The 25th of April in Portugal

In Portugal, like in Italy, April 25 is a national holiday. While in Italy is celebrated the liberation from Nazi-fascist dictatorship of 1945, in Portugal is remembered the coup d'etat of 1974 by the military progressives. This coup d'etat ended the long authoritarian regime founded by Antonio Salazar and, two years later, it led to the restoration of democracy.

Salazar took the power in 1933 and he established the ideals of the fascist regime of “Estado Novo”. The neutrality in the Second World War allowed his régime a certain economic growth.

After Salazar’s death in 1970, the situation didn’t change because another dictator took the power: Marcelo Caetano.

The first revolutionary attempt was on 16 March 1974 but it fell through and 200 members were arrested. The next revolutionary act was on 25 April and the commandant was Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho. This revolution is called also “Revolution of carnations” because during the revolutionary army put carnations into their rifles, as a sign of their peaceful intentions.

The song that gave the signal of the start of the revolution was Grandola Vila Morena, a working-class song written by José Afonso.

PORTUGUESE EMIGRATION

In 2012 starts the Portuguese emigration to the former colonies because of the economic crisis and youth unemployment in the country. The event of emigration because of youth unemployment is called “Lost Generation”, as one graduate out of ten leaves the country every year. Graduates go mainly to Africa, which suffers from a shortage of professionals, so they have a better chance of finding a job in the oil companies of Angola and gas companies of Mozambique mainly.

The Portuguese migrate mainly to former colonies of Portugal, because of the language. For example the number of Portuguese people living in Mozambique increased from 4,355 to 25,000 between 2011 and 2012. It seems that some of these new emigrants even pretend to enter the country with a tourist visa and then they stay for good. All this is causing hard life in Maputo, the capital, since new unemployment is spreading.

In Angola a civil engineer can earn 4 times the wage of an engineer in Portugal, and teachers have been advised to find work in the former colonies, since few teaching posts are available in Portugal.

Brazil also attracts huge numbers of immigrants, being one of the countries with an expanding economy and the 7th richest economy of the world. Another case of reversed emigration. When a Portuguese manager living in Sao Paolo opened a Facebook Account for inviting Portuguese people to work in Brazil, it was an immediate success.