



**UNIVERSITY AND SCIENCE IN WARTIME. THE
MOBILIZATION OF THE PORTUGUESE ACADEMIA
DURING WORLD WAR ONE.**

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Abstract

The deployment of military forces to Africa, from September 1914 on, and the declaration of war by Germany to Portugal in March 1916 forced the Portuguese War Office to declare the general mobilization, by redirecting all the available resources to the war effort. The political and military authorities didn't exclude the institutions of higher education, particularly their teachers, assistants, researchers and students, who were recruited to several technical services and to the schools of military officers, to ensure the functioning of some strategic military sections such as the health services and the communications.

However, this general mobilization had constrained the regular activity of the Portuguese educational and scientific institutions. It originated a serious crisis of teaching staff, the standstill of courses and laboratories and the departure to the African and European fronts of several members of the Portuguese scientific elite. This situation exacerbated the opposition between political authorities and the scientific community, who advocated a more restricted mobilization by the conciliation of the institutional research agendas with the practical needs of the War Office. Despite all these difficulties, the presence of young researchers in the front, especially in Africa, played a key role on the development of Portuguese colonial science and in the progress of innovative scientific fields.

Thus in this communication it's our aim to examine the effects of this general mobilization on the Portuguese Academia during World War One, mainly its consequences on Portuguese scientific community and the activity developed by those academic specialists in the Army corps sent to Africa between 1914 and 1918.