

Youth in Angola: Social and Political Transformations

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Introduction

Since the establishment of peace in 2002 Angola is going through rapid, dramatic, processes of change. Economic growth that occurs in recent years, especially the last two years, reflected in the lives of Angolans, particularly on youth everyday life. In this new reality, to be youth appears as a prerequisite because their status is synonymous with vitality, entrepreneurship, modernity, creativity and dynamism. On the other hand youngsters are those who are more powerfully challenging hierarchy and power and acting more efficiently through global social networks, thus blurring the traditional frontiers between Angola and the developed world.

Objectives

- Analyze the influence of war/peace time in young's life's course;
- Explore how young Angolans are redefining their role in society taking into account the transformations (social, political, economic and cultural) that the country is facing through the last 11 years;
- Know public policies that Angolan government is defining to support youth;

Methodology

- Field research developed in 2012;
- Semi-directive interviews;
- Direct/participant observation;
- Bibliographic research/ statistical data;



Results

Being Youth, a Condition?

- Time of growth and experiences;
- A stage of constructing and reconstructing identities;
- Intense desire to change the world around;
- "Frontiers between childhood and adulthood" (Honwana & De Boeck, 2005: 4);
- "Life on hold" (Diouf, 2003: 6);
- "Waitinhood" (Honwana, 2012);

Analyze the influence of war/peace time in young's life's course;

- Disruption of families, decline of parental authority and responsibility and the state itself caused vulnerabilities in areas such as education, employment and livelihoods, healthcare and nutrition affecting youth experiences as well as acting as a blocking for youth future projects;
- "Crisis in moral values" (Honwana, 2005: 36);
- Break of "rules and norms, for adults and for the elderly" (Honwana, 2005: 36);
- To build a Nova Angola (the new Angola), creating new forms of social and cultural interaction;
- Concerns and challenges: Education, employment, civic participation, democracy, human rights, and many others issues;
- Aspire to be part of a global world, to be connected in an international network, increasing by this way their social capital;

Explore how young Angolans are redefining their role in society taking into account the transformations (social, political, economic and cultural) that the country is facing through the last 11 years;

• Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)

- *Movimento dos Jovens Revolucionários* (MJR);
- *Amplo Movimento de Cidadãos* (AMC) *Citizens Movement*;
- *Círculo Angolano Intelectual* *Angolan Intellectual Circle* (<http://www.circuloangolano.com>);
- *CENTRAL 7311* (<http://www.facebook.com/centralangola>);

kuduro

"Angola has oil, diamond and plenty of wood
Angola is rich in malaria, typhoid and cholera
Angola of the "bosses" that "eat" alone and lots of ambition
Angola of the gasosaand corruption
Angola that belongs to the heirs who do nothing and have bwé de massa
Angola of the honest kota, that works too much but has no money" (Dog Murras, famous kudurista)

Public policies that Angolan government is defining to support youth;

- new centralities (new housing);
- *Regiões Académicas* (Academic Regions);
- *Bué* (Entrepreneur Supporters);
- 2012: Executive Plan to Support Youth and respective schedule of actions;
- 2013: *Programa de Auscultação à Juventude* (Program Listen Young People) (PAJ);
- 2013: *Fórum Nacional da Juventude* (National Youth Forum);

Conclusion

- Angolan youth are fighting for a better life condition in the country, as well as the construction of a fair and balanced society. Some are more pessimistic but are also trying to compensate the time they're lost in past. Others present themselves more confident about the country's future perspective and all have a common objective: to build the **new Angola**, using their own means, finding solutions for their concerns;
- They create, they reinvent, they survive, they have fresh ideas about the kind of society they want to live in and they're fighting to defend their ideas;
- All the respondents recognize and identify themselves an improvement about their condition, which allows them to be optimistic about the future of young people in the country;

References

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