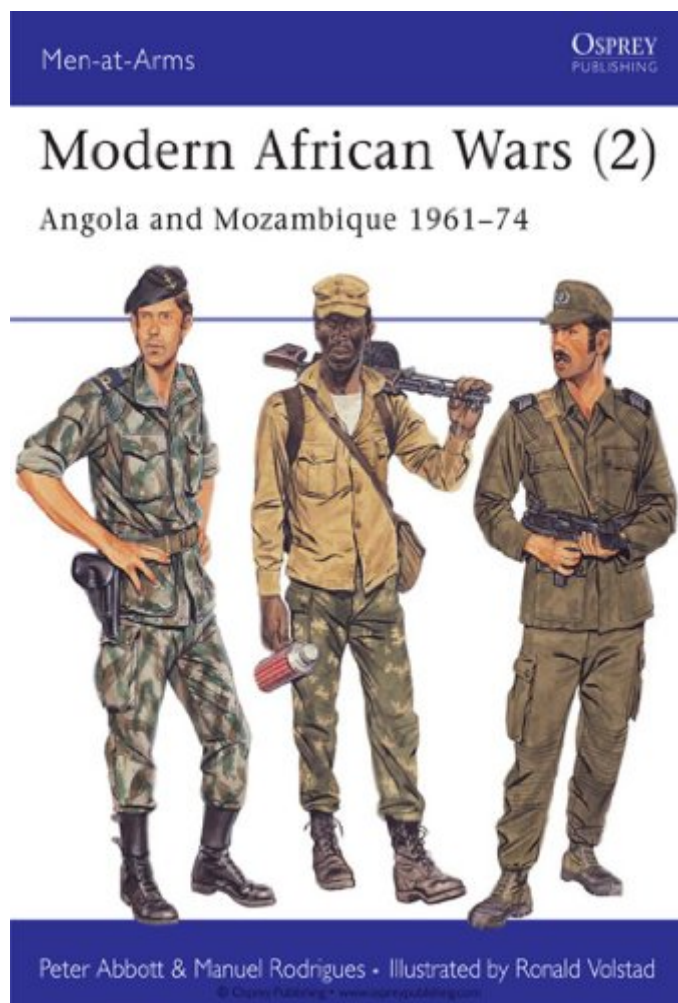


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Modern African Wars (2): Angola And Mozambique 1961-74: Angola And Mozambique, 1961-74 (Men-at-Arms)



Synopsis

ALSO AVAILABLE TO BUY AS AN E-BOOK. Portugal was both the first and the last of the great European colonial powers. For 500 years Portugal had colonies in Africa. In 1960, as liberation movements swept across colonial Africa, the Portuguese flag still flew over vast expanses of territory across the continent. The spread of decolonization and the establishment of independent states whose governments were sympathetic to the cause of African nationalism led, in the early 1960s, to a series of wars in Angola, Guinea and Mozambique. This book details each of these liberation movements, focusing on the equipment, uniforms and organization of the Portuguese forces.

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Customer Reviews

In the second volume of Modern African Wars, Peter Abbott teamed up with Manuel Rodrigues and delivered the most balanced of the original three MAAs of the series. The Portuguese rule was less oriented towards ethnic differences than the British one, and the text gives a good explanation to the Anglo-Saxon reader that may blow the minds of most readers unacquainted with the Portuguese more tolerant way of life. Both sides are covered in an even-handed approach, with a good amount of information about the "Liberation Forces". The Portuguese did manage to adapt itself well to

continuing warfare in three fronts, and only in Guinea did they suffer more serious setbacks because of the geography: with broken terrain surrounded by nations sympathetic to their nationalist cause. The liberation movements were lavishly supported by the Communist bloc to the point that Portugal decided to attack Guinea-Conakry, who served as directorate to the PAIGC, with training camps and even providing artillery barrages to cover PAIGC incursions. Portugal conducted a major amphibious operation against Guinea-Conakry named Operation Green Sea; to avoid another such amphibious incursion, the Soviets moved a powerful naval force to patrol Guinea-Conakry's shores. On Angola the Portuguese were way more successful, and the three liberation movements (MPLA, FNLA and UNITA) ended the war in a bad shape, with Portugal leaving the country without a ruler, with a civil war starting immediately afterwards. In Mozambique, the Portuguese worked together with Rhodesian forces on the north, and the FRELIMO was largely contained until the coup of 1974.

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