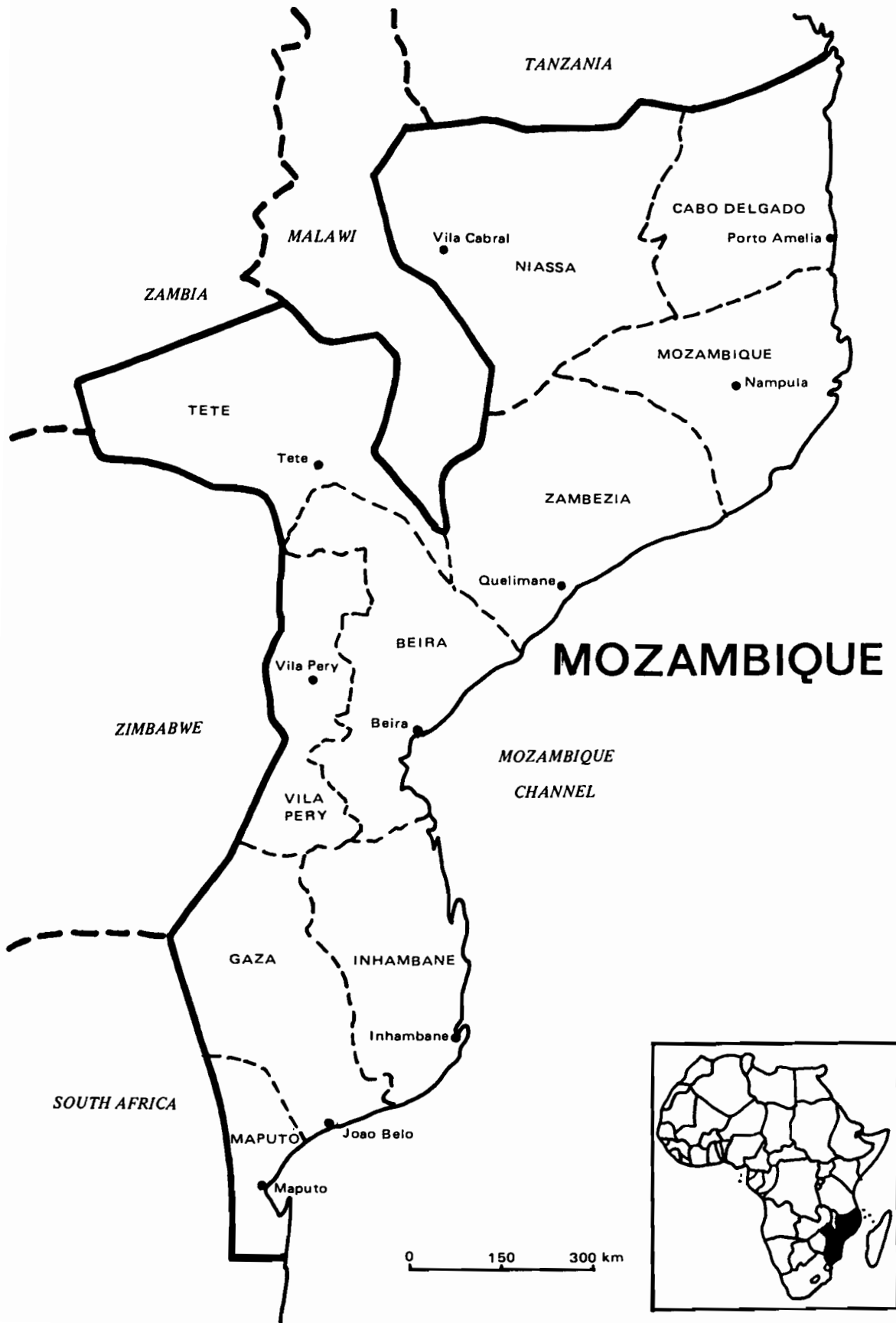


MOZAMBIQUE

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M O Z A M B I Q U E

I. DATA SOURCES1) Historical estimates

Although some enumerations were carried out during the last century, they applied only to certain regions of the country and did not conform to any statistical requirements. The "Estatistica dos Rios de Sena, 1806" [1] is an example. The reasons for this state of affairs stem mainly from the fact that at the time the Portuguese only controlled part of the territory of Mozambique. Indeed, around 1830-1840, according to A.H. de Oliveira Marques, "From Cabo Delgado to Lourenço Marques, occupation of the coast itself was not continuous: going from north to south, it stopped at Angoche whose sultan resisted the Portuguese stubbornly, starting again at Quelimane down as far as the bay of Lourenço Marques. From Cabo Delgado to Angoche, there were only about 40 kilometres of coastal strip in the hands of Europeans; from Sofala to Lourenço Marques, the territory under control was more extensive, principally in the river valleys. However, all along the Zambesi there was considerable penetration into the interior where Portuguese occupation was well established as far as Tete and even beyond, nearly 500 kilometres from the coast" [5].

Shortly before 1855, the population had been estimated at 300 000, "...the truly Portuguese population, that is, obedient to the authority of the government" [3]. The first findings relating to the population broken down into racial types date from 1900 and show a total of 735 152 persons, comprising 730 702 blacks, 3 014 whites and 1 436 mixed, the figures for the districts of Lourenço Marques and Quelimane not having been included.

2) Administrative censuses and other administrative sources

Subsequently, and up to 1928, several estimates with no pretensions of a scientific nature, were made by the administrative authorities; the methods used were truly empirical and means too limited.

Other estimates were made in 1920, 1923 and 1926 (the one in 1920 did not include the population of territories administered by the Niassa Company), giving respectively figures of 3 028 761, 3 530 377 and 3 523 611 (1).

