



REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL

BACKGROUND NOTES

Population: 24.7 million* (1972 est.)

Capital: Lisbon

Metropolitan Portugal is composed of the southwestern one-sixth of the Iberian Peninsula on the West European mainland and the Azores and Madeira Islands in the Atlantic Ocean. It has an area of about 35,510 square miles (including 1,198 square miles for the Azores and Madeira Islands), approximately the size of Indiana. In addition, Portuguese territory includes the Overseas Provinces of Angola, Mozambique, and Portuguese Guinea on the African Continent; the Cape Verde Islands in the Atlantic Ocean; Macao on the southern coast of mainland China; Timor in the Indian Ocean north of Australia; and the São Tomé and Príncipe Islands in the Gulf of Guinea west of Gabon. The total area of the Overseas Provinces is 805,326 square miles.** (The Portuguese Indian provinces of Goa, Diu, and Damao were taken over by India in 1961.)

Mainland Portugal is divided into two distinct topographical regions by the Tagus River which flows into the Atlantic Ocean near Lisbon. The northern part of mainland Portugal is mountainous, receives considerable rain, and has a moderate climate. To the south are rolling plains with less rainfall and a climate in the interior which resembles that of North Africa.

Approximately one-third of Portugal's flag is green (along the staff); the remainder is red. Centered on the dividing line is the national coat of arms.

THE PEOPLE

Metropolitan Portugal has a 1972 population estimated at 8.7 million and the Overseas Provinces have a total population of about 16 million. There are approximately 245 persons per square mile in metropolitan Portugal. The two largest cities are Lisbon, with an estimated 1 million inhabitants, and Oporto, with 310,000 inhabitants.

Portugal was the only country in Europe to suffer a significant population decline (about 2 percent) since 1960, reflecting large-scale emigration. The loss in population makes difficult the prediction of future trends in population growth. A constant population is assumed between 1970 and 1975 (natural increase offset by emigration) and after that a growth rate of 0.8 percent (the 1970 reported rate of natural increase).

*Includes the population of Portugal's Overseas Provinces.

**For additional information, see the Background Notes on Angola (pub. 7962), Macao (pub. 8352), Mozambique (pub. 7965), and Portuguese Guinea (pub. 7966).

During the past 3,000 years the Portuguese have experienced considerable mixture with other peoples, notably Iberian, Celtic, Germanic, Roman, Arabic, and African. These ethnic groups have been assimilated, and metropolitan Portugal's population is relatively homogeneous. There are no significant minorities.

Roman Catholicism is the established religion and has traditionally been a stabilizing influence on the society. Portuguese is the official language. Metropolitan Portugal has a low literacy rate (about 65 percent) compared to the rest of Europe.

HISTORY

Portugal is one of the oldest states in Europe, tracing its modern history to 1140. Prior to that time much of Portugal was inhabited by Celtiberic people and ruled by the Romans, Visigoths, and finally the Moors.

Beginning in 997 A.D., however, a series of revolts by Galician, Leonese, and Castilian kings led to the establishment of the County of Portugal which incorporated the area between Galicia in Spain and the Mondego River. Between 1130-39 Afonso Henriques, the son of the first Count of Portugal, fought four wars with the King of Leon-Castile, succeeded in establishing the independence of Portugal in 1140, and became its first king. He then turned his attention to the Moors and by 1147 had captured Lisbon, thus freeing the future capital and establishing the base for the great explorations of the 15th and 16th centuries. By 1250 all of Portugal had been liberated from Moorish rule.

The actual beginning of Portuguese exploration is difficult to pinpoint, but by 1336 Portuguese explorers had reached the Canary Islands. Following the inspiration of Prince Henry the Navigator (1394-1460), such explorers as Vasco da Gama, Bartolomeu Dias, and Pedro Alvares Cabral roamed the globe from Brazil to India and Japan, bringing knowledge and wealth to the Portuguese kingdom. The epic Portuguese poet, Luis Vaz de Camões (1524-80), author of the "Lusiadas," took part in the colonization of India. The anniversary of his death, June 10, is observed as the Portuguese National Day.

