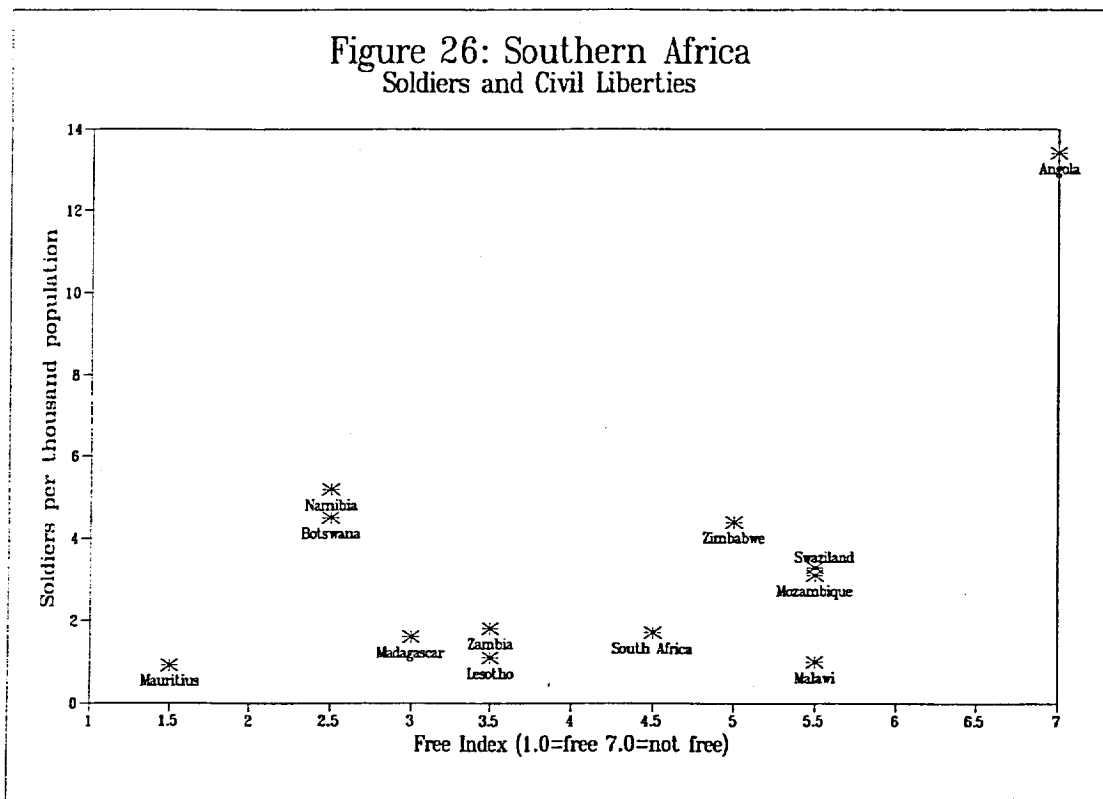


in the region (in light of the end of apartheid and the amelioration of the regional threat environment). With respect to the other measure on this figure, it provides a mixed picture of civil and political liberties in the region. Regional states range from Mauritius (fully free by Western standards) to Angola, whose citizens enjoy among the fewest civil and political rights in the world. There is, however, no clear relationship between the number of soldiers and overall levels of respect for civil liberties, and although the general political situation in states such as Zimbabwe or Malawi represents potential causes for concern



for the international community, the role of the armed forces in society may not be at the root of the problem.<sup>7</sup>

From the recent developments in the region, one could draw a cautiously optimistic picture for the future of Southern Africa. The relatively low level of inter-state tension, and the general improvement in the management of internal conflicts presents a real opportunity to lower the amount of resources devoted to

<sup>7</sup> See, for example, "Zimbabwe's Leader Scoffs at Critics of Iron Rule," *New York Times*, 27 April 1996.