

MOZAMBIQUE

AFRICAN NATIONALIST VIEW OF SOCIAL-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

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A. Area and Population

Mozambique is situated in East Africa; it has an area of 784,961 square kilometers. Mozambique is bounded by the Republic of Tanganyika, Lake Nyasa, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and the Republic of South Africa; on the east, the Mozambique Channel and the Indian Ocean form the natural boundaries.

According to the latest census (1960), Mozambique has some 6,400,000 inhabitants, but, so far as the African population is concerned, the statistics certainly underestimate reality, so that it is no exaggeration to reckon the African population at some 7,000,000 inhabitants, or even 8,000,000, if Mozambiquans in neighboring countries are taken into account. Mozambique has as many emigrants as all its neighboring countries, plus Kenya, Uganda, and Zanzibar; about half the emigrants are at forced labor in South African mines and the plantations of Southern Rhodesia; the remainder are refugees in Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, Zanzibar, and Zambia.

In the period 1950-1960, the African population increased fifteen percent, while the European population increased 77.4 percent, due to intensified Portuguese immigration. The Portuguese population in Mozambique may be estimated at 200,000 people.

B. Social Situation

B.1 - Education

The annual number of children of school age, i.e., 5 to 14 years, may be estimated at 1,750,000.

In 1958, Mozambique had 122 government primary education establishments; there is, therefore, an average of one school for each 6,434.1 square kilometers, or one school for every 14,350 school-age children. These figures overestimate reality, since European population centers have a high concentration of schools (e.g., in Lourenço Marques), to the detriment of zones where the African population is concentrated.

The number of teachers in official schools was 430, of whom 160 were in Lourenço Marques. The ratio of teachers to school-age children is 1:4,069.

The number of pupils enrolled was 24,188 in 1958, and 26,783 in 1959, that is, 1.5 percent of school-age children. These figures include not only official education, but also private education and that of the Roman Catholic Church. But it goes without saying that the official schools have the most pupils -- 14,000 and 16,000 for the years 1958 and 1959, respectively.

It should be specified, however, that the number of African children attending official primary schools is:

Mixed blood	3,901	of which	1,771	are girls
Blacks	<u>1,622</u>	of which	<u>522</u>	are girls
Total	5,523	of which	2,293	are girls

In private schools (249 African pupils) and those of the Catholic Church, the number of African children is:

Mixed blood	1,486	of which	817	are girls
Blacks	<u>6,536</u>	of which	<u>1,373</u>	are girls
Total	8,022	of which	2,190	are girls

The overall total, therefore, will be:

Mixed blood	5,387	of which	2,588	are girls
Blacks	<u>8,158</u>	of which	<u>1,895</u>	are girls
Total	13,545	of which	4,483	are girls

We can, therefore, state that less than one percent of African children of school age actually go to school.

No one will be surprised to learn that in Mozambique illiteracy

rate is higher than 99 percent for the African population. The illiteracy rate for those of mixed blood is 43.5 percent.

Mozambique has 3 lycées (5 in 1964), and 3 private secondary schools which follow the lycée curriculum, the latter being four to five times more expensive than the official schools.

The number of pupils enrolled at the lycées was 2,040 in 1958, 2,266 in 1959, and 2,250 in 1960. Less than 7.3 percent of the pupils enrolled are African, and thus, in 1958, for example, there were (figures in parentheses show African pupils at the Beira lycée):

Mixed blood	114	(12)	of which	57	(2)	are girls
Blacks	34	(3)	of which	9	(1)	are girls
Total	148	(15)	of which	66	(3)	are girls

The figures are very bad for the Beira lycée, that city being traditionally more racist than the city of Lourenço Marques; thus, out of 534 pupils, only 15, or 2.8 percent, are African. In 1959, the total number of African pupils went down to 133 -- 89 mixed and 44 blacks -- or 5.8 percent.

An annual average of 10 Africans (mixed and black) complete their secondary education; out of these 10, approximately 7 will find the material resources which will allow them to go to the university which has just been established in Mozambique. It began operations in the 1963-64 school year, but considering the number of African pupils in the lycées, we can state that, in fact, this university will serve exclusively or almost exclusively the sons of the colons, while, at the same time, being a demagogic device to deceive public opinion.

Technical education has two branches, the first for training skilled labor, the second for training people at the middle manpower level.

Out of the 6,300 pupils being trained for skilled positions, we find:

Africans	5,169	(690 mixed and 4,479 blacks)
Europeans	762	
Others	369	

However, out of these 762 Europeans, 82.5 percent were enrolled in accounting, telegraphy and commercial mathematics, while in those same sections the percentage of Africans scarcely exceeded 2 percent.

Among the future middle manpower trainees, out of 2,448 pupils we find the following figures:

Africans	395	(220 mixed and 175 blacks)
Europeans	812	
Others	323	

The figures above cover commercial training; figures for industrial training show:

Africans	479	(341 mixed and 138 blacks)
Europeans	933	
Others	500	

Up to 1964, the Portuguese government proposed to fill 5.1 percent of the national needs in the field of education.

