Portuguese colonialism in Africa: the end of an era

The effects of Portuguese colonialism on education, science, culture and information

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with an introduction
by Basil Davidson

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Portuguese colonial values
An introduction by Basil Davidson

The blacks in Africa must be directed and organized by Europeans
but are indispensable as auxiliaries...[and] must be regarded
as productive elements organised or to be organised in an
economic directed by the whites.

Marcello Caetano, former Portuguese Prime Minister

We alone, before anyone else, brought to Africa the notion of human
rights and racial equality. We alone practiced the principle
of multi-racialism, which all now consider to be the most
perfect and daring expression of human brotherhood
and sociological progress... Our African provinces are more
developed, more progressive in every respect than any
recently independent territory in Africa south of the Sahara,
without exception.

Franco Nogueira, former Portuguese Foreign Minister

While the bulk of this study was made before the dramatic events of
1974 and the overthrow of the Portuguese dictatorship, its value today
is perhaps still larger than before. To the extent of Portuguese
decolonization, what are the problems which the emergent nations
of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique must now confront and
try to solve? In the cultural and scientific fields, as in other fields,
what are their factual 'starting points'? Upon what ground do they now
stand: with what handicaps, with what advantages drawn from their
long and difficult national struggle? Dr Ferreira's study is an impor-
ant contribution towards answering these hard but necessary questions.

1. Written while Marcello Caetano (overthrown in April 1974) was teaching as a professor of the
University of Coimbra: Os Nativos na Economia Africana, p. 16, 1954.