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**The Role of the Portuguese Communist Party in the Portuguese Revolution of  
25 April 1974 to 25 November 1975. PhD Project.**

The Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) had a central role during the Portuguese revolution of 25 April 1974 to 25 November 1975. Portuguese historiography of the last 30 years has debated whether the PCP was ready to seize power by revolutionary means in order to put Portugal in the orbit of the former USSR – a thesis adopted by most of the authors that have reflected on this subject – or, in the other hand, it was essential to guarantee a transition to a Western-type democracy. Until now, and excluding a few fragmentary works and an abundant collection of memoirs and essays, no exhaustive investigation has been undertaken to clarify this debate.

What we intend to do in this work is to understand the role of the PCP in popular movements (unions, factory occupations, workers' committees, house occupations, agrarian reform), in the provisional governments, the armed forces and the decolonisation process. We shall also try to understand what kind of relation the PCP had with the main political forces of the contemporary Portuguese society. Several questions can be raised and some of the answers can be found by means of a critical review of *Avante!* (the official newspaper), the central committee (CC) minutes, the speeches and the interviews of the main leader, Álvaro Cunhal, or other members of the CC, and also the congress documents.

What kind of policies were these? Did there exist (or not) some differences between the PCP's official politics and the orientations that were carried to the more important political institutions where the party was present, like the provisional governments, the armed forces, the Intersindical (Trade Union Federation); which were the social movements favoured by the PCP; which popular movements did the party call its militants and sympathizers to support and which are those that were omitted or criticized; and finally what kind of regime the PCP fought for.