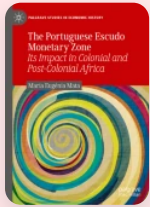


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Introduction: Why to Study “The Portuguese *Escudo* Monetary Zone and its Impact in Colonial and Post-Colonial Africa”

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The Portuguese Escudo Monetary Zone

[Maria Eugénia Mata](#) 



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Abstract

In the context of the European colonisation in Africa, the decisions of the Berlin Conference of the late 1880s defined the territories of the Portuguese empire. The coincidence between currency areas in Africa and colonial empires makes the study of the *Escudo* Monetary Zone an important step to understand currency areas in general. Under Mundel’s 1960s ideas on economic integration and optimal currency areas (OCAs) the Portuguese *Escudo* Monetary Zone can also illustrate the purpose of economic growth and prosperity that was related to


economic integration and monetary unions in a global perspective. The government decisions to join the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and simultaneously frame a Portuguese free trade area in the *Escudo* Monetary Zone is here analysed as a macro-political experiment in Africa.

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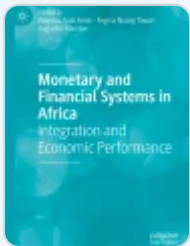
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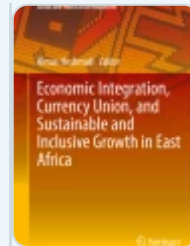
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Cite this chapter

Mata, M.E. (2020). Introduction: Why to Study “The Portuguese *Escudo* Monetary Zone and its Impact in Colonial and Post-Colonial Africa”. In: The Portuguese Escudo Monetary Zone. Palgrave Studies in Economic History. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-33857-2_1

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DOI	Published	Publisher Name
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