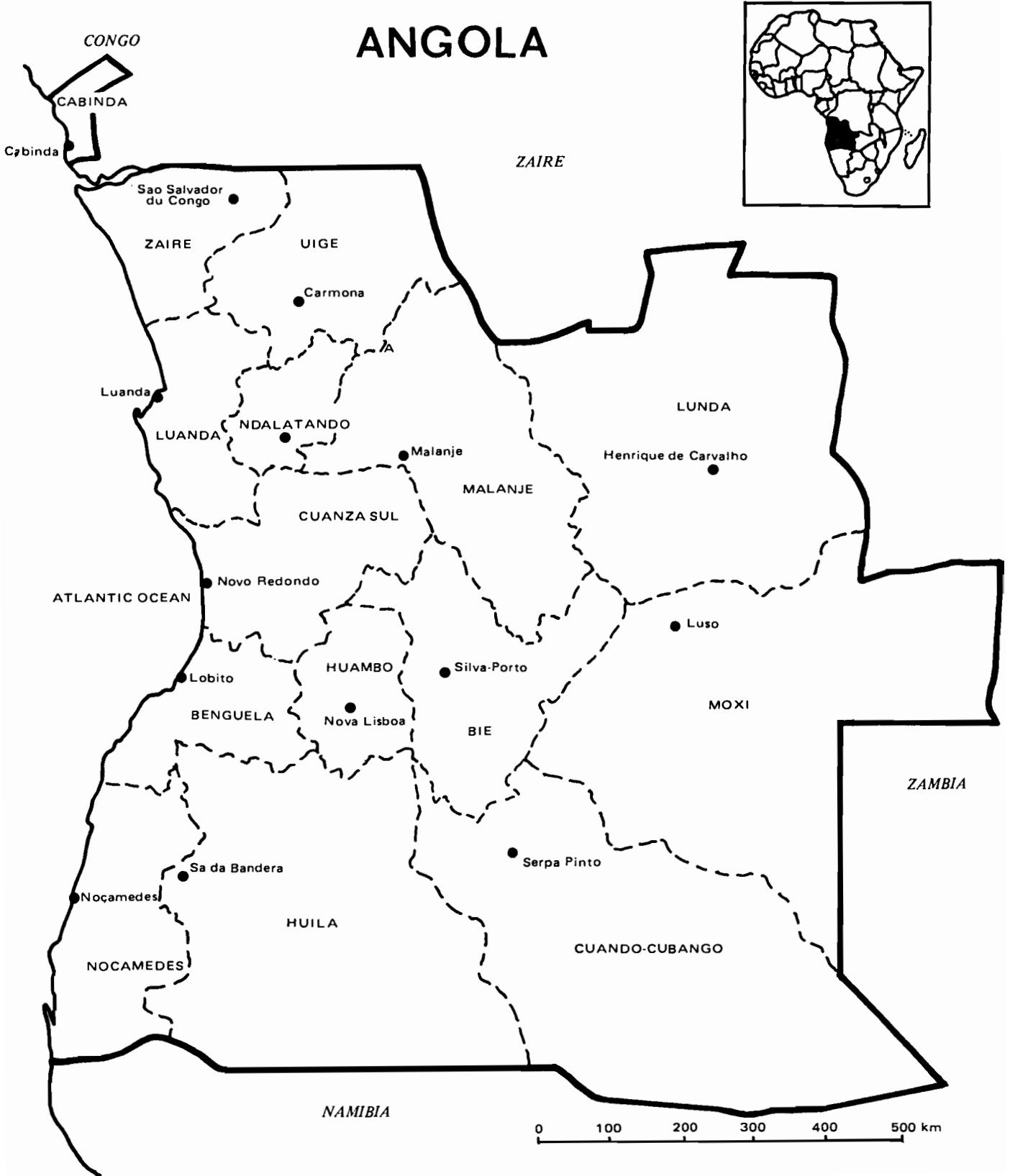


# ANGOLA

Carlos Da Costa Carvalho

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## A N G O L A

I. SOURCES OF DATA1) Historical Estimates

As far as is known, it is impossible to find information on the size of the Angolan population before 1777. Indeed, "...it was during the government of D. Antonio de Lencastre, 1777-1778, that one finds reference to the first attempt to assess the population of Angola, in execution of the order of 21st May 1770, decreed by the Minister, M. Melo Castro." [3, p.3].

