

# DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

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**OLIVEIRA, José Lopes de** (Vale de Açores, Mortágua, 1881 – Parede, Cascais, 1971)

José Lopes de Oliveira was born on November 25th, 1881, in Vale de Açores, Mortágua. Of modest social origin, he was the son of João Lopes de Oliveira and Maria Adelaide de Jesus, and was closely accompanied by his godfather, Adelino José Tomás, who was father of the author Tomás da Fonseca. Firm republican, he stood out for his dedication to teaching and for his work as a historian. In 1905, he completed his bachelor's degree in Law at University of Coimbra. It was still as a student that he published his first works: a collection of three volumes under the title *Intelectuaes* (the first one was focused on Bernardino Machado, the second one on Camilo Castelo-Branco, and the third one on Fialho de Almeida). He became a Mason the following year, joining the lodge Portugal, in Coimbra, under the symbolic name of "Rousseau". Shortly after he graduated, he became a teacher of History and Geography in a high school in Viseu, where he remained until 1910. After the implantation of the Republic, he became a teacher in the high school Passos Manuel, in Lisbon, where he taught for several decades. Still in 1910, he became director of the Lisbon Normal Schools, leaving the position in 1911 due to political disagreements. In the political sphere, Lopes de Oliveira praised the republican ideal from an early age, thinking that it would be impossible to enshrine the victory of Democracy within the monarchic regime, because "only the republican form can suit the nation" if the latter wants to live and improve (*História da República Portuguesa*, 1947, p. 19). In 1908, he was described in the *Álbum Republicano* as "an admirable champion" of the democratic movement. He was a militant of the Portuguese Republican Party until 1920, occupying the position of staff chief of the Presidency of Ministry led by Bernardino Machado. He then joined the Radical Republican Party in 1923, taking part in its directory. He took over the presidency of the same party in 1925.

Lopes de Oliveira is author of an extensive work, not only historiographical but also biographical (such as *Eça de Queiroz and Guerra Junqueiro. A sua vida e a sua obra*), memorialistic (*Rema Sempre! e ...E mesmo contra a maré!*), and of social philosophy (*Quadro da História Universal: Evolução da Humanidade*). In terms of historiography, his writings focused mainly on the history of the Portuguese republican regime, having the political propaganda as centre of his analysis. He collaborated in the work *História do Regímen Republicano*



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em Portugal (1930-1935), by Luís de Montalvor, as author of the chapters dedicated to the republican propaganda, and, in 1947, published his *História da República Portuguesa: a propaganda na Monarquia Constitucional*. There, the historian traced the course of the democratic movement from its origins – which he considered to be the events of 1817, where there was “the first manifestation of the spirit of liberty” (*História da República Portuguesa...*, 1947, p. 7), and the Revolution of 1820 – to the establishment of the Republic on the 5th of October of 1910. While highlighting the moments that, in his point of view, were crucial in the consolidation of the republican project, such as the foundation of the Portuguese Republican Party, which he dated in 1876, and the political propaganda work carried out by its main political agents, Lopes de Oliveira sought to place the Portuguese situation in the European overview, often considering the international events that led to political changes in Portuguese territory. It is a work of historical dissemination, in which the historian’s republican vision is easily discernible, and in which concepts such as Democracy (sometimes written with capital, and sometimes in lower case) and Republic are central. As it is well known, Lopes de Oliveira considered that the establishment of democracy and the progress of the nation would only be possible in a republican regime. A few years before his death, he would still publish a *História da República Francesa: suas causas, os Estados Gerais, a Assembleia Constituinte*. Being also focused on the purpose of historical dissemination, it is an illustrated work (portraits, engravings, maps) and devoid of erudite apparatus, like footnotes and bibliography, even though the author often cites sources from that time and posterior works to the French Revolution, such as the work of Michelet.

Although he has never dedicated him a monograph like the ones he did on Eça de Queiroz and Guerra Junqueiro, Lopes de Oliveira paid some attention to the work of Oliveira Martins. In one of the texts he published in the collection *Cadernos Históricos*, organized in partnership with Rocha Martins, he focused on the political programme of Oliveira Martins, and on the enlargement of the royal power that the latter defended in the last years of his life. In 1947, two texts of Oliveira Martins were released in the journal *Seara Nova* – *Liberdade de cultos* and *Ultramontanismo* –, having been published by the initiative of Lopes de Oliveira and followed by an extensive note written by him. The following year, these texts were included in a compilation of Oliveira Martins’ writings organized and published by the republican historian under the title *Páginas Desconhecidas*. Aside from the texts of the nineteenth-century author – all of them from the 1870s and identified by Lopes de Oliveira for the first time –, this edition also includes an introductory study written by Lopes de Oliveira, in which the historian outlined a biographical sketch of the author of *Portugal Contemporâneo*. Focusing simultaneously on aspects of the public-private life of Oliveira Martins and of his work as a writer, the republican historian concluded that the change of direction of Oliveira Martins’ thought, often highlighted by the critics, was in the end “more apparent than real”, being more a change of words than of ideas. Lopes de Oliveira was also a collaborator of several journals – from *Correio de Mortágua* and *A Beira* to *Diário de Lisboa* and *República* –, and published papers in various journals, such as *Atlântida*, *Livre Pensamento*, and *Seara Nova*.

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Considered a “figure of the Republic” (Diário de Lisboa, 04-08-1971, p. 1) and “one of the last men of the nineteenth century”, not only for “his strong and powerful personality”, but also “for the breadth of his points of view” (Diário de Lisboa, 29-01-1958, p. 7), Lopes de Oliveira would die on August 3rd, 1971, in Parede, Cascais.

**Works by the author:** De Cara Erguida, Coimbra, s.d., 1901; A Justiça e o Homem, Coimbra, O Ensino, 1904; Por Terras de Portugal, Lisboa, Casa Portuguesa, 1930; Memórias. Guerra Junqueiro, Lisboa, Cosmos, 1938; Rema Sempre! Memórias, crítica, paisagem, Lisboa, Cosmos, 1940; Eça de Queiroz, Lisboa, Vida Mundial, 1944; ...E mesmo contra a maré! Memórias, crítica, paisagem, Lisboa, Edições Universo, 1945; História da República Portuguesa: a propaganda na Monarquia Constitucional, Lisboa, Inquérito, 1947; Guerra Junqueiro: a sua vida e a sua obra, 2 vols., Lisboa, Excelsior, 1954-55; História da Revolução Francesa: suas causas, os Estados Gerais, a Assembleia Nacional Constituinte, Lisboa, Minerva, 1965.

**Works with references to the author:** “Lopes de Oliveira”, J. Ramos e Luís Derouet, Álbum Republicano, vol. I, Lisboa, Typ. Adolpho Mendonça, 1908; “José Lopes de Oliveira”, Grande Enciclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira, vol. XV, Lisboa/Rio de Janeiro, Editorial Enciclopédia, s.d., p. 445; “Viagem ao cabo da memória... Conversando com Lopes de Oliveira. O escritor e o político abrem-se-nos num mundo de belas recordações e revelam-nos também algumas opiniões que confirmam o seu espírito independente”, Diário de Lisboa, 29-01-1958, pp. 7 e 10; MARQUES, A. H. Oliveira, Dicionário de Maçonaria Portuguesa, vol. II, Lisboa, Editorial Delta, 1986, p. 1053; “O Dr. Lopes de Oliveira (grande vulto da República) foi hoje a sepultar”, Diário de Lisboa, 04-08-1971, pp. 1 e 13; “Oliveira, Lopes de”, Dicionário Cronológico de Autores Portugueses, Instituto da Biblioteca Nacional e do Livro (org.), Eugénio Lisboa (coord.), vol. III, Lisboa, Publicações Europa-América, 1994, pp. 250-251.

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