Expenses for education in Mozambique represent less than 4 percent of the budget, and less than one-fourth of military expenditures. For the year 1964 alone, the military budget amounts to \$16,500,000 (U.S. Dollars), whereas from 1959 to 1964 scarcely \$6,000,000 were spent on education.

B.2 - Health

There are 181 doctors in Mozambique.

This means one doctor for every 35,000 inhabitants. Actually, there are far fewer, for in Lourenço Marques and Beira there were 91 doctors, so in actuality we can speak of one doctor for more than 80,000 inhabitants if we consider the distribution of doctors in the country.

There is one doctor for every 8,000 square kilometers.

Out of the 5,254 hospital beds, one-third are reserved for the whites, which gives one bed for about 19,000 Africans.

3.6 percent of budgetary expenditures are applied to health.

Between 1959 and 1964, provision was made for building only 4 hospitals for the country, which has 71 (most of which have no doctors).

B.3 - Employment

Every male Mozambiquan between 18 and 55 is obliged to work 6 months of the year for the colonial administration. On payment of a fee, they can be assigned to third parties, unless the following conditions obtain:

- (1) Employment in a liberal profession or trade or industry.

(2) Working permanently for the State, the administration, or private persons; otherwise, you have to be a "voluntary" worker in order not to be a forced worker.

(3) Having worked the six preceding months on forced labor.

(4) Having returned from South Africa or Southern Rhodesia within a period of less than six months, under the terms of the international agreements.

(5) Having a minimum of 50 head of cattle (there are not more than 1,500,000 head of cattle in Mozambique, and a significant proportion belongs to Europeans).

(6) Being registered as an "African agriculturist" (that is, either working in a monopoly concession zone, owning a certain number of agricultural machines per hectare (which includes tractors!)).

(7) Having completed military service less than 12 months previously.

As a direct consequence of this policy, we have in Mozambique the following figures of forced workers (in 1954, the last year for which statistics are available):

Commerce	12,072
Public works	16,896
Transportation	9,418
Domestic service	61,197
Other services	45,530
Mines	5,397
Industry	73,168
Cotton	519,000
Agriculture	110,000
South Africa	163,964
Southern Rhodesia	<u>156,735</u>
Total	1,273,356

Taking into account the fact that in 1954 Mozambique's active population should not have exceeded 2,400,000, we may state that more than 50 percent of the active African population, or the entire male population, is subjected to forced labor.

Among other things in Mozambique, we have the peculiar case of the export of workers to the mines of the Transvaal and the plantations of Southern Rhodesia. This export trade is governed by international agreements, the most famous of which is the Convention of 11 September

1928 (still in force) between Portugal and South Africa. This Convention stipulates:

- Portugal "permits" the annual recruitment of 100,000 workers;
- the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, which has the "recruiting" monopoly south of the 22nd parallel, will pay the Portuguese government £ 4-6 per head recruited;
- the Chamber of Mines will give all the wages (2 shillings per day) of the workers to the Portuguese government, which, in turn, after retaining the taxes and the Portuguese government "protection" fee, will at the end of the working period remit his share to the worker.

In taxes alone, thanks to this trade, the Portuguese government in 1958 collected £2,219,409-11-9.

The South African government promises to use the port of Lourenço Marques for 47.5 percent of the import-export trade of the Transvaal, as well as 340,000 cases of limes.

Between 1917 and 1940, 81,000 Mozambiquan workers died in the mines of South Africa; the mortality rate of the workers exported exceeds 50 per 1,000.

Who profits from this forced labor? First of all, the Portuguese government, then the trusts, and then the Portuguese population.

Thus, an analysis of the ethnic composition of the employer class in Mozambique shows, out of 4,530 employers, that is, individuals who have wage earners at their disposal, in, trade, industry and agriculture, the following:

Whites	2,333	10 % of the active population, 51.5% of employers
Indians	1,400	27.5% of the active population, 30.9% of employers
Chinese	242	39.7% of the active population, 5.3% of employers
Mixed blood	477	7.5% of the active population, 10.5% of employers
Blacks (asimilados)	78	4.5% of the active population, 1.7% of employers

On the other hand, 92.9 percent of the active population of mixed blood and 86.1 percent of the active black population works for others.

Inequality of wages for the same work is still another characteristic of Portuguese colonialism, and it obeys the injunction divide and rule. Thus:

In agriculture, a white worker gets an average annual wage of 47,723 escudos (6 equals 1 dirham); a worker of mixed blood, 23,269.10; an "asimilado" worker, 5,478; a "native" worker, 1,404, i.e., 4.50 per day, except at Tete and Zambézia, where wages are 2.50 per day, or 0.4 dirham.

In industry:

white worker	minimum	100 escudos per day
mixed and asimilado	maximum	70 escudos per day
"native" worker	maximum	30 escudos per day
forced worker	maximum	5-7 escudos per day

C. Economic Situation

C.1 - Transportation and Communications

Mozambique has 24,900 kilometers of roads, of which only about 12,000 are passable throughout the year.

The roads run east-west, although the general orientation of the country is north-south. This is due to the conception of the road network in terms of sending South African and Rhodesian products through the ports of Lourenço Marques and Beira; the railway network follows the same pattern.

