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978-0-521-83004-1 - A Concise History of Portugal: Second Edition

David Birmingham

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A Concise History of Portugal

This concise, illustrated history of Portugal offers an introduction to the people and culture of the country and its empire, and to its search for economic modernisation, political stability and international partnership.

It is the first modern account of Portugal's history to be written in English since the days of dictatorship. A short introduction to Portugal's classical, Islamic and Hispanic history culminates in the revolution of 1640. The book then studies the effects of the vast wealth mined from Portuguese Brazil, the growth of the wine trade and the evolution of close ties with England, Portugal's 'oldest ally'. The Portuguese Revolution of 1820 to 1851 created a liberal monarchy, but in 1910 the king was overthrown and, by 1926, had been replaced by a dictatorship which tried to overcome Portugal's poverty by building a new empire in Africa. In 1975 Portugal withdrew from its African colonies and turned north to become a democratic member of the European Community in 1986.

David Birmingham visited Portugal as a summer student in Coimbra while training as a historian at the University of Ghana in 1960. His first major book was a history of early modern Angola and he has since co-edited a three-volume history of Central Africa. He has also written biography, with a study of Kwame Nkrumah, local history, with a book on a Swiss village, and thematic history, with a work on nationalism. The present *Concise History* was researched during the years which followed the fall of Portugal's dictators in 1974, and it has since become the standard single-volume work. This second edition brings the story up to date and the revised bibliography discusses the current state of historical writing on Portugal.

DAVID BIRMINGHAM is Emeritus Professor of Modern History in the University of Kent at Canterbury.

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For
Alberto Romão Dias
and
Jill R. Dias

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