(1) Data extracted from the introduction to the third volume of the Census of 1950.

3) Statistical enumerations

The year 1928 marked, in the history of statistics on Mozambique, the start of censal operations because it was in this year that the first census of "non-indigenous" population was carried out, an exercise which preceded by two years that of the indigenous population.

In 1940, the first general census of population was carried out and was repeated every ten years until 1970, which would lead to the supposition that the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique would attempt a similar operation in 1980.

The following table shows the evolution of the population of Mozambique since 1928, according to the various somatic types present.

Table 63
MOZAMBIQUE - POPULATION DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1928
BY RACIAL TYPE

Year of Census	Somatic type	Black	White	Mixed	Other		Total
					Indians	Asiatic	
1928		-	17 842	8 357	8 475	896	35 570
1930		3 849 977	-	-	-	-	3 849 977
1935		-	23 131	13 259	8 304	1 056	45 750
1940		5 031 955	27 438	15 641	9 147	1 449	5 085 630
1945		1 845	31 221	15 784	9 700	1 565	60 115
1950		5 651 306	48 213	25 149	12 630	1 613	5 738 911
1955		4 554	65 798	29 873	15 235	1 945	117 405
1960		6 455 614	97 245	31 455	17 241	2 098	6 603 653
1970		7 929 432	162 967	50 189	22 531	3 814	8 168 933

Note: In 1928 and in years ending with a 5, the figures related to the non-black population.

4) Sample surveys

With the exception of the agricultural surveys carried out since 1961, by the "Missao de Inqueritos Agricolas de Moçambique" in the context of the world agricultural census under the auspices of the FAO, no other information has been found relating to this source of data.

II. CRITICAL STUDY OF SOURCES

For the purposes of the censuses, the country was divided into zones whose boundaries coincided with administrative divisions, each zone being sub-divided into sectors. The responsibility for collection resided, in most regions of the country, with the administrative authority, representing the colonial power. Though "de jure" and "de facto" criteria were used in the various censuses, that which was used for the black population (which represented more than 97% of the population enumerated in 1970), was the "de facto" population (present).

Any attempt to study the evolution of population over time must take into account the fact that the definition of the territory of Mozambique, as it is today, was not finalised until the end of the last century (following an agreement signed in 1891, between the Portuguese and the British) and that "pacification" campaigns were pursued until 1918.

Furthermore, the dispersal of population, the absence of lines of communication within certain regions as well as their poor administrative representation, the state of war prevailing in part of the country since 1964, and the general under-development were factors which beyond doubt exerted a non-negligible influence on the quality of the data.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation of population figures for Mozambique is rendered difficult, not only because of the reasons elicited above, but also because a significant group of adults of male sex migrate traditionally, for reasons of an economic nature, towards neighbouring countries.

Thus, according to M. T. Galba, "...it can be said that in 1900, more than 80 000 natives of Mozambique had work of a permanent nature in Transvaal, a figure which in our days must be multiplied by two, in view of the increase in clandestine emigration"; thus, in 1945, 163 294 workers native to Mozambique were enumerated in Transvaal. This concerns the official figure relating to natives with a legalised status. But how many were not registered by the authorities? And what of those in Natal, Cape Province, Southern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Tanganyika and other territories?" [4, p. 190].

Later, according to data in the Area Handbook for Mozambique, transcribed by R. Pelissier "...it is estimated that 300 000 natives of Mozambique worked in South Africa in 1967, and 150 000 in Rhodesia" [6].

In addition, after 1964, a new factor intervened rendering more problematic attempts to estimate the population of Mozambique: the war of liberation. Once again according to R. Pelissier, "...the figures of the High Commissariat of the United Nations for refugees are therefore inadequate since the bastion of white English speakers is not taken into account. This organisation counted only 30 380 refugees belonging to Mozambique on 30 June 1971; 25 000 in Tanzania, 5 000 in Zambia, 330 in Kenya and 50 in Swaziland. In its inaccuracy, the figure is lower than that for Angola and for Guinea, which is already a worrying sign. It would not be far wrong to consider the true figure for refugees in neighbouring countries to be well in excess of 60 000" [6].

As the non-black population has only represented a small proportion of the total in the various censuses - between 1% and 3% - it has been judged preferable to reconstitute only the figures for the black population.

To this end, the following figures have been added to the enumerated totals: 100 000 in 1930, 200 000 in 1940 and 1950, 300 000 in 1960 and 600 000 in 1970, attempting to take account in this way of the information presented above relating to the probable number of people living outside the country.

The figure suggested for 1 January 1975 was determined by applying to the population enumerated in 1970 the mean annual intercensal increase rate for the period 1960-1970.

The table below presents the estimated figures for the black population relating to the period 1930 to 1975.

Table 64

MOZAMBIQUE - ESTIMATES OF THE BLACK POPULATION,
1930 TO 1975

YEAR OF CENSUS	POPULATION (rounded)
1930	3 950 000
1940	5 230 000
1950	5 850 000
1960	6 750 000
1970	8 530 000
1.1.1975	9 357 000

Bearing in mind the poor quality of censuses [2] and the fact that civil registration only covered a modest part of the country as it functioned, at least satisfactorily, in towns and the seats of "councillors" or "circumscriçoes", it would appear that immediate priority should be given to the following:

- the carrying out of a general census of population, making reliable data available at last;
- the reorganisation and progressive extension of civil registration;
- the carrying out of sample surveys allowing, in particular, an accurate insight to be gained into the levels of the principal indicators of population movements.

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Reference may also be made to the results of population censuses from 1928 to 1970, RTE and DPSE, Lourenço Marques.

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