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**Lopes, José Vicente. 2012. Tarrafal – Chão Bom, Memórias E Verdades (Tarrafal – Chão Bom, Memories and Truths) [Tarrafal – Chão Bom, Memories and Truths]. 2nd edition, Praia: Instituto da Investigação e do Património Culturais (IIPC), Vol. I – 249 pages,**

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explain their postures, experiences and conclusions. José Vicente Lopes has taken notes directly in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, spoke with Portuguese, Mozambican and other prisoners and officials. For the historical evaluation of the African resistance and the nationalist struggle for the independence of several African countries testimonies of e. g. José Luandino Vieira (Angola), Constantino Lopes da Costa (Guinea-Bissau) or Fernando dos Reis Tavares (Cape Verde) among others are precious contributions which would have disappeared without the author's diligence.

José Vicente Lopes uses mostly the term "working camp" instead of the expression "concentration camp" which was used before. While providing the space for many personal witness statements and other evidence he gives a broad historical account of the real process leading up to the independence of African countries from Portugal. The work with many references, rare illustrations, prisoner lists and indexes is therefore an important source of information about the history of the "African awakening" (Basil Davidson) born in oppression, struggle and solidarity.

Jan Klíma

**Lopes, José Vicente. 2012. *Aristides Pereira. Minha Vida, Nossa História* [Aristides Pereira. My Life, Our History]. Praia: Spleen Edições, 493 pages.**

The life and work of the leading PAIGC/PAICV representative and first president of Cape Verde (1975-1991) Aristides Maria Pereira (1923-2011) is a chronicle of the events which took place in the vast Portuguese overseas empire, particularly Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, during the second half of the 20th century. Although Pereira himself published his political biography (*Uma luta, um partido, dois países*. Lisbon: Editorial Notícias, 2003) the skilled journalist José Vicente Lopes gives a new account of this statesman's legacy. In the form of an extensive interview he describes briefly the childhood of this Catholic priest's son in the Boa Vista and Santiago islands, Cape Verde. Later on, the author presents Pereira's colonial career in Guinea-Bissau in more detail. However, he dedicates his principal attention to activities of Cape Verdeans including Pereira in the liberation struggle between 1960 and 1974. Pereira's top period 1975-1991 when executing the highest post in Cape Verde deserves the detailed depiction as well. Then, the author completes the work with shorter concluding chapters "Private life" and "Final balance".

The highly interesting text reveals important events and personalities connected with the life of Aristides Pereira. Not only Léopold S. Senghor and Sékou Touré, but also William Tubman, Muammar Khaddafi, Ahmad Ben Bella and Houari Boumedienne belonged to the Cape Verdean/ Guinean resistance. Pereira as one of PAIGC representatives had to discuss world politics with Chinese statesmen and with Angolan and Mozambican colleagues A. Agostinho Neto and Samora Machel, he arranged contacts and came to understandings with Portuguese politicians like Mário Soares or Costa Gomes. As the president of Cape Verde, Pereira dealt with Ronald Reagan and George Bush, Fidel Castro and Yasser Arafat, Olof Palme and Erich Honecker, Mobutu Sese Seko, Kenneth Kaunda and Quett Masire. He had the opportunity of participating in the reforms of Deng Xiaoping as well as those of Frederick de Klerk.

Thus, opinions of the interviewed president are of extreme interest. According to Pereira, the pope John Paul II “spoke exclusively on politics” during his visit to Cape Verde in 1982. The Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere “was structurally complicated” personality. Pereira clears up why he refused to support Polisario in its endeavour to guarantee the independence of Western Sahara.

For the Czech reader many references to Czechoslovakia are of high historical relevance. Pereira attests that the Czechoslovak embassy in Conakry had served as a key point of coordinating and supporting the anti-Portuguese armed resistance in Western Africa (p. 89). He even mentions his contacts with the Czechoslovak Minister of Interior Rudolf Barák when seeking backing for his resistance movement in Europe (p. 96).

Immediately after Pereira passed away the book of José Vicente Lopes paid tribute to one of the founders of Cape Verdean statehood. With many rare photographs, a biographical summary, a list of sources and useful footnotes, particularly those explaining facts concerning the personages in question, the book is much more than a biography. All Africanists and current history specialists should get acquainted with this carefully elaborated and detached work.

Jan Klíma