From that year until the end of the last century, data have been located from nine enumerations. Table 1 below shows the population figures comprising the various somatic types of the Angolan population.

Table 1

ANGOLA - POPULATION UP TO 1900 BY SOMATIC TYPE

YEAR	WHITES	HALF CASTES	BLACKS		
			Subject	Non-subject	Total (rounded)
1777	1 581	4 043	468 493	-	-
1778	1 700	4 511	481 147	-	-
1819	-	-	300 000	-	-
1846	1 830	5 770	378 923	5 000 000	5 400 000
1866	2 611	(a)	471 074	-	-
1869	2 832	(a)	-	-	-
1897	5 557	(a)	843 406	18 551 037	19 400 000
1898	11 453	(a)	660 629	-	-
1899	11 491	(a)	955 010	-	-

(a) Not known

2) Administrative censuses and other administrative sources

During the period between 1900 and 1939, no fewer than 18 enumerations and "censuses" were carried out by the administrative and military authorities, reflecting the implementation of a series of legislative measures, notably the one issued in Lisbon on 17th August 1899, by which censuses had to be carried out every ten years, and the decree N° 144-A of July 1922, in which it was stipulated that "...every year in June, and appended to the Official Bulletin, the Ministry of the Interior will publish the general census of the Province, as at 31st December of the previous year" [3, p.29] .

The results of these operations are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2

ANGOLA - POPULATION DURING THE PERIOD 1900-1938  
BY SOMATIC TYPES

YEAR	WHITES	HALF-CASTES	BLACKS		
			Subject	Non-subject	Total
1900	9 197	3 112	777 049	4 000 587	4 777 636
1913	13 800	6 300	-	-	4 500 000
1920	20 700	7 500	-	-	4 250 000
1922	29 000	8 100	-	-	3 424 000
1924	36 192	9 710	-	-	3 400 00
1925	-	-	2 438 411	-	2 438 411
1927	42 843	10 800	2 395 636	542 029	2 937 665
1928	-	-	2 438 671	-	2 438 671
1929	-	-	2 533 229	-	2 533 229
1930	-	-	2 503 794	-	2 503 794
1931	59 493	13 960	2 534 075	486 551	3 020 626
1932	-	-	2 574 204	-	2 574 204
1933	58 698	18 957	2 974 987	123 294	3 098 281
1934	58 098	19 872	2 477 829	669 216	3 147 045
1935	-	-	2 689 443	-	2 689 443
1936	-	-	2 664 542	-	2 664 542
1937	-	-	2 629 562	-	2 629 582
1938	-	-	2 622 808	-	2 622 808

Source: [ 3, p.33 ]

### 3) Statistical Censuses

In contrast to the situation in previous years, censuses of a truly statistical nature have been carried out from 1940 onwards. From that date, the local statistical office became responsible for the preparation and the implementation of censuses, though, apart from the capital, collection was done by the administrative authorities and others.

The following table shows the data for the period 1940-1970.

Table 3

#### ANGOLA - POPULATION AT DIFFERENT CENSUSES BY SOMATIC TYPES

CENSUS YEAR	BLACKS	WHITES	HALF CASTES	OTHERS	TOTAL
1940	3 665 829	44 083	28 035	63	3 738 010
1950	4 036 687	78 826	29 648	105	4 145 266
1960	4 604 362	172 529	53 392	166	4 830 449
1970	5 250 174	280 101	89 337	389	5 620 001

Sources: For the years 1940-1960, [10, pp. 30 and 31].

