

The revolution in school or a school in revolution. About a recent essay

Maria Inácia Rezola
Escola Superior de Comunicação
Social do Instituto Politécnico de
Lisboa (Portugal)
rezola@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT: Starting from the recent publication of Joaquim Pintassilgo, *O 25 de Abril e a Educação. Discursos, práticas e memórias docentes*, this paper intends to initiate a reflection on the importance of the date of April 25, 1974, in which there was in Portugal the glorious military revolution, that culminated in the fall of regime established by Antonio de Oliveira Salazar. Which was the role of this revolution inside the Portuguese school system? Which was the influence of the school in the Portuguese revolution?

EET/TEE KEYWORDS: History of Education; School system; Revolution; Historiography; Portugal; XX Century.

The Portuguese do not usually celebrate with great enthusiasm historical ephemerides. The publishing industry has, however, sought to reverse this trend, skilfully taking advantage of strong historical moments to boost its activity.

The commemorations of the centenary of the Portuguese First Republic (1910-1926) are paradigmatic in this regard, allowing the publication of a multitude of studies and the reissue of others that were inaccessible in the commercial channels long ago.

This year's celebration of the 40th anniversary of the 25 April 25¹ revolution led to a similar phenomenon yet impossible to be compared in quantitative and

¹ On 25 April 1974 a coup d'état, brought about by a strictly military movement of middle-ranking officers, overturns the long lasting Portuguese dictatorship (1926-1974) in less than 24 hours. Contrary to what normally happens on such occasions, the military presented a political programme that led to a dramatic rupture with the former regime and the beginning of the process of decolonization and democratization. Nevertheless, the downfall of the dictatorship did not provide for the immediate advent of democracy: the coup d'état led Portugal into a long revolutionary