

PORTUGAL

Azoreans

Activity: 1975-2015

General notes

NA

Movement start and end dates

- The Front for the Liberation of the Azores (FLA) was formed in 1975, hence the start date of the movement. In 1976, the Azoreans were granted autonomy, which apparently satisfied most Azoreans. Separatist demonstrations continued sporadically until 1980 (Minahan 2002: 227), but the FLA was “virtually dead” by the end of the 1970s (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azores_Liberation_Front).
- According to Roth (2015: 84) an Azorean autonomist group called Movimento para a Autodeterminação do Povo Açoriano (MAPA) was founded in 1979 but was succeeded by the Democratic Union of the Atlantic (União Democrática do Atlântico, Partido Democrático do Atlântico, or PDA) which claims to represent the autonomist goals of Azoreans. The PDA formed in 1980 and sought to gain seats in parliament and ran candidates in elections until 2015. However, the group was unsuccessful in gaining seats and the political party dissolved in 2015 due to issues with financing (Ruel 2021: 72).
- We found no evidence for separatist mobilization after 2015 and therefore code the movement’s end date in 2015. [start date: 1975; end date: 2015]

Dominant claim

- The Front for the Liberation of the Azores (FLA), formed in 1975, demanded independence (Cooley 2008; Hewitt and Cheetham 2000).
- There are many sources (Minahan 2002; Minority Rights Group International) stating that, with the passing of the autonomy statute in 1976, the support for independence declined. This is confirmed by several facts: The regional government rejected independence as an option, a 1976 poll showed 45% in favor of immediate independence but a majority of 55% in favor of increased autonomy and the nationalist leader Joao Mota Amaral put the question of independence aside and advocated more autonomy from Lisbon. Most importantly, in 1979, the MAPA was formed, which was succeeded by the PDA in 1980. Both MAPA and PDA made claims for increased internal autonomy (Roth 2015: 84). [1975-1979: independence claim; 1980-2015: autonomy claim]

Independence claims

- The Front for the Liberation of the Azores (FLA), formed in 1975, demanded independence (Cooley 2008; Hewitt and Cheetham 2000). Although the FLA appears to continue to exist (Portugal Resident 2014), the political significance of this organization appears incredibly limited after 1979. We found no other organization which would have demanded independence. We therefore code an end to the independence movement in 1979. [start date: 1975; end date: 1979]

Irredentist claims

NA

Claimed territory

- The territory claimed by the Azorean self-determination movements consists of the Azores archipelago (Roth 2015: 83f). We code this claim based on the Global Administrative Areas database.

Sovereignty declarations

NA

Separatist armed conflict

- We found no reports of separatist violence, hence a NviolSD coding. [NviolSD]

Historical context

- The then uninhabited archipelago was discovered in 1427 and was settled by Portuguese settlers as of 1445. The Portuguese were later joined by Flemish, French, Italians, Scots, Spaniards, Moorish prisoners and African slaves. The archipelago came to be an important stop on the sea route between Europe and America (Minahan 2002; Minority Rights Group International).
- The Azoreans were among the last in the Portuguese empire to resist Philip II. in his taking of the throne to form the Iberian Union. However, with the end of that union, the Azores were returned to Portuguese control in 1640 (Minahan 2002).
- The nineteenth century saw massive emigration to North America as a result of mandatory military conscription by the Portuguese government but also due to the perspective of better employment opportunities (Minahan 2002; Minority Rights Group International).

Concessions and restrictions

- The post-revolutionary constitution of 1976 granted the Azoreans substantial autonomy over local affairs in the Autonomous Region of the Azores (Região Autónoma dos Açores). The statute created a regional government and gave the Azoreans “wide powers of self-government” (Minahan 2002: 227) and “complete fiscal autonomy” (Cooley 2008: 167; also see Hewitt & Cheetham 2000: 33). [1976: autonomy concession]

Regional autonomy

- As argued above, the 1976 statute granted the Azoreans genuine autonomy with a regional government and complete fiscal autonomy. [1977-2015: regional autonomy]

De facto independence

NA

Major territorial changes

- [1976: erection of regional autonomy]

EPR2SDM

<i>Movement</i>	Azoreans
<i>Scenario</i>	No match
<i>EPR group(s)</i>	-
<i>Gwgroupid(s)</i>	-

Power access

- According to EPR, ethnicity is politically irrelevant in Portugal (EPR group of Portuguese make up 100 percent of the population), which is why the country is not coded. The 1976 constitution assured Azorean representation in the national parliament in Lisbon (Difford 2022). One example of an Azorean MP is João Bosco Mota Amaral, a member of the PSD who was an MP in 1975, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal from 2002 to 2005 and President of the Autonomous Regional Government of the Azores from 1976 to 1995 (Amaral 1987; TSF 2022; Rita 2022). We could not, however, find any evidence for Azorean representation in the national cabinet. [powerless]

Group size

- According to Minahan (2002: 223), there were approximately 300,000 Azoreans in Portugal. According to the World Bank, Portugal's population was 10.42 million in 2002. [0.0288]

Regional concentration

- According to Minahan (2002: 223), the majority of Azoreans (around 73%) live in the Azores, where they make up 96% of the local population. [concentrated]

Kin

- Minahan (2002: 223) mentions Azorean communities in the United States, Canadian, Brazil, and mainland Europe. Especially the community in the United States seems relatively large as they make up a disproportionately high share of the Portuguese American community (1.5 million). However, we could not find information on the number of Americans of Azorean birth or ancestry thus also no evidence of the Azorean community being large enough (>100,000) to be coded here. Thus, we code no kin. [no kin]