Monarchal problems led in 1580 to the succession of Philip II of Spain to the Portuguese throne. In 1640 Spanish rule was ended by a revolt, and the House of Braganza was established as the Portuguese ruling family. The 18th century was dominated by the Marques de Pombal who served as first minister to King José and directed the recovery from the disastrous Lisbon earthquake in 1755. Other important events were the



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Peninsular War (1808) and the independence of Brazil (1822).

In 1910 dissatisfaction with the monarchy led to its overthrow and the establishment of a Republic. The Republic, however, was dominated by political rivalries which fostered instability; in 1926 Gen. Carmona, after a brief rule by a military junta, took over the presidency. To assist in overcoming the financial chaos which had developed, Dr. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, a university professor, was named Finance Minister in 1928. In 1932 he became Prime Minister, a position he held until incapacitating illness necessitated his replacement on September 29, 1968, by Dr. Marcello Caetano.

GOVERNMENT & POLITICAL CONDITIONS

According to the Constitution of March 19, 1933, Portugal is a Republic organized on corporative principles. The President (Chief of State) is elected for a 7-year term by an Electoral College composed of members of the Legislature, representatives of metropolitan and overseas municipalities, and representatives of the legislative and governors' councils of the Overseas Provinces. The President appoints the Prime Minister (Head of Government) who presides over a 10-member Council of Ministers (cabinet).

Portugal's bicameral Legislature is composed of a National Assembly and Corporative Chamber. The 130 Deputies in the National Assembly are elected to 4-year terms. The Corporative Chamber is an advisory body whose members are elected by the various economic, administrative, and cultural organizations comprising the Portuguese corporative system, or are appointed by the Government. The size of the Corporative Chamber is not fixed by the Constitution. There were 217 members in mid-1972.

Portuguese jurisprudence has been influenced heavily by the French model. The Supreme Tribunal of Justice is the highest court in Portugal and consists of a President of the Supreme Tribunal and 15 judges.

For administrative purposes, metropolitan Portugal is divided into 18 Districts, each headed by a Governor who is appointed by the Minister of Interior. Regional governmental affairs are under the direct aegis of the Central Government.

Adm. Americo Thomaz was elected President in 1958, defeating his opponent, the late Gen. Humberto Delgado. In 1959 the Constitution was amended to provide for a change from a direct popular vote to an electoral college system for the election of the President. President Thomaz was the only candidate in the 1965 and 1972 presidential elections. He was inaugurated for his third 7-year term on August 9, 1972.

During the 40-year rule of Dr. Salazar, a highly centralized government was developed in Portugal. That situation has continued under Dr. Caetano, a leading figure in developing the Portuguese Corporate State. Only one political organization, the National Popular Action (ANP), has

legal status. The ANP is headed by Prime Minister Caetano and holds all of the seats in the Portuguese National Assembly. Rival political movements are permitted to organize and conduct campaigns in the month preceding elections for the Assembly. The next elections for the National Assembly are scheduled to be held in October 1973.

ECONOMY

Although metropolitan Portugal's per capita gross national product (GNP) is still the lowest in Western Europe (U.S. \$828 in 1971), the Portuguese economy has experienced healthy growth in recent years. Since 1960 the percentage of the labor force engaged in agriculture has fallen from 42 to 32 percent and now contributes only 15 percent to the country's GNP. Industrial employment, on the other hand, rose during the same period from 21 to 34 percent of the labor force and contributes 44 percent to the GNP. In 1971 the GNP totaled \$6.9 billion, a real increase of 4.9 percent over that of the previous year.

Portugal's major agricultural products are wine grapes, tomatoes, olives, and citrus fruits. The small but expanding industrial sector produces tomato paste, canned seafood, olive oil, textiles, automobiles, electronic equipment, steel, pulp and paper, and refined petroleum and petrochemical products. Portugal's expanding ship repair and ship building facilities promise to make the country a European leader in this sector.

The volume of foreign trade increased from U.S. \$873 million in 1960 to \$2.5 billion in 1970. In 1971 metropolitan Portugal's imports totaled \$1.7 billion and its exports amounted to \$1 billion. The major trading partners are the countries of Western Europe. Imports from the United States were \$142 million—the leading products being aircraft, agricultural products (wheat, corn, and soybeans), electronic equipment, and machinery. Exports to the United States totaled \$112 million—the principal commodities being tomato concentrate, table wines, and textiles. Despite Portugal's foreign trade deficit, the Escudo Monetary Zone (Portugal and its Overseas Provinces) normally records a surplus in its balance of payments, resulting from remittances from Portuguese workers abroad and earnings from tourism (some \$800 million in 1971, approximately 80 percent of the value of total merchandise exports).

