

Portugal

Ethnicity in Portugal

Group selection

While Portugal was a global maritime power throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, it has lost much of its wealth and status with the destruction of Lisbon in 1755, the occupation during the Napoleonic Wars, and the independence of its wealthiest colony Brazil in 1822. The Revolution of 1910 deposed the monarchy whereupon Manuel II and his royal family fled to Britain. For most of the six decades, repressive regimes governed the country, until, following a left-wing-military-coup in 1974, democratic reforms were installed. The following year, Portugal granted independence to all its African colonies (cf. 2853).

²⁸⁵³ [Central Intelligence Agency, 2014]

In direct contrast to neighboring Spain, Portugal's population is "remarkably homogenous and had been so for all of its history" (²⁸⁵⁴). Due to this lack of ethnic diversity, Portugal could become the first unified nation-state in Western Europe. For centuries, the country had "no ethnic, tribal, racial, religious or cultural minorities" (ibid). In Portugal, ethnic unity and homogeneity were the rule rather than the exception. Portugal's long colonial history has left some traces of ethnic diversity, especially after the colonies had been granted independence in 1975. "Groups of Angolans, Mozambicans, São Tomans, Timorese, Goans, and Macaoans have settled in the capital city, and, along with Brazilian immigrants, amounted to perhaps 100,000 persons" (²⁸⁵⁵). These ethnic minorities have never fully assimilated and often face a "varying degree of racial and cultural prejudice" (ibid). However, they are not politically mobilized and do not constitute a relevant factor in Portuguese politics. In addition, there is a population of about 40'000 - 50'000 Roma in the country. However, no signs were found for their political mobilization or discrimination (²⁸⁵⁶). Hence, the group is not included.

²⁸⁵⁴ [Solsten 1993]

²⁸⁵⁵ [Solsten 1993]

²⁸⁵⁶ [US State Department, 2010-2013]

Bibliography

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Political status of ethnic groups in Portugal

From 1946 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Portuguese	1.0	IRRELEVANT



Figure 613: Political status of ethnic groups in Portugal during 1946-2013.