

## Reshaping Africa:

### Portuguese engineering and territory management in the colonies of Angola and Mozambique

Research Unit / Team

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## Objectives

This project aims at understanding how technical/engineering expertise was crucial to the Portuguese agenda concerning management and exploitation of the overseas territories in Africa from the mid-19th century to the 1970s.

It was designed in order to contribute to the ongoing debate on the dynamics of the process of "Europeanizing the World/Provincializing Europe". Its objectives are double folded, contributing both to the Portuguese and European History, by bringing to the forefront the case of smaller peripheral countries which acquired power in Europe through the translation of colonial into national power in the world arena and by stressing the circulation of technologies, experts, and expertise both between Europe and colonies and between colonial powers.



## Methodology

This project is conceived at the crossroads of history of technology, economic history and political history. Bearing in mind this wide platform of research, our approach uses the LTS (Large Technological Systems) theory as its backbone. LTS advocates a sociotechnical systems research methodology to analyze human-made infrastructures that have a powerful impact on how society lives, thinks and relates with nature. To capture LTS dynamics we use the concepts of "technopolitics" and "portals of globalization". In close relationship with these concepts we also explore the relevance of the concepts of centre(s), periphery(ies), and ultra periphery(ies).



## Expected Results

1. To deepen and enlarge the contribution of the Portuguese case in the European ongoing debate on the process of "Europeanizing the World/Provincializing Europe"
2. To establish bridges with economic and political historians, towards a more comprehensive understanding of our topic.
3. To reinforce the presence of the group in international research networks on Technology and Empire, in Tensions of Europe, in STEP and in the editorial project Making Europe
4. To participate in international conferences addressing the theme of the project
5. To publish in international journals with refereeing
6. To author and edit volumes on this theme, both in Portugal and abroad.



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