

**MATER YES, BUT NOT SUFFICIENT
MAGISTRA: HUMAN DIGNITY?**

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Mater et Magistra

In Mater et Magistra – John XXIII declared that the mission of the Church is to be *Mother and Master* of all nations underline two fundamental task of the church indicated in the follow phrase :

“Ut sibi pareret filios, et, quos, peperisset, doceret e regeret”

The statement above tells us that the essence of the encyclical Mater et Magistra is that the Church's social doctrine has an educational mission that consists of two tasks: to produce children and then teach them to generate and monitor, making their children " free and responsible.”

Mater et Magister

- This proposition was soon challenged by Oscar Wills, who in the name of Christian intellectuals, who on behalf of the Catholic intelligentsia contested in the following way: “*Mater Yes, Magistra not.*”
- In this arc of 50 years after publication of the encyclical Mater et Magistra, what we can do evaluation of discrepant from the Church, at least for the African Continent and especially for the Portuguese speaking countries? In these 50 years the church *was a mother and master? Or just a mother?*

Mother?

- *She was a mother?* Yes: because as the growth of numbers of Catholics; growth of members carried out activities in all African countries whose official language is Portuguese, growth of have participated in emergency and disaster programs, there was an opening for hospitals, schools and universities in almost all these countries, they contribute to peace in Countries like Mozambique and Angola.

