

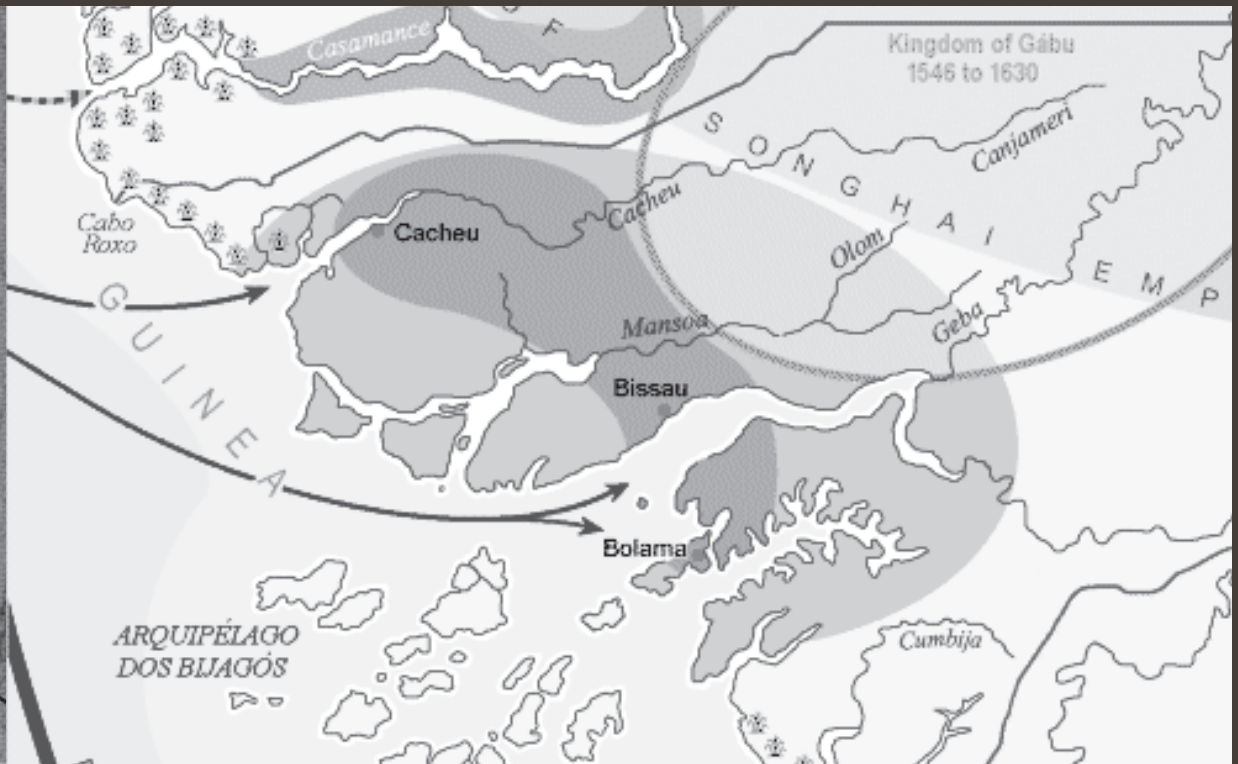
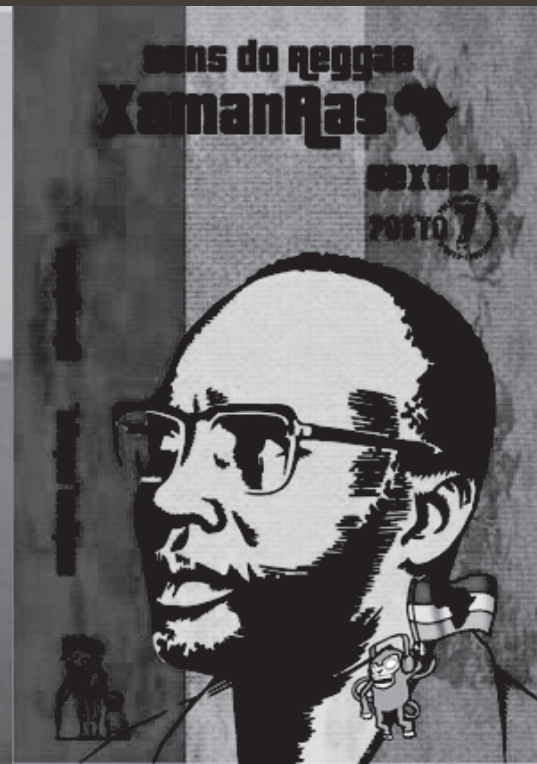
POLITICALLIFE