Sources

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Madeirans

Activity: 1974-2015

General notes

NA

Movement start and end dates

- The Madeira Archipelago Liberation Front (FLAMA) was founded in 1974, hence the start date of the movement. In 1976 Madeira was granted substantial autonomy, in short its own parliament and budget. The saliency of the self-determination issue subsequently declined (Minahan 2002: 1138; Roth 2015: 84). According to Wikipedia, FLAMA was dissolved in 1978.
- According to Minahan (1996, 2002), the movement again gained in popularity in the 1980s and, in 1990, the region's president met with nationalist leaders to discuss the independence issue. MRGI similarly suggests that local politicians have continued to demand more autonomy after 1976.
- According to Roth (2015), the Azores-based Democratic Union of the Atlantic (União Democrática do Atlântico, Partido Democrático do Atlântico, or PDA), which was formed in 1979/1980, claimed to represent the Madeirans as well, and that it made claims for more autonomy. However, the PDA had rather limited popularity in Madeira and has not contested elections since 1996. The PDA was dissolved in 2015.
- In 1997, the Forum for Madeira's Autonomy, or FAMA (Fórum para a Autonomia da Madeira), was created, which advocated for more autonomy. The organization was dissolved in 2015 (Wikipedia).
- Overall, we found evidence for separatist mobilization between 1974 and 2015, when the last organization making claims for increased autonomy appears to have been dissolved. In 2021, the president of Madeira, Miguel Albuquerque who represents the Social Democratic Party (PSD) called for more autonomy from Portugal due to dissatisfaction with the Portuguese government's proposed state budget for 2022 (Iolov 2021; Donn 2022). This could signal the re-emergence of the movement; however, we only consider the period until 2020 in this dataset. [start date: 1974; end date: 2015]

Dominant claims

- The Madeira Archipelago Liberation Front (FLAMA), founded in 1974, demanded independence, as indicated by the establishment of the provisional government in 1975 and the large-scale demonstration in Funchal demanding immediate independence (Hewitt and Cheetham 2000; Lansford 2014; Minahan 2002). [1974-1976: independence claim]
- Minahan (2002) states that, with the passing of the autonomy statute in 1979, "mass support for the Madeiran separation waned" (Minahan 2002: 1138). This is confirmed by the World Directory of Minorities, according to which the FLAMA changed its goal to and pressed for greater autonomy, particularly with regard to fiscal, tax and exchange controls. Following the first of January rule, we thus code autonomy as the dominant claim as of 1977. [1977-2015: autonomy claim]

Independence claims

- FLAMA remained active until 1978 (see above). [start date: 1974; end date: 1978]

Irredentist claims

NA

Claimed territory

- The territory claimed by the Madeira Archipelago Liberation Front (FLAMA) and other organizations consists of Madeira island (Roth 2015: 84). We code this claim based on the Global Administrative Areas database.

Sovereignty declarations

- Anticipating independence from Portugal as one of the country's oldest overseas possessions, the Madeiran proclaimed a provisional government in 1975 (Lansford 2014; Minahan 2002). [1975: independence declaration]

Separatist armed conflict

- Keesing's reports several bomb attacks carried out by FLAMA in November 1975, but since no deaths have been reported, the movement was classified as NVIOLSD for its entire period. [NVIOLSD]

Historical context

- The then uninhabited archipelago was claimed by Portugal in 1419 and was settled by Portuguese settlers as of 1433. The introduction of sugar cane cultivation in 1452 led to a large influx of slave labor. The archipelago came to be an important stop on the sea route between Europe and America (Minahan 2002; Minority Rights Group International).
- A friendly occupation by the British happened during the Napoleonic Wars. Madeira was given back to Portugal in 1814.
- The nineteenth century saw massive emigration to America and South Africa as a result of mandatory military conscription by the Portuguese government but also due to the perspective of better employment opportunities (Minahan 2002; Minority Rights Group International).

Concessions and restrictions

- The post-revolutionary constitution of 1976 granted the Madeirans substantial autonomy over local affairs in the Autonomous Region of Madeira (Região Autónoma da Madeira). The statute created a regional government and gave the Madeirans "wide powers of self-government" (Minahan 2002: 227) and "complete fiscal autonomy" (Cooley 2008: 167). [1976: autonomy concession]

Regional autonomy

- As argued above, the 1976 statute granted the Madeirans genuine autonomy with a regional government and complete fiscal autonomy. Following the first of January rule, we thus code the Madeirans as regionally autonomous as of 1977. [1977-2015: regional autonomy]

De facto independence

NA

Major territorial changes

- [1976: establishment of regional autonomy]

EPR2SDM

<i>Movement</i>	Madeirans
<i>Scenario</i>	No match
<i>EPR group(s)</i>	-
<i>Gwgroupid(s)</i>	-

Power access

- According to EPR, ethnicity is politically irrelevant in Portugal, which is why the country is not coded. The 1976 constitution assured Madeiran representation in the national parliament in Lisbon but we found no evidence of access to executive power at the central state level (and no evidence of discrimination either), which is why we code the group as powerless throughout. [powerless]

Group size

- According to Minahan (2002: 1135), there were approximately 300,000 Madeirans in Portugal. According to the World Bank, Portugal's population was 10.42 million in 2002. [0.0288]

Regional concentration

- According to Minahan (2002: 1135), the majority of Madeirans (around 63%) live in the autonomous region of Madeira, where they make up 92% of the local population. [concentrated]

Kin

- Minahan (2002: 1135) mentions Madeiran communities in France, Germany, Luxemburg, Brazil, the United States, and South Africa. Especially the community in the United States seems relatively large as they make up a disproportionately high share of the Portuguese American community (1.5 million). However, we could not find information on the number of Americans of Madeiran birth or ancestry thus also no evidence of the Madeiran community being large enough (>100,000) to be coded here. Thus, we code no kin. [no kin]

Sources

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