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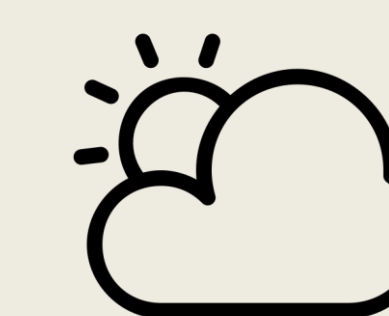
# Black, white, and re(a)d all over

## Foreign socialist voices in Mozambican national public discourse

By Laura Silva Glasser, supervised under Dr. Eric Allina

Today's weather:

15\*



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### Central Europe Shaping Socialism

Introduction and context

This project examines articles from the Mozambican daily newspaper, *Notícias* from the year 1981 to investigate how the partnerships between Mozambique's socialist party, FRELIMO, and other socialist states affected its attempts to mobilize Mozambicans towards socialist ideals. Building on Benedict Anderson's concept of the "imagined community" – a nation's transformation into a community by those who imagine themselves as its members – this study serves to show how information published in *Notícias* shaped people's expectations and imaginations concerning an independent Mozambique. This work is part of a larger research project and will offer insight into a year of socialist Mozambique's print media so as to prove the hypothesis that "the socialist politics of independence-era Africa... reach[ed] 'the masses' it claimed to mobilize".



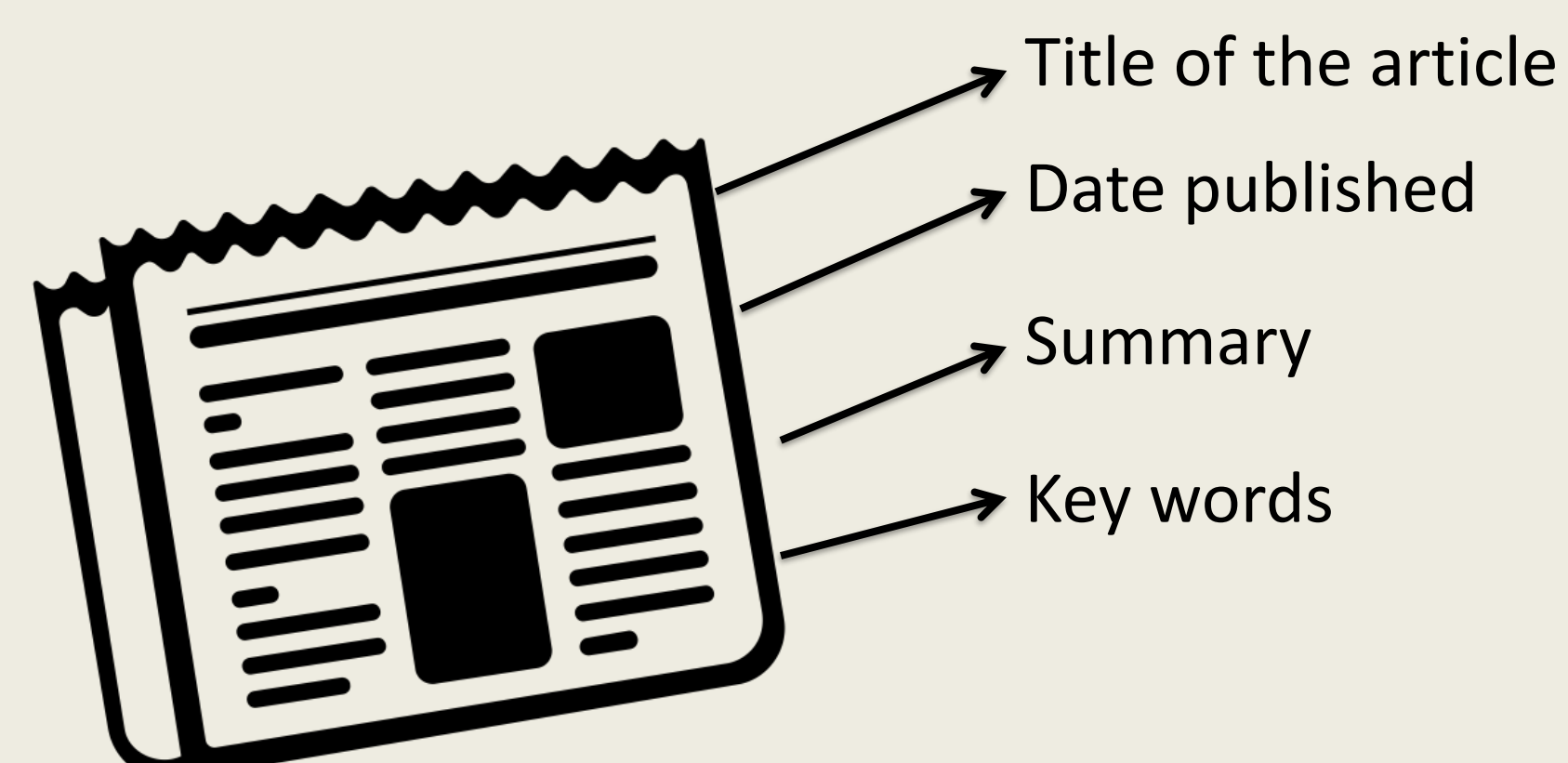
**FRELIMO leader Samora Machel speaking to a group of young Mozambicans in celebration of the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of national independence.**

Taken from page three of the June 25, 1981 edition of *Notícias*.

### Analyzing the Revolution Abroad

Methods

In order to analyze the role of external socialist states in Mozambique, this project scrutinized over 100 articles from the year 1981, taken from the Mozambican archives. The process included reading each article and entering a summary of its information into a spreadsheet, along with a list of key words and terms found in the document. This allowed for clear patterns to emerge, which would then be used to determine the extent to which the articles communicated FRELIMO goals and the general sentiment of Mozambican public discourse on the topic of other socialist states.



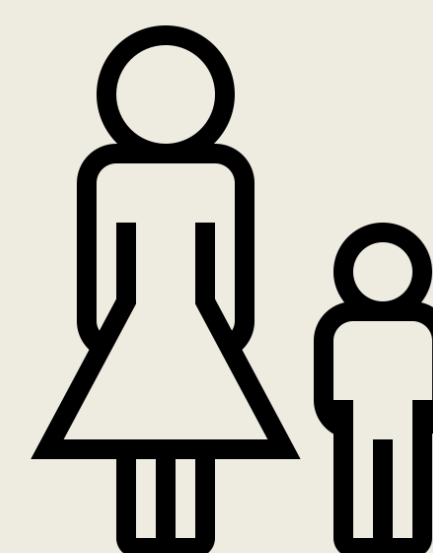
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### The Power of Words

Results

Women and youth

28%



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28% of articles examined reported on meetings between women or youth groups from Mozambique with those of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) as well as with members of both countries' political parties. When the articles mentioned women, a common theme was the idea that they would need to support and take part in the creation of a socialist Mozambique before they were to be awarded their emancipation. Youth were often mentioned in relation to education and professional development programs implemented by East Germany for youth of socialist countries such as Mozambique.

Solidarity and friendship

38% 26%



Created by Alligel from Noun Project

GDR/USSR Socialism/socialist

52% 46%



Created by Liene Kirschner from Noun Project

The German Democratic Republic was very influential in Mozambican politics, with around half the articles mentioning socialist countries or socialism. The articles demonstrated direct East German activity in Mozambican development on the grounds of solidarity and friendship. Reports of Mozambican youth being trained in the GDR were undoubtedly the largest instance of East German commitment to the Mozambican cause, although articles reported support in other ways as well, such as in donations of money and resources.



Created by anide from Noun Project

Slogans 28%

Analysis of the documents allowed for the emergence of certain common phrases used to mobilize Mozambicans. "A luta continua" (the struggle continues) and the concept of "Homem Novo" (New Man), a new socialist man who demonstrates socialist ideals and will usher in a new era, both demonstrate the indoctrination techniques employed by orators and journalists at the time.



**A young Mozambican participating in professional development training in an East German factory.**

Taken from page two of the April 25, 1982 edition of *Domingo*.

### Maputo to Karl-Marx-Stadt?

Conclusion

The results of this project support the hypothesis that the information published in *Notícias* shaped the citizens' expectations and imaginations concerning an independent Mozambique. The articles achieve this by constantly iterating ideas of solidarity, friendship, and socialism. Additionally, it demonstrates the extent to which the roles of women and youth in socialist Mozambique were altered in attempts to create the ideal society, and the large role of the GDR and other socialist states.

These results offer an intimate look into Mozambican life in 1981. By focusing on newspaper articles, this project allows for analysis of the everyday outreach being performed by the government. In reading these articles, it is easy to see the role the media played in communicating FRELIMO's objectives and spreading socialist ideals.

This project offers insight into the process of a state's transition into socialism by highlighting the common themes and patterns found in its discourse. Next steps in this project would be to analyze information from other years of *Notícias* articles to discover whether these patterns remain consistent throughout time or whether they change based on the party's perceived needs.

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### References:

*Notícias* articles collected from the national library in Maputo.

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