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Salazar's Portugal

10. *The Clerico-Corporative Estado Novo*

PORTUGAL WAS the first state in the Iberian peninsula to come under a semifascistic regime. Unlike Mussolini's Italy, however, the dictatorship did not come about through the triumph of a pre-existent fascist party. In the case of Portugal both the fascistic party and the Party-State came into being after the advent of the dictatorship. Although the Portuguese Party-State expressed respect and admiration for Mussolini's Italian dictatorship, it found most of its inspiration in the type of integral nationalism espoused by Charles Maurras's Action Française and in the clerico-corporativist philosophy set forth in the papal encyclicals of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Portuguese authoritarian system was to serve as a model for at least some aspects of Franco's regime in Spain, Pétain's Vichy France, and Getulio Vargas's dictatorship in Brazil.

Despite the diminutive size of the homeland, Portugal has managed (albeit with increasing difficulty since the outbreak of colonial wars in 1961) to hang on to the fourth largest empire in the world. Prior to World War II industrialization was slight, and the nation's 7,700,000 people made their living chiefly by fishing and producing wine, cork, and olive oil. Illiteracy, which in the years of World War I characterized 65 per cent of the population, did not decline significantly until after the second world conflict; it is now less than 25 per cent. For centuries Portugal has benefited from commercial and security links with Britain.

In 1910 a revolution in Lisbon overthrew the liberal monarchy of the House of Coburg-Braganza and established an anticlerical republic which promptly separated Church and State along the lines followed in France five years earlier. Between 1910 and 1927 there were a score of attempts at revolution and some forty-three cabinets. Controversy over Portugal's decision to enter the war in 1916 on the side of the Entente added to the chronic political instability. In the peace settlement Portugal was given a scrap of German East Africa to add to Mozambique. But this did not prevent the republic from falling into disrepute as economic troubles mounted.

On May 28, 1926, the existing government was overthrown by an