

PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE

- MAPPING SPEAKERS OF PORTUGUESE AROUND THE WORLD



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Summary

- Around 236 million people speak Portuguese in the world
- Portuguese is the 6th most spoken language in the world
- The Portuguese language is the 3rd most spoken language in the Northern Hemisphere and the 1st most spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere
- The Brazilian town of São Paulo is the city with the largest number of Portuguese speaking population in the world
- According to estimates by UNESCO, Portuguese and Spanish are the fastest-growing European languages after English and the language has the highest potential for growth as an international language in southern Africa and South America.
- The Portuguese-speaking African countries are expected to have a combined population of 83 million by 2050. In total, the Portuguese-speaking countries will have 335 million people by the same year.

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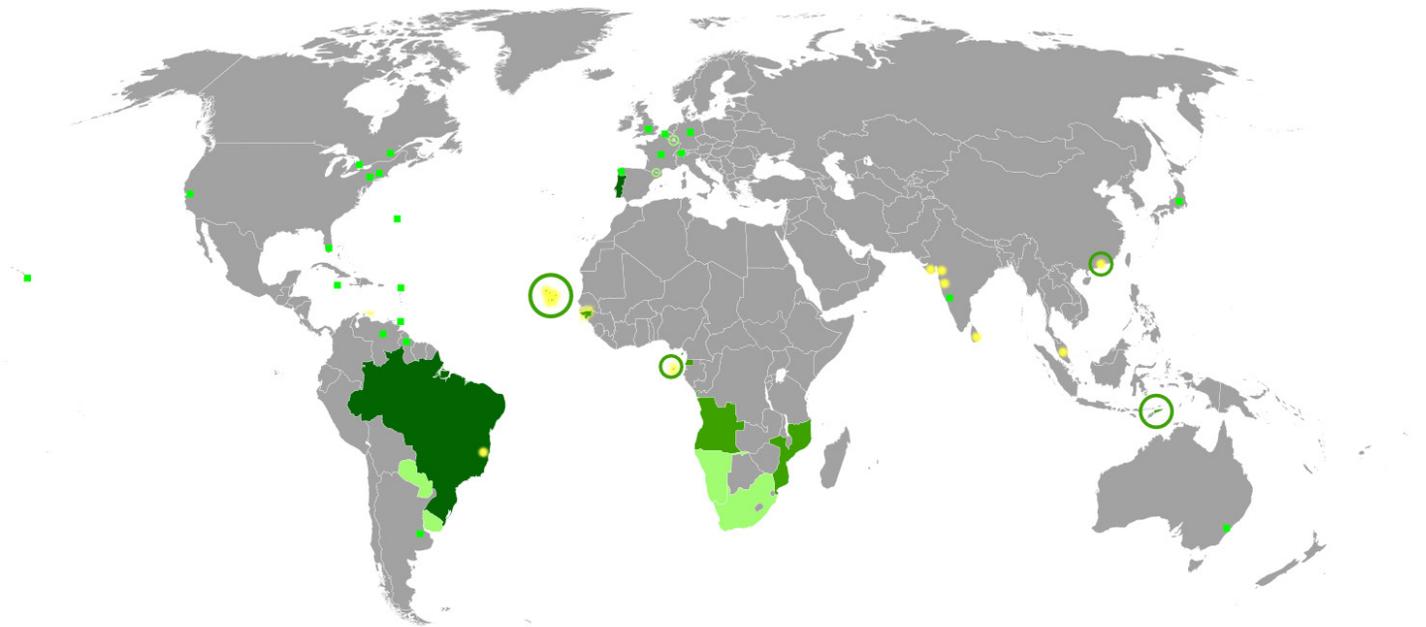
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Nowadays, 10 countries in the world are recognized as Portuguese-speaking states. However, Brazil and Portugal are the only ones having it as a native language, since many countries have introduced local dialects as the main language to be used outside of academic and business contexts. In total, the countries and populations using the Portuguese language are:

Brazil	190 755 799
Mozambique	20 366 795
Angola	15 116 000
Portugal	10 555 853
Guine Bissau	1 520 830
East-Timor	1 066 582
Equatorial Guine	616 459
Macau	558 100
Cape Verde	491 575
São Tomé e Príncipe	137 599

Total

241 000 000



- Dark green: native language.
- Green: official and administrative language.
- Light green: cultural or secondary language.
- Yellow: Portuguese-based creole.
- Small green squares: Portuguese speaking minorities.

Source: Wikimedia commons

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Macau, part of China, is being responsible for the increase of Portuguese language in Asia, due to the increase in diplomatic and financial ties of China with Portuguese-speaking nations.

PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE, COLONIES AND ECONOMY

The spreading of the Portuguese language in the world started during the period of the Great Navigations, from the 15th century on. The desire of having increased economic power along the globe and a more diverse range of economic activities boosted Portugal's intent in 'discovering' other territories around the world. And so they did. They sailed all over the globe and colonized nations in various continents.

If economic reasons were behind the spread of the Portuguese language in

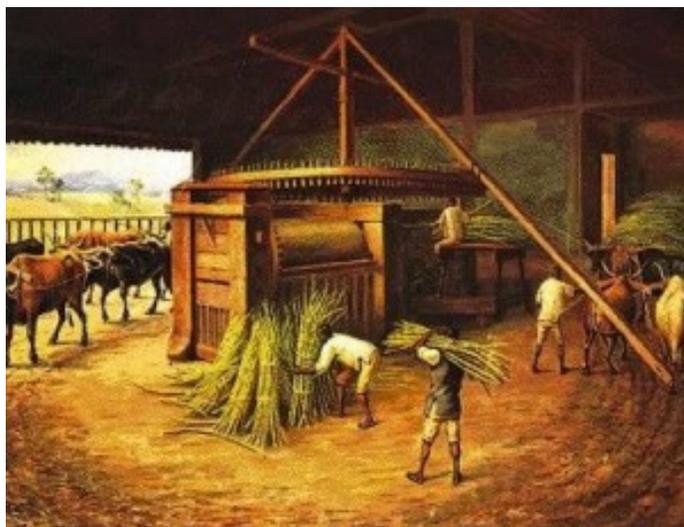


Illustration suggesting Portuguese sugar cane farm in Brazil during the Colonial Period

the 15th century, in the 21st century history is about to repeat itself. This time, not because of Portugal but due to the increasing importance of Brazil in the international political and economic scenario.

According to estimates from UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Portuguese and Spanish are among the fastest growing European languages (after English). Portuguese is also considered to be the language with the greatest potential for growth as an international communication tool in southern Africa and South America .

It is expected that African countries of Portuguese speakers will have a combined population of 83 million people by 2050. In total, the Portuguese-speaking countries will account for 335 million people by the same year.

Among the international institutions, Portuguese is an official language at the European Union, Mercosur, Organization of American States, African Union and Union of South American Nations.

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RESEACH & ANALYSIS

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