Bijagos Islands



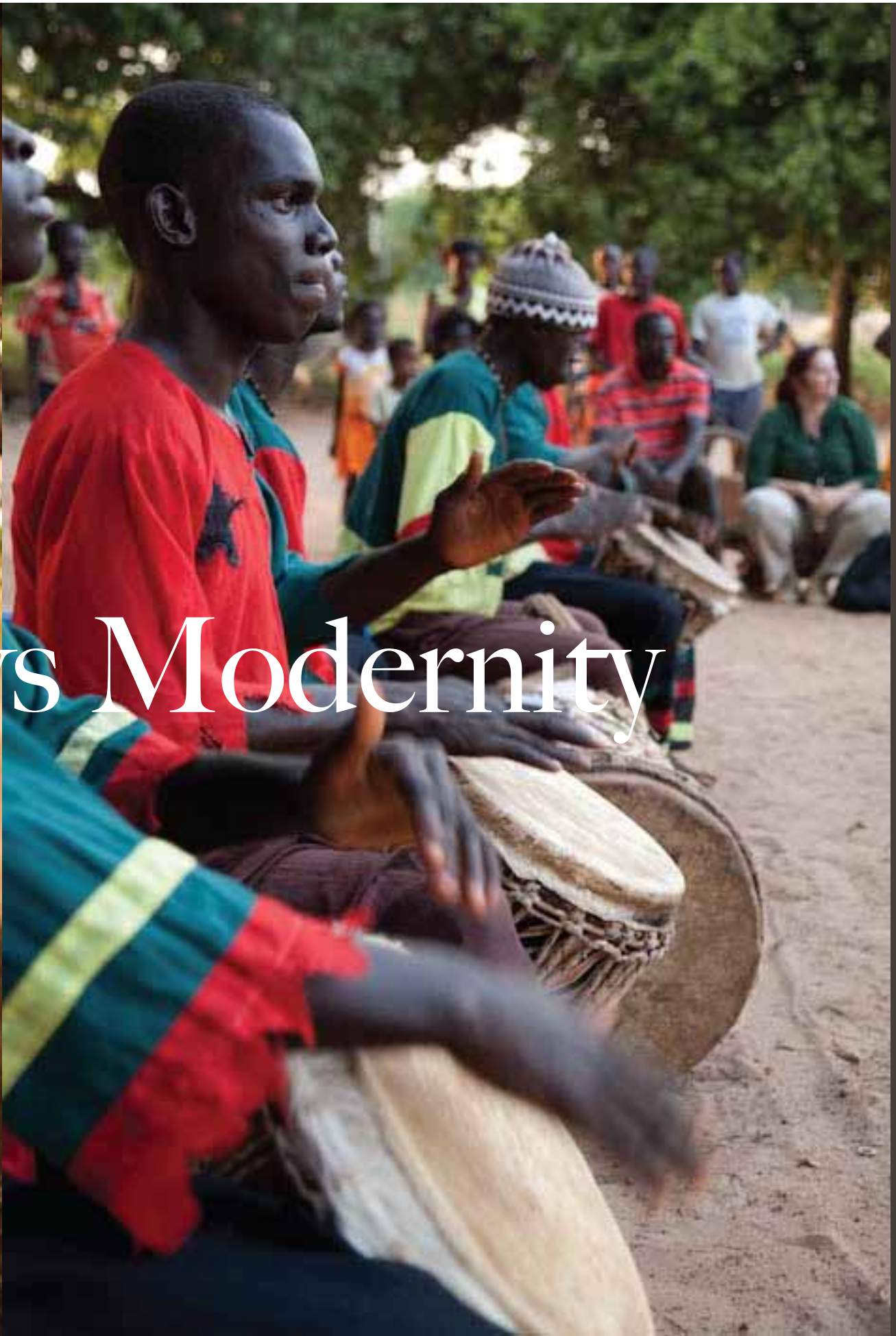
GOVERNMENT

- before 1994, the country was a one-party republic with widespread participation and support
- opposition parties gained a considerable following and the current president ran against the revolutionary party
- the president selected a cabinet of ministers. Basic laws are enacted by the hundred delegates to the National Assembly
- since the early 1990s, the government has increasingly privatized basic services and industries but continues to be the largest employer of workers outside the agricultural sector.



SOCIAL

- social problems include: smuggling, corruption, and emigration of the educated
- with joblessness high in the capital city, there has been a rise in crime
- the military forces that fought in the revolution emerged with prestige, organizational skill, and political authority. The armed forces were also large in proportion to the population
the army has become an economic burden and a threat to political stability
- the post independence government's penetration in the Bijago region is very weak in comparison to the more accessible regions.
- today, the very notion of development is trying to be reworked and employed into the current social life of the Bijagos people.
- the idea of a “of post independence” way of thinking and living has become a passion of the younger generations.



Tradition vs Modernity

MILITARY

- the Armed Forces of Guinea-Bissau (Forces armées de Guinée-Bissau) consist of an Army, Navy, Air Force and paramilitary forces
- the military service age and obligation is 18–25 years of age for selective compulsory military service; 16 years of age or younger with parental consent, for voluntary service (2009)
- the multitude of small offshore islands and a military able to sidestep government with impunity has made it a favourite trans-shipment point for drugs to Europe
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