

# **The Untold Story of Portuguese Colonialism: How Cambridge Imperialism Shaped the Civilising Mission (1870-1930)**

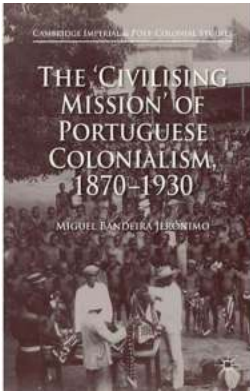
Portuguese colonialism during the period of 1870-1930 is often overshadowed by its more prominent European counterparts like British, French, and Spanish colonialism. However, it was during this era that Portuguese colonial authorities embarked on a unique "civilising mission" aimed at fostering economic development, cultural assimilation, and modernization in their colonies. This article delves into the lesser-known aspects of Portuguese colonialism, particularly focusing on the influential role played by Cambridge Imperialism.

## **The Rise of Cambridge Imperialism**

Cambridge Imperialism refers to the intellectual movement that emerged within the academic circles of the University of Cambridge in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Led by influential scholars such as J.R. Seeley, Leonard Woolley, and Frederick Maurice Powicke, this movement sought to rationalize and justify European colonial expansion by framing it as a "civilising mission."

Unlike other imperial powers that focused primarily on exploitation and extraction of resources, Cambridge Imperialists argued that colonialism had a moral duty to uplift and civilize the native populations by instilling Western values, education, and institutions. Portuguese colonial authorities, influenced by this ideology, incorporated the civilising mission as a core aspect of their colonial policies.

**The 'Civilising Mission' of Portuguese Colonialism, 1870-1930 (Cambridge Imperial and**



## Post-Colonial Studies)

by Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo (2015th Edition, Kindle Edition)

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4 out of 5

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File size : 705 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 278 pages



### The Portuguese Civilising Mission

Drawing from the ideals of Cambridge Imperialism, Portuguese authorities implemented a range of policies and initiatives aimed at fostering development and assimilation in their colonies. The civilising mission encompassed a multifaceted approach that encompassed education, infrastructure development, healthcare, and cultural assimilation.

### Educational Reforms

Recognizing the importance of education in uplifting the native populations, Portuguese authorities established schools and encouraged the learning of Portuguese language and culture. The focus was not just on basic literacy but also on providing vocational training and technical education to foster economic self-sufficiency.

### Infrastructure Development

To facilitate economic growth and modernization, significant investments were made in developing infrastructure such as transportation networks, ports, and

telecommunication systems. The aim was to connect remote areas to the economic centers and stimulate trade and commerce.

## **Healthcare Initiatives**

Portuguese colonial authorities recognized the need for improved healthcare to reduce disease outbreaks and improve overall well-being. They established hospitals, clinics, and public health programs to provide medical assistance and vaccinations. This had a significant impact on reducing mortality rates and improving the quality of life for the local population.

## **Cultural Assimilation**

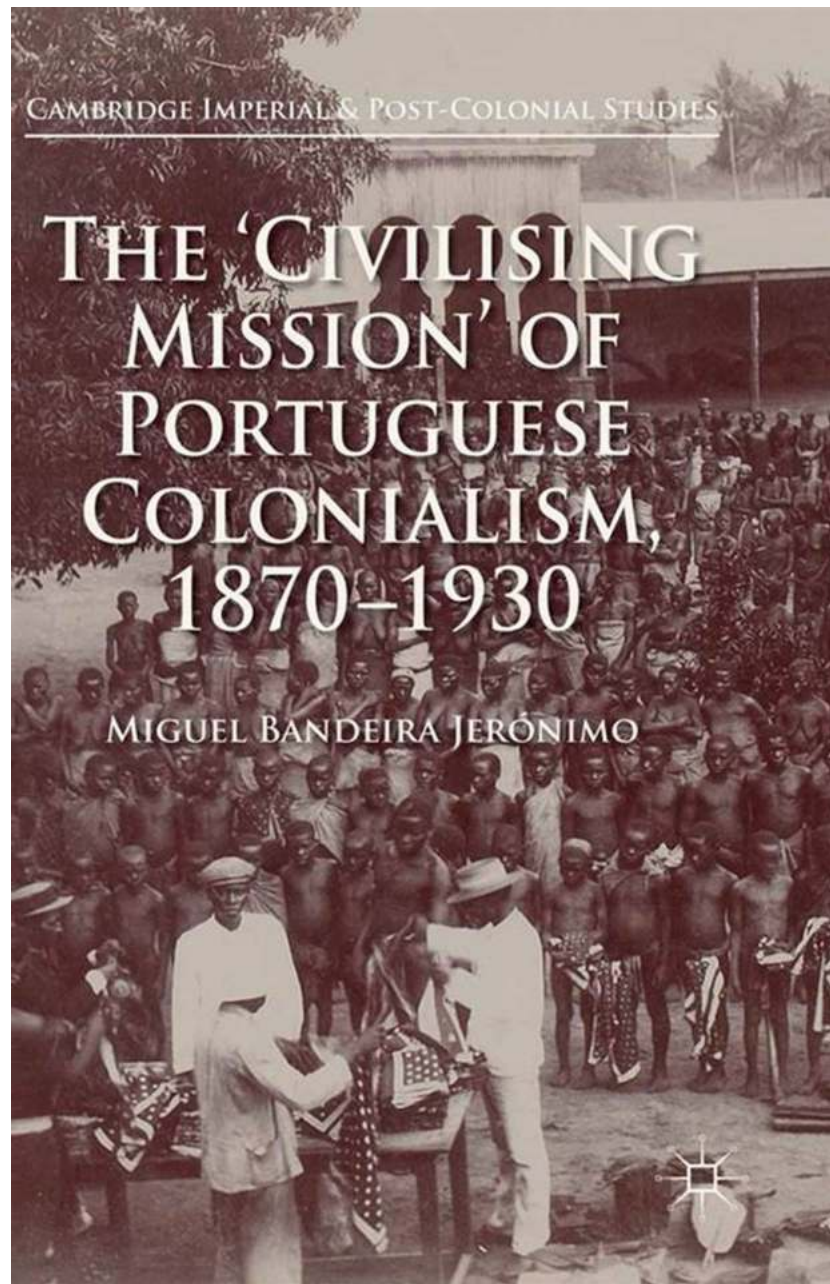
Embracing the ideals of cultural assimilation, Portuguese authorities encouraged intermarriage between European colonizers and native populations. This was seen as a way to promote social harmony, facilitate cultural exchange, and create a mixed-race population with shared values and traditions.