Portugal is a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). In 1972 Portugal negotiated an agreement with the European Communities (EC) which provides for the creation of a free trade area in industrial products.

Portugal's declared policy is to work toward the economic integration of the Escudo Monetary Zone. It levies no duties on imports from its Overseas Provinces and maintains no restrictions on payments to them. The Overseas Provinces, on the other hand, are permitted to charge duty on imports from Portugal and to maintain certain

controls over transfers of capital to the metropole. The duties levied by the Provinces on imports from metropolitan Portugal are at a preferential rate, in most cases 50 percent of the normal duty.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Portugal has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since its founding in 1949 and of the United Nations since 1955.

Portugal's principal foreign policy concern has been the question of its African Overseas Provinces. In recent years U.S.-Portuguese relations have been affected by problems connected with Portuguese Africa. Violence broke out in 1961 in Angola, in 1962 in Portuguese Guinea, and in 1964 in Mozambique when African nationalists based in neighboring countries launched independence movements involving guerrilla warfare. The independent African states at the United Nations have kept the question of the Portuguese territories on the U.N.'s agenda and have sought majority support for resolutions critical of Portuguese policy and of Portugal's NATO allies. In turn, the Portuguese Government (1) emphasizes the goal of creating a multiracial, pluricontinental society, (2) considers the relations of the Overseas Provinces to the metropole to be a domestic matter outside the competence of the United Nations, and (3) points out that Portugal is the victim of external aggression, actively supported by the Communist states.

U. S. POLICY

Portugal receives both economic and military aid from the United States. Since 1953, the United States has authorized almost U.S. \$130 million in economic aid. Most of it has been under the Public Law 480 (Food for Peace) program credits and long-term Export-Import Bank loans. In U.S. fiscal year 1970 total official aid authorized by the United States to Portugal was \$5.6 million. Although U.S. aid has diminished considerably from the levels of the early 1960's, the United States made new aid commitments in December 1971 as part of an agreement extending U.S. military base rights in the Azores until 1974. The United States agreed to sell \$30 million of surplus agricultural commodities (PL 480), to provide a \$1 million grant for educational development, \$5 million in non-military excess equipment, and to loan an oceanographic ship to Portugal for research purposes.

The primary objectives of the United States with respect to Portugal are as follows:

(1) Maintenance of a friendly, cooperative relationship consistent with mutual international undertakings;

(2) Portuguese understanding of the U.S. position on various world issues;

(3) Continuation of U.S.-Portuguese military cooperation envisaged by the NATO treaty and the 1951 defense agreement by which the United States has the use of defense facilities in the Azores Islands; and

(4) Progress toward a peaceful and equitable solution of problems arising in Portugal's African Overseas Provinces, based on self-determination—whether the choice is independence or continued association with Portugal.

The United States has supported resolutions in the United Nations aimed at encouraging this objective and has opposed those which it considered extreme and not conducive to a peaceful and equitable solution to the problem.

The United States recognizes Portugal's role in Africa, especially in promoting racial equality, and believes that it is important that Portugal continue to contribute to stability and progress on that continent.

PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

President—Americo Deus Rodrigues THOMAZ
Prime Minister—Marcello CAETANO
Minister of Foreign Affairs—Rui PATRICIO
Ambassador to the U.S.—Joao Hall THEMIDO
Ambassador to the U.N.—António PATRICIO

Portugal maintains an Embassy in the United States at 2125 Kalorama Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

PRINCIPAL U. S. OFFICIALS

Ambassador—Ridgway B. Knight
Deputy Chief of Mission—Richard St. F. Post
Public Affairs Officer—James D. Conley
Consul, Oporto—Rush W. Taylor, Jr.
Consul, Ponta Delgada—Hyman Bloom

The U.S. Embassy in Portugal is located at Avenida Duque de Loule No. 39, Lisbon.

READING LIST

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