Anger, fear, mental health issues

- Lack of social and economic equity, fairness

Challenges

- Articulating a common agenda

- Network driven membership

- Communication

- Gender

- Sustainable funding

- Could some be "captured"?

Fix it

- Clearly demarcate roles towards a common goal, keep excellent records, become effective intelligence gathering agents with clear channels for information sharing to those who can uptake it and run with it

- Ensure continuous flow of information: **Share & Share& Share information**

- Follow up on complaints

- Ensure that CSO politics are non-party political, and anti-empire building and pro collective action for change.

- How to work innovatively, collaboratively and be able to adapt to political environment

Networks' value addition to democracy

- Are collaboratively involved in building and refining ideas, strategies, & tools for greater impact as possible, collectively & individually.

- Networks work in partnership with other networks – a key Hallmark of Healthy networking - where partners can amplify the power of their work, accelerate learning, & connect more dots quickly to create sustainable systems change.

- Informal networks have less power inequalities, in comparison to the formal network; & tend to be more inclusive of a range of actors

- Generate CSO Social capital to create a 'gift economy' amongst members; trust and reciprocity, & a shared identify

- Advantage of multiple choices & alternative ways to satisfy their needs.
- Broad exchange of ideas & divergent views with many other actors
- Allows for greater autonomy & less dependence on a specific actor or agency, hence become more "powerful"
- Better located to access valuable information, which can put you in the lead
- More prominent, perception of being more prestigious since it allows for rapid diffusion of knowledge
- Many ties are often the 'deal makers' in exchanges with others, & are able to benefit from this brokerage locus
- Highly centralized networks maybe more relevance to the complex challenges on the African governance landscape

What can be done?

- Different levels of connections allow for adaptive learnings and practices to diffuse through the bundle in different ways and at different speeds.

- Connect differently

Enkosi