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**José Vicente Lopes. 2014. Vozes das Ilhas. Revista da Reforma do Estado. Edição Especial, Outubro de 2014. (Islands Voices. Journal of the State Reform. Special Issue, October 2014). Praia: Unidade de Coordenação da Reforma do Estado.**

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## REVIEWS

**José Vicente Lopes. 2014. *Vozes das Ilhas. Revista da Reforma do Estado. Edição Especial, Outubro de 2014.* (Islands Voices. Journal of the State Reform. Special Issue, October 2014). Praia: Unidade de Coordenação da Reforma do Estado, 240 pages.**

José Vicente Lopes is a leading Cape Verdean journalist and historian. His main works *Cabo Verde. Bastidores de Independência* (Praia 2002, 2nd ed.), *Aristides Pereira. Minha Vida, Nossa História* (Praia 2012, 2nd ed.), *Tarrafal – Chão Bom. Memórias e Verdades* (Praia 2012, 2nd ed.) are based on the oral history method. The author has recently used the same method for gathering judgments on the Cape Verdean nation and state at the important moment of its evolution.

As a prelude to the National Independence celebration in 2015 a Forum *Transformar Cabo Verde* took place in the capital city of Praia in May 2014. Within this context José Vicente Lopes organized a series of inquiries by conversing with politicians, entrepreneurs, writers, journalists, farmers, physicians, theologians, pensioners and other representatives from different layers and segments of the Cape Verdean society in order to find out their opinions on various political, social, cultural and other issues. Twenty interviews are included in the author's preface, editor's postscript and incorporate the ample and open opinions expressed by the Prime Minister José Maria Neves offer a thorough view into all faces of this contemporary insular society.

The well formulated questions make it possible to discuss emigration, insular inequality, the development of education, dimensions of governmental and/or parliamentary institutions, relations to ECOWAS and the EU, national identity, administrative centralization, environmental issues and many other topics. Also the remembrance of the 19<sup>th</sup> century birth of nationalism, the contribution of all the historical epochs (colonial, one-party state, democracy) and national cultural traditions are mentioned and analyzed. Nevertheless, brand new topics emerge very frequently: drug trafficking, crisis of values,

growing Islamism in the region, feminism or “savage” capitalism. Germano Almeida, a famous writer, argues that it’s not the state that should be reformed but the people. José Manuel Pires from the Santo Antão Island claims that spiritual failures are the biggest evil. Finally, the skilled Prime Minister José M. Neves stresses the most important values like tolerance, non-violence, responsibility, industry and productivity as indispensable conditions for the good evolution and effective self-organization of the nation.

Such a collection of opinions, assessments and estimations reflects perfectly how profound the Cape Verdean democracy and responsible citizenship is. Those who want to understand the soul and surprising openness as well as the positive development of this small West African nation should get acquainted with this chorus of mature and loud voices of its citizens who are looking for the most reasonable ways to their beneficial future cooperation with the African and global community.

Jan Klíma

**Ellis, Stephen. 2013. *External Mission. The ANC in Exile, 1960–1990*. Oxford University Press, 288 pages.**

The author is one of many scholars who are interested in the modern history of South Africa and the struggle against white rule and apartheid. Among those authors there is a great divergence in the substance of the role of some organisations, leaders and other factors in the struggle. Over time, more and more new facts arise, many published and unpublished records or memories are at the disposal of historians or politologists worldwide. When Stephen Ellis published his paper ‘The Genesis of the ANC’s Armed Struggle in South Africa, 1948–1961’ in the *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 37, 4 (2011), p. 657–76, many historians accepted or rejected it. So he chose to write a book on the topic. As the title of his new book shows, he has enlarged the period of the history of the African National Congress (ANC) and includes much more about its military wing the Spear of the Nation, (*Umkhonto we Sizwe*, MK), and describes its support from outside, mainly from the former Soviet Union and China.