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BOOK REVIEW

**Nuno Monteiro, Patrícia Silva, and Pedro C. Magalhães (eds.).
Portugal in the 21st Century. Routledge, 2025**

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Portugal in the 21st Century, edited by Nuno Monteiro, Patrícia Silva, and Pedro C. Magalhães, offers an insightful exploration of Portugal's transformations over the past two decades. This multidisciplinary volume synthesizes political science, economics, anthropology, and literature perspectives, providing a comprehensive portrait of contemporary Portuguese society.

The introductory chapter contextualizes Portugal's evolution from dictatorship to democracy, emphasizing key historical milestones such as the 1974 military coup and the nation's accession to the European Union. These events have solidified Portugal's position within the framework of European social democracy.

José Manuel Sobral examines the complexities of Portuguese national identity, highlighting the interplay between historical roots and colonial legacies. He argues that while language and pride remain central, democratization has challenged traditional narratives. Rui Branco and Pedro Adão e Silva critiques the welfare state, focusing on the tensions between socioeconomic rights and fiscal responsibilities, particularly considering Europeanization and austerity measures following the Eurozone crisis.

Susana Peralta assesses Portugal's economic trajectory, noting improvements in poverty reduction and social equality alongside persistent challenges such as low productivity and external debt. She underscores the need for sustainable development and innovation to overcome structural barriers to growth.

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Carlos Jalali explores the political landscape, where stability coexists with rising populism and new political movements. He analyzes voter engagement and the mediatisation of politics, which have reshaped traditional party dynamics.

Alice Ramos addresses social inequalities concerning gender, immigration, and aging populations. She emphasizes the significance of loneliness as a social determinant of health and advocates for comprehensive strategies to tackle these issues. Joana Gonçalves-Sá highlights the achievements and challenges within Portugal's scientific community, particularly the need for stable funding and a long-term policy framework to maintain global competitiveness.

António Pinto Ribeiro celebrates the vibrancy of the Portuguese art scene while identifying constraints such as limited public funding and low audience engagement. Helena Buescu discusses contemporary literature, focusing on its cosmopolitan evolution and the emergence of female voices, while addressing historical memory and post-colonial identity themes.

Lastly, Isabel Camisã and Sandra Fernandes analyze Portugal's role within the European Union, emphasizing its potential influence on EU climate change and renewable energy agendas.

This book provides a multifaceted analysis of contemporary Portugal, serving as a valuable resource for scholars, students, and general readers. While commendable in its breadth, the book could enhance its discussions on environmental and technological challenges crucial for Portugal's future trajectory. Overall, *Portugal in the 21st Century* significantly contributes to understanding the country's socio-political and cultural landscape, encouraging reflection on its achievements and future challenges.