## **The Legacy and Critique**

The civilising mission of Portuguese colonialism left a complex and contested legacy. While proponents argue that it laid the groundwork for development and progress in the colonies, critics point out the underlying paternalism, cultural superiority, and exploitation inherent in the mission. The impact of Cambridge Imperialism on Portuguese colonialism continues to be a subject of academic debate and analysis.

While often overlooked, the civilising mission of Portuguese colonialism during the period of 1870-1930 had significant implications for the development and modernization of their colonies. Influenced by Cambridge Imperialism, Portuguese authorities took a unique approach that emphasized education, infrastructure development, healthcare, and cultural assimilation. The long-lasting

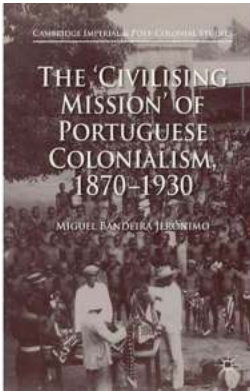
legacy of this mission, however, remains a topic of discussion, highlighting the complexities and ethical implications of colonialism.



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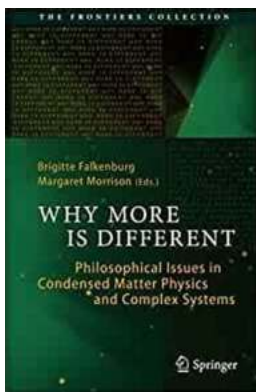
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This book provides an historical, critical analysis of the doctrine of 'civilising mission' in Portuguese colonialism in the crucial period from 1870 to 1930. Exploring international contexts and transnational connections, this 'civilising mission' is analysed and assessed by examining the employment and distribution of African manpower.



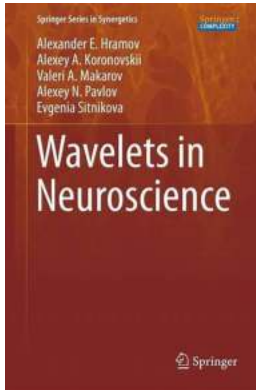
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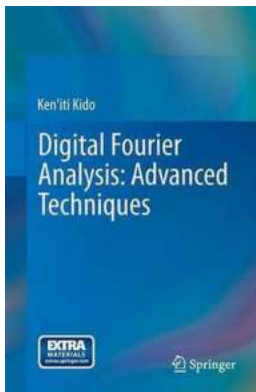
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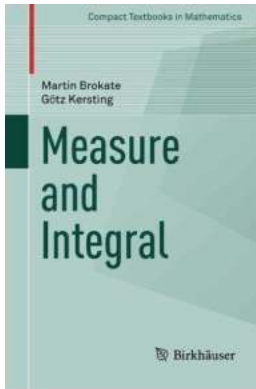
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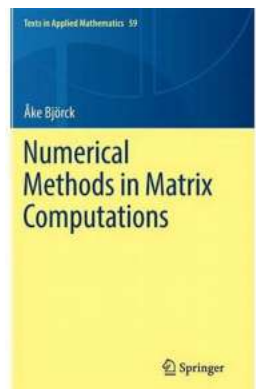
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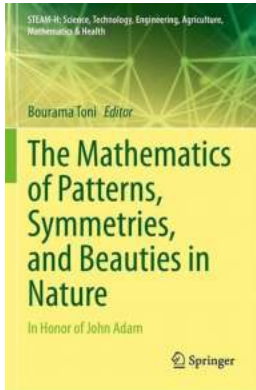
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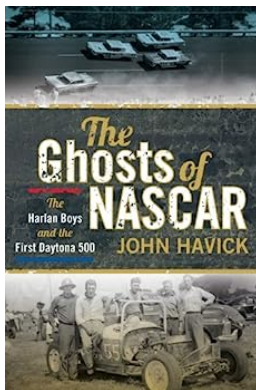
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