

1. Bullets, Ballots and Bread: the Democratic Transition in Mozambique Comment

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COMMENTS

Makoto Sato
(Ritsumeikan University)

I greatly appreciate Dr. Alden's presentation. In particular, this is the first time I have become aware of the exact details of the protracted negotiating process between the Frelimo government and the Renamo forces which was undertaken in a difficult and complicated international environment. I share much of his viewpoint. However, to stimulate the discussion, I feel obliged to raise a few critical comments. Four questions come to mind.

Firstly, if external factors such as the end of the cold war, internationally, and the discontinuation of South Africa's destabilization policy, regionally, were the major events leading to the ceasefire and the execution of elections, does this mean that peace was impossible to realize through endogenous efforts? If that was the case, does it imply that sustainable peace and democracy is not possible without the continuous intervention of the international community?

Secondly, you indicated that Renamo achieved surprisingly good election results, particularly in the parliamentary vote. Given the atrocities they committed against the local people, they did remarkably well. How do you explain this? I would venture several reasons. First, antipathy toward the one-party dictatorship and corruption of Frelimo was much stronger than we observed. Second, people feared that Renamo might resume the war if they were badly defeated in elections. Third, ethnic and regional voting was more significant than Frelimo had expected. Please elaborate on this important point.

Thirdly, what role do ethnic conditions play in the future stability of the peace and democracy along with other conditions such as the independence of the judiciary? These elements also seem salient in the South Africa case.

Lastly, recent reports indicate that groups of Afrikanar farmers are attempting to settle in other parts of Africa including Mozambique. Although it possibly entails a new form of neo-colonial domination, it may also suggest the possibility of new economic cooperation in the region. What is your assessment of the regional implications?