

The Middle Class in Mozambique

In recent years, the growth of a middle class has been a key feature of the 'Africa Rising' narrative. Here, Jason Sumich explores the formation of this middle class in Mozambique, answering questions about the basis of the class system and the social order that gives rise to it. Drawing extensively on his fieldwork, Sumich argues that power and status in dominant party states such as Mozambique derive more from the ability to access resources than from direct control of the means of production. By considering the role of the state, he shows how the Mozambican middle class can be both bound to a system it benefits from and alienated from it at the same time, as well as exploring the ways in which the middle class attempts to reproduce its positions of privilege and highlighting the deeply uncertain future that it faces.

Jason Sumich is a lecturer in the department of sociology at the University of Essex. He is a political anthropologist who works on issues of class formation, the state, hegemony, citizenship, and the politics of enclaving in Southern Africa, primarily Mozambique. He holds a PhD from the London School of Economics (2006) and an MA from the University of Cape Town (2001). His current research explores new forms of urban governance and control as a member of the project 'Enclaving: Patterns of Global Futures in Three African Cities', funded by the Research Council of Norway.

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The Middle Class in Mozambique

*The State and the Politics of Transformation
in Southern Africa*

Jason Sumich
University of Essex

International African Institute, London
and



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To Afia and my parents.

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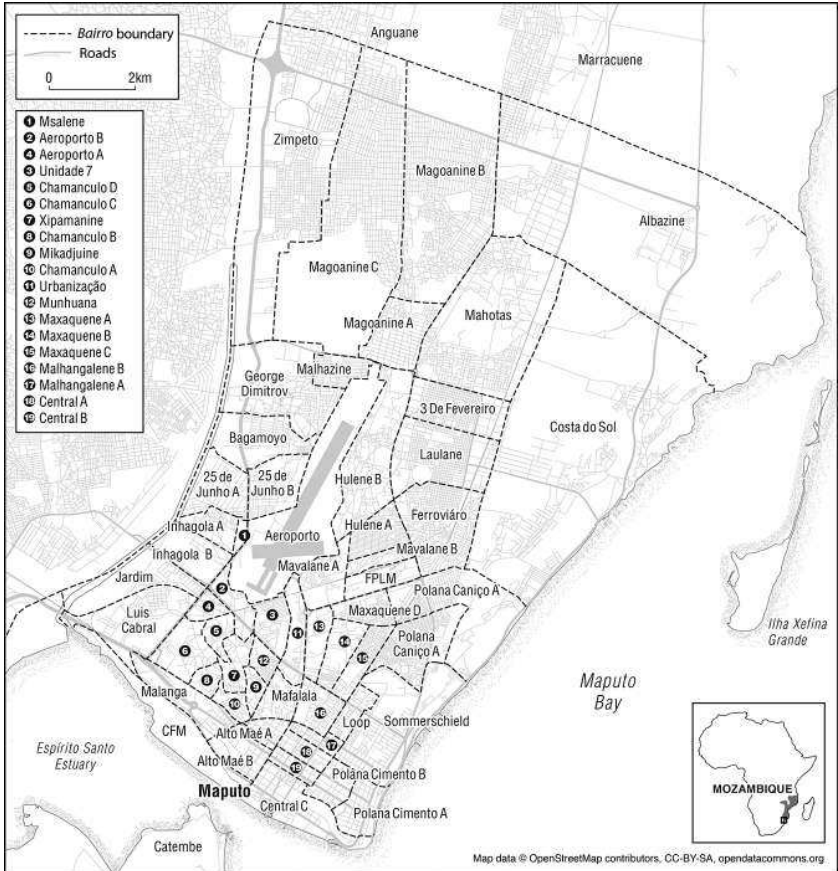
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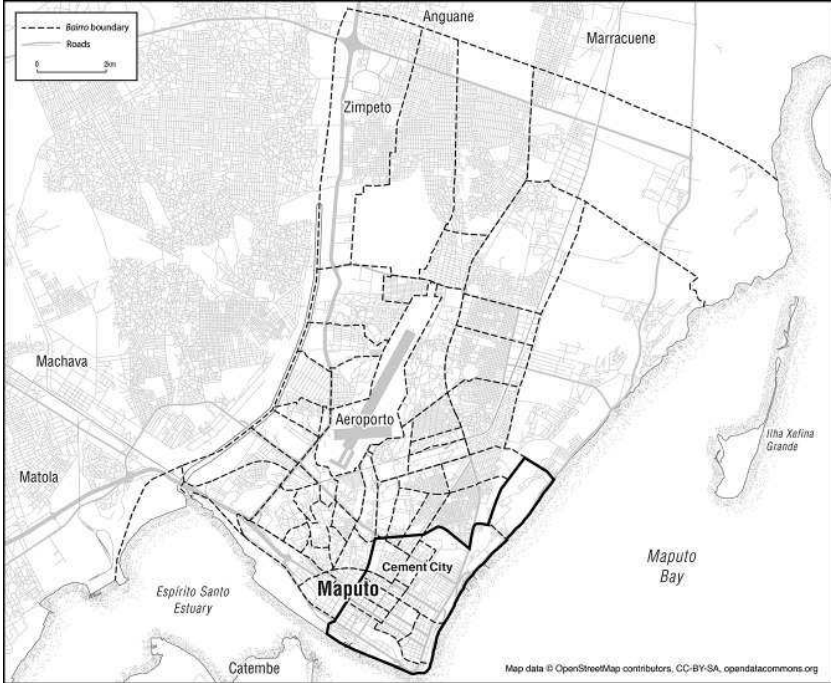
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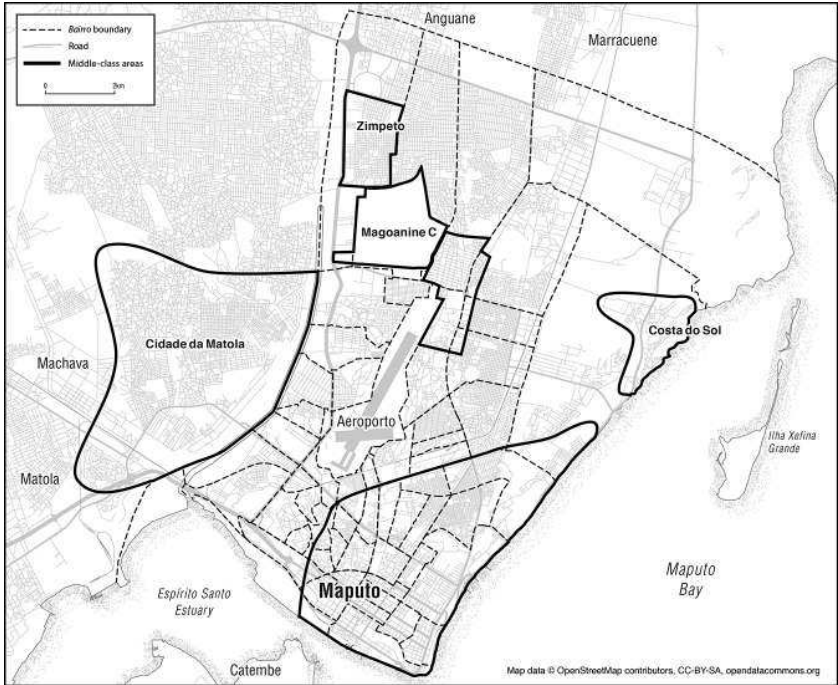


Map 1 Maputo

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Map 2 The old 'cement city'



Map 3 New middle-class areas