

Commemorating Independence: Epiphany, Memory or Postcolonial Political Strategy?

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In this paper we intend to discuss the contemporary remembrance of the independence day (July 5th) in Cape Verde (Portuguese colony between 1460-1975) in context of the fifty years of African Independences celebration festivities. A difference resides in the fact that in Cape Verde only thirty five years of independence was celebrated (1975-2010). The discourse of the commemorations was charged with political and national symbolism: at first, to present the idea of modernity and improvement achieved in Cape Verde after decolonization; subsequently, the importance that was attributed to Portugal (old colonial potency) as a special guest of honor invited to be present in celebrations of Cape Verde's independence day in 2010. Therefore, from this perspective, how was the postcolonial discourse regarding the memory of Portuguese colonialism expressed? Which discursive strategy was applied in the civic commemorative rituals to stimulate the epiphany of the independence festivities (and the Cape-Verdean patriotism/nationalism), occulting some legacies of colonialism?

Key-words: Commemorations. Independence. Cape Verde. Postcolonial. Discourses.