

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 economy directed by the whites.

Marcello Caetano, former Portuguese Prime Minister¹

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 Minister²

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 important 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.

2. In his book, *The Third World*, p. 154-5, 1967, written while Dr Nogueira was Foreign Minister.