Salazar’s Case for Dictatorship Through Nationalism in Three Speeches (1929-1930)

by Sónia G. Pires

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All welcome!

Abstract. An analysis of three speeches presented by António de Oliveira Salazar in 1929 and 1930 unravels his reasons for opposing individualism and liberalism in favor of a dictatorial regime. He presents his case for a dictatorship in the speeches “Politics of Truth, Politics of Sacrifice, National Politics” (1929), where he rallies support for his nationalistic ideas, “Administrative Dictatorship and Political Revolution” (1930), where he defines and justifies the need for a provisional dictatorship, and “The Fundamental Principles of the Political Revolution” (also 1930), where he presents and clarifies his political vision of a nationalistic society and the crucial role of his allegedly non-partisan National Union (União Nacional). This study focuses on how Salazar convinces his audiences that a dictatorship is the method of government that is needed in order to bring order and stability to the country. He justifies the necessity of a dictatorship by pointing out the faults of the liberal republic, namely the Portuguese First Republic (1910-1926), reassuring his audiences that the dictatorship is not intended to oppress but to restore liberty to the citizens by unifying the people through the process of national socialization and corporative representation in the National Union. In this specific context, Salazar’s advocacy for a nationalistic and naturalized dictatorship is presented as the only path to national salvation. These crucial three speeches by Salazar are translated into English for the first time and included in an appendix to this thesis.

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