The white population has one automobile for every 7 people (in Portugal, one automobile for every 25), and the general average for the country is one for 240.

There are 2,753.7 kilometers of railway belonging to the State, and 464 kilometers belonging to the Sena Sugar Estates and to the Trans-Zambézia Railway. In addition to these private railways which serve Malawi, there are 631,874 kilometers serving South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

95 percent of the traffic on the Mozambique railways is devoted to serving South Africa, the Rhodesias and Malawi.

The ports of Lourenço Marques and Beira devote more than 50 percent of their activities to South Africa and the Rhodesias.

In 1958, for example, these two ports gave Portugal:

Lourenço Marques	£ 1,938,881-05-11
Beira	1,517,599-13-11
Total	£ 3,456,480-19-10

C.2 - Agriculture

In Mozambique, agriculture is characterized by: the concession zones: zones in which the monopolies are given the right to impose the production of a certain vegetable product upon the African agriculturist, and in which the rights to buy the crop, fix prices, and trade with the Africans belongs to the company. For example, the Companhia da Zambézia has a concession of 128,730 square kilometers, the Companhia de Moçambique has 99,766 square kilometers. The capital of these two companies is Anglo-Belgian.

These companies set prices far lower than those on the international markets, as, for example: cotton is purchased at 2.70 escudos per kilogram (first quality), sold to Portuguese mills for 11 escudos per kilogram, and on the international market for 20 to 25 escudos per kilogram. The same situation prevails with respect to sugar, copra, etc.

These companies, moreover, by determining what raw materials are to be produced -- which have no use as food -- and by setting prices, hope to be able to ruin the African agriculturist, and thus take over his lands, either as "payment of debts" or because the agriculturist "wants to sell" in order to have enough cash to pay his taxes. Thanks to this policy, in 1957, out of the 12,873,000 hectares of the concession zone of the Companhia da Zambézia, there remained as the property of 513,870 agriculturists only 380,805 hectares, the remaining 12,492,195 hectares having been "acquired" by the Companhia da Zambézia!

White agricultural colonies are the second characteristic of agriculture in Mozambique. This is the case with the colonies of Révué, Limopa, etc.

The third characteristic of Mozambique agriculture is its low return, by reason of the forced labor to which the African is subjected. Obligated to work for the white Portuguese for six months of each year, he cannot cultivate the land properly. In 1960, a peasant in Mozambique had a net annual income of from 120 to 150 escudos (\$4.00 to \$5.00 U.S.), whereas in 1949 a peasant received \$10.00 U.S. in Southern Rhodesia, \$17.00 U.S. in Rwanda, \$37.00 U.S. in the Congo, \$46.00 U.S. in Kenya, and \$50.00 U.S. in Northern Rhodesia. Annual gross income of a white agriculturist in Mozambique is 567,165.10 escudos; while gross receipts of the African agriculturist are 700 to 900 escudos.

C.3 - Industry

Industry in Mozambique exists only as an incidental to the requirements of the Portuguese colonists, and when it does not conflict with Portuguese exports.

Since Mozambique is rich in minerals of every kind, it was long coveted by big international capital. Thus:

coal is controlled by the Société Générale de Belgique and L'Union Minière (Katanga);

gold by the Monarch Society of South Africa;

petroleum by the Rockefeller family, through the Mozambique Gulf Oil Company and the Mozambique Pan American Oil Company;

uranium by the Mutual Security Agency of NATO, the British South African Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Limited of South Africa, etc.

C.4 - Banking and Finance

Three banks control Mozambique: the Banque Nationale Ultramarine, of which the Société Générale de Belgique is the major shareholder.

Barclay's Bank of London, and the Standard Bank of South Africa, Barclay's being one of the "big five" of the City, and the Standard belonging to American capital.

Mozambique furnishes Portugal with some 39,000,000 grams of gold annually, and about 700,000,000 in paper.

It is estimated that only one-fourth of the money in circulation is held by the African population; thus, each African has about 36.50 escudos, while each European has about 7,027.60.

This aspect of financial policy is much more striking when we consider Portugal's fiscal characteristics. Thus, 60 percent of taxes are indirect taxes, which fall mostly on the African population, while the Africans still pay one-third of the direct taxes.

C.5 - Conclusion

Our purpose in this text has been to emphasize the situation of the African population, be it "native", "asimilado" or "mixed", whose only purpose is to be exploited by Portuguese colonialism and imperialism.

We have not shown Portugal's entire colonial policy, we have not shown its policy of repression of the African People, nor its policy of abandoning the population to the slave trade; we have merely given a pallid snapshot of the colonial situation in Mozambique.

The reaction of Mozambique's African people to colonialism and imperialism has been reported elsewhere.

Portugal lives from the slave labor of the Mozambiquan, it is slave labor which is the principal source of direct and indirect receipts in trade, agriculture, and, above all, it is the sale of slaves to South Africa and Rhodesia which allows Portugal to take in the precious money necessary to make up the Portuguese balance of payments; and to maintain the escudo without inflation.

In order for Portugal and her friends, and for the monopolistic companies, to show fine balance sheets, 8,000,000 Africans are condemned to slavery or exile.

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