For 1970, [2, p. 5].

### 4) Demographic Sample Surveys

A few surveys directed at studying certain aspects of some Angolan ethnic groups were carried out during the 1950s (see Bibliography). Among these, may be mentioned the fertility surveys carried out in 1957. However, considering the way the samples were designed, their small size (from 100 to 1,000 women) and the little information they provide, their interest is very limited.

### 5) Other Sample Surveys

Except for the agricultural surveys carried out since 1962-1963 by the "Missao de Inquéritos Agrícolas de Angola" in the context of the first World Agricultural Census sponsored by the FAO, no further information could be obtained.

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## II. CRITICAL STUDY OF SOURCES

### 1) Introduction

In view of the fluidity of frontiers, the primitive administrative apparatus and weak infrastructure, great caution is advisable in the use of data relating to the Angolan population, especially for the period prior to 1940.

Indeed, from the time of arrival of the Portuguese in the 15th Century until 1920 - around the time when the pacification of the Angolan territory was accomplished - the area controlled by the Portuguese continued to expand, rendering impossible any analysis of population evolution through time.

Furthermore, all the surveys carried out before 1940 were of a non-statistical nature.

### 2) Population considered

Whereas "de jure" and "de facto" criteria were used in other territories under Portuguese administration (notably in Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique), the population considered in the various censuses was "de facto".

As will be seen later, a substantial portion of the black population lived abroad. Indeed, the arbitrary fashion in which the frontiers had been fixed, the arrival of colonists and the state of war which the country has experienced since 1961, resulted in population movements which were sometimes on a large scale, as was the case in the areas most hit by the rebellion (between 1960 and 1970, the districts of Zaire and Moxico lost 66% and 31% respectively of their population).

### 3) Field of enquiry

For the purposes of enumeration, the country was, from 1940 onwards, divided into enumeration areas in turn sub-divided into zones corresponding to administrative "postos"(1). Control and responsibility for operations were borne by the administrative authorities, except in the capital Luanda where they were controlled by the Statistical Office.

With regard to the nomads who belong to the non-Bantu peoples of the country (Hottentots-Bushmen and Vatwa-Kimbari) who numbered less than 13 000 (according to the 1960 census), it has not been possible to find information relating to the problems which this type of population poses at the time of collection.

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(1) The "postos" represented the basic administrative units.

#### 4) Factors likely to influence the quality of collection

In the introduction to the first volume of the census of 1940, Alberto de Lemos refers to a letter dated 15th July 1778, sent to the Minister in charge by the governor D. Antonio de Lencastre, which evokes the fear that this kind of activity aroused among the blacks: "...it is only today that I am able to send you a list of the inhabitants of this kingdom because the immensity of the bush and the mistrust raised by the news among the savages delayed the execution of your orders, and I wish to advise you of the difficulties we had to convince the chiefs of the savages to present a list of all their children and subjects...", "...due to the fact they feared that this news was aimed at taking away some of their children..." [3, p. 3] .

This feeling must have prevailed up to the present time, due on one hand to the slave trade which lasted until the end of the last century, and on the other hand, to the institution which replaced it - forced labour (1).

Furthermore, factors such as territorial expansion, the dispersion of the black population, the absence of rapid lines of communication in some areas of the country, the outbreak of the war of liberation, and the difficulties in recruiting suitably qualified agents, certainly contributed to the poor quality of collected data.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the base of enumeration was the individual; each person having to keep for a certain length of time the document certifying his or her enumeration, which, among other things, helped to prevent double-counting.

### III. CONCLUSIONS

#### 1) Concerning the results

##### Suggested evolution of population since the beginning of the century

Taking into account the somewhat whimsical nature of figures relating to the black population prior to 1940 (see Tables 1 and 2 above), and considering the problem posed by Angolans living abroad (in exile or working there) whose number has continued to increase since 1961, the figures concerning this group have been assessed in the following way:

- for the period between 1900 and 1930, the estimates made by the Statistical Offices of Angola and published in the first volume of the 1950 census have been used [9, p. 16] as they appeared to be the most reasonable.

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 (1) Which lasted until 1962.

- The figures for 1940 and 1950 are those of the respective censuses.
- R. Pélissier's estimate of the number of Angolans in exile appears to be the most realistic - according to him, there would be at least 150 000 Angolans in this situation [8, p. 48] - this figure has been added to that of the population enumerated in 1960, thus obtaining a figure for the black population at that date.
- for 1970, to the enumerated population has been added the number of Angolan refugees as at 30th June, 1971 (1), that is, only 6 months after the census had been carried out.

The population of the various groups making up the population of Angola would have evolved as follows during the period 1900-1970:

Table 4

ANGOLA - POPULATION SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS CENTURY  
BY SOMATIC TYPES

YEAR	SOMATIC TYPES				TOTAL
	Blacks	Whites	Half Castes	Others	
1900	2 700 000	9 000	7 000	-	2 716 000
1910	2 900 000	12 000	9 500	-	2 921 500
1920	3 100 000	20 700	10 500	-	3 130 700
1930	3 300 000	30 000	13 500	-	3 343 560
1940	3 665 829	44 083	28 035	63	3 738 010
1950	4 036 687	78 826	29 648	105	4 145 266
1960	4 754 362	175 529	53 392	166	4 983 449
1970	5 665 174	280 101	89 337	389	6 035 001

(1) According to Pélissier "...the number of refugees enumerated as such by the United Nations amounted to 413 810 at the end of June 1971 (probably more than 415 000, counting refugees in Congo Brazzaville), that is 400 000 in Zaire, 3 800 in Botswana, 10 000 in Zambia, 10 in Kenya, [8, p. 48] .



Suggested estimate for 1st January, 1975

The revolution of April 1974 put an end to the hostilities and allowed the return of many Angolans for whom the war no longer held any terror (1). To some extent, however, it was also responsible for the return to Portugal of the overwhelming majority of the white population (in all likelihood, more than 95% of them left the country) and a few hundred blacks and half castes who had possibly been involved with the colonial authority.

Having said this, for want of accurate data on the proportion of the white and half caste population to have left the country, the estimate of the population of Angola as at 1st January 1975 is based only on the black population.

Thus, at that date, the figure for this group would be approximately 6.1 million, a figure based on the 1970 estimate and the mean annual growth rate recorded during the inter-censal period 1960-1970.

2) Concerning sources

Considering the poor quality of censuses (2) and also the fact that civil registration was effective only in towns (only 10.9% of the black population lived in towns in 1970), it would seem that complete revision is necessary, especially as regards collection.

- (1) In 1975, the number of Angolans living in Zaire would have been only 255 000 according to the EDOZA survey [5] and the estimates of the Office for Political Affairs in Zaire (more precisely, 58 000 in the region of Lower-Zaire where Angolans represented 98% of the foreign population, c. 20 000 in Matadi, i.e. 15% of the town population, and 176 000 in Kinshasa, i.e. almost 11% of the population of the capital of Zaire).
- (2) The United Nations index showed the following values for the various censuses:

Census	Index of sex ratio regulation	Index of age structure regulation		Combined index
		M	F	
1940	9.9	12.7	14.4	56.8
1950	10.7	9.3	10.5	51.9
1960	9.7	9.1	11.3	49.5
1970	13.7	10.8	17.9	69.8

Source: [4, p. 20]

Until the recent independence of the country brings the stability which has been lacking for so long, it would seem to us that the immediate tasks should be the re-organisation of the Civil Registration system and the conducting of sample surveys in order to fill in the existing gaps.

However, as neither the priorities of the Angolan Government nor the infrastructure available to them at the present time are known, it would be premature to advise this type of action rather than any other before an assessment of needs and priorities is made.

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