



# Historical Foundations of Governance in São Tomé and Príncipe: Insights into Contemporary Challenges

Maria Félix<sup>1,2</sup>, Kamalina Costa<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> São Tomé and Príncipe Policy Research Institute

<sup>2</sup> Department of Research, São Tomé and Príncipe Centre for Human Rights

<sup>3</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, São Tomé and Príncipe Policy Research Institute

**Published:** 06 January 2001 | **Received:** 11 September 2000 | **Accepted:** 20 December 2000

**Correspondence:** [mflix@outlook.com](mailto:mflix@outlook.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18730385](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18730385)

## Author notes

*Maria Félix is affiliated with São Tomé and Príncipe Policy Research Institute and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Kamalina Costa is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, São Tomé and Príncipe Policy Research Institute and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

São Tomé and Príncipe is a small island nation in West Africa with a rich history of governance shaped by colonial influences and subsequent post-independence developments. The study employs a qualitative analysis of archival documents and secondary sources to trace the evolution of governance structures from independence until present day. Key themes emerge including the impact of Portuguese colonial legacy on political institutions, the role of external aid in shaping policy decisions, and the persistence of traditional power dynamics within the government. A notable finding is the significant influence of historical contexts on current governmental inefficiencies. The historical roots identified provide a framework for understanding contemporary governance challenges in São Tomé and Príncipe. Future research should focus on developing adaptive strategies to mitigate the effects of historical legacies, such as fostering inclusive political processes that account for diverse societal influences.

**Keywords:** *Island Nations, Colonial Legacy, Post-Independence Dynamics, State Formation Theory, Decolonization Studies, Historical Institutionalism, Comparative Political Economy*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge