



THINK MY INDEPENDENCE

Guinea Bissau



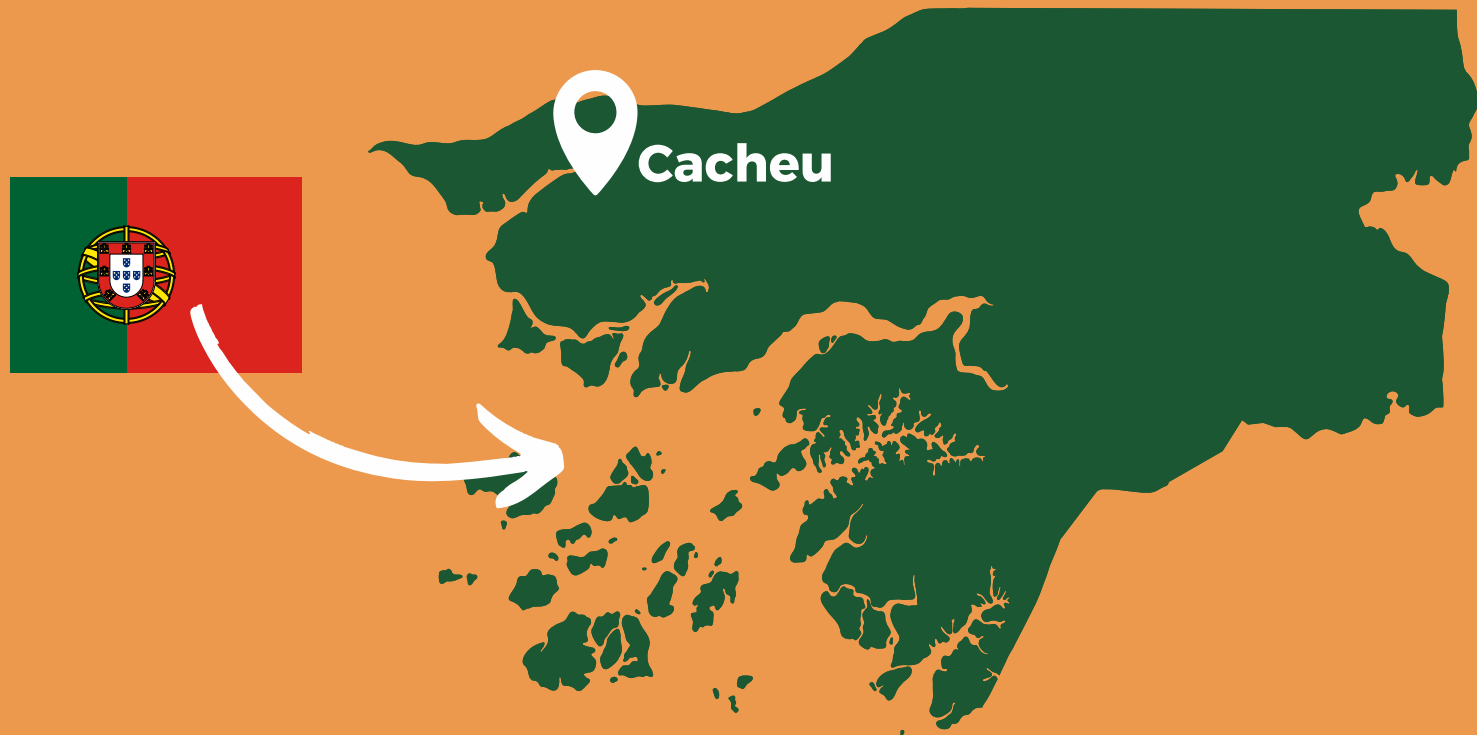
1973

On September 24th 1973, the National Popular Assembly **declared the independence of the Republic of Guinea Bissau**, which was to be recognized by 80 states prior to **Portugal's recognition** on September 10th 1974.



COLONIAL HISTORY

Portugal first reached Western Africa in the **15th century**. The first areas they entered were the banks of the river of Guinea, and the islands of Cape Verde. As for our main topic, Guinea Bissau, then called Portuguese Guinea, it was **claimed by Portugal back in the 1440s**.



Since then, trading posts were established by the European power. A famous one, **Cacheu**, was created in **1456**. It became one of the major **slave centers** as thousands of people were traded and sent to the Americas, mainly in Cuba and Haiti.



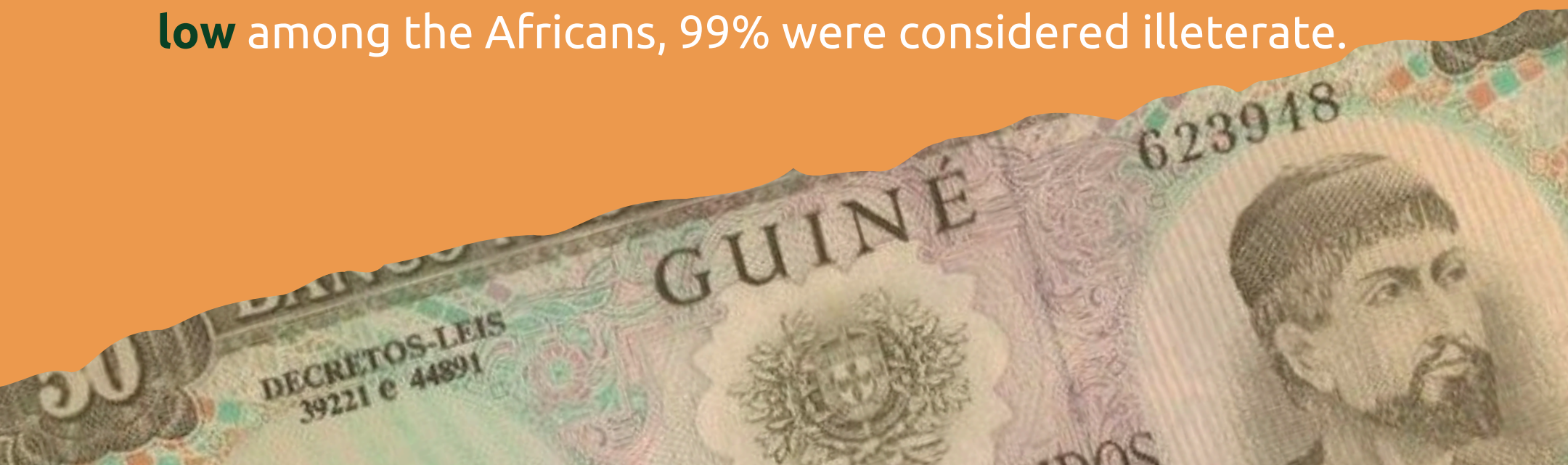
LIFE UNDER PORTUGUESE RULE

Portugal wasn't as rich as other European colonial powers. Their control over their colonies was therefore not as effective. **In Guinea Bissau, little investments were made.**

Forced labour and **annual taxes** were introduced in the early 1900s.

Introduced in 1917 and similar to the **French Code for Indigenous**, Guinea Bissau's colonial doctrine relied upon a distinction between the "civilised", and the "non-civilised". It meant that Africans did not have access to justice or administrative services under Portuguese administration.

Mortality rates were high, and **literacy ones particularly low** among the Africans, 99% were considered illiterate.





THE PATH TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE

In 1956, the **Partido Africano para a Independência da Guiné e do Cabo Verde (PAIGC)*** was created. Founded by **Amílcar Cabral**, it led the struggle for liberation from Portuguese colonialism.

*African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde

In 1961, they decided to begin an armed struggle for independence. **The war of independence lasted from 1963 to 1974.** Guinea Bissau is the only country of the region to reach independence through arms.

In 1968, large parts of Guinea Bissau were controlled by the PAIGC, leading the party to declare independence in September 1973.

The UN Resolution 3061 (XXVIII), of 2 November 1973 recognised the creation of the State.

3061 (XXVIII). Illegal occupation by Portuguese military forces of certain sectors of the public of Guinea-Bissau and sion committed by the of the Republic
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FOCUS ON THE PAIGC

The PAIGC 's strive towards the independence of Guinea Bissau did not solely rely on an armed struggle. The latter part only started in **1961, 5 years after the creation of the party.**

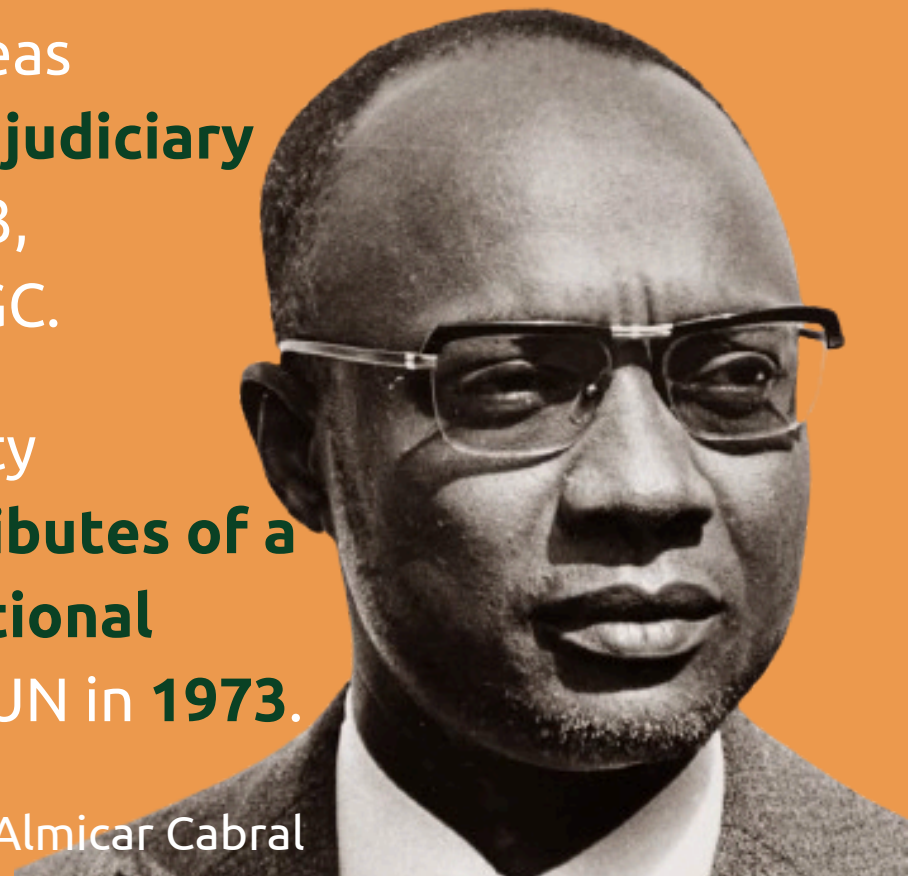
By the end of the 1960s', the PAIGC had **control over 70%** of the Guinean territory , and put in place a **"reconstruction programme"**.

Faced by Portugal's unwillingness to rescind power, the PAIGC's strategy was to **get the international community's recognition** of a de-facto **sovereignty** of Guinea Bissau.

It had put in place in the liberated areas **political, administrative, social and judiciary institutions.** Between 1971 and 1973, **elections** were organised by the PAIGC.

Already in 1971, the rulers of the party considered that they had **all the attributes of a State-party**, but only lacked **international recognition**, which was given by the UN in **1973.**

Almícar Cabral





TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1879

Guinea Bissau became a separate colony of Portugal.*

*Before 1879, Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau were jointly administered by Portugal.

1886

Portugal lost the Casamance river region to France.

1915

Portugal achieved control of the entire territory.

1951

Portuguese Guinea became an overseas province of Portugal.

1963

The War of independence, led by the PAIGC began.

1973

Guinea Bissau declared its independence from Portugal.

1974

Portugal recognised Guinea Bissau's independence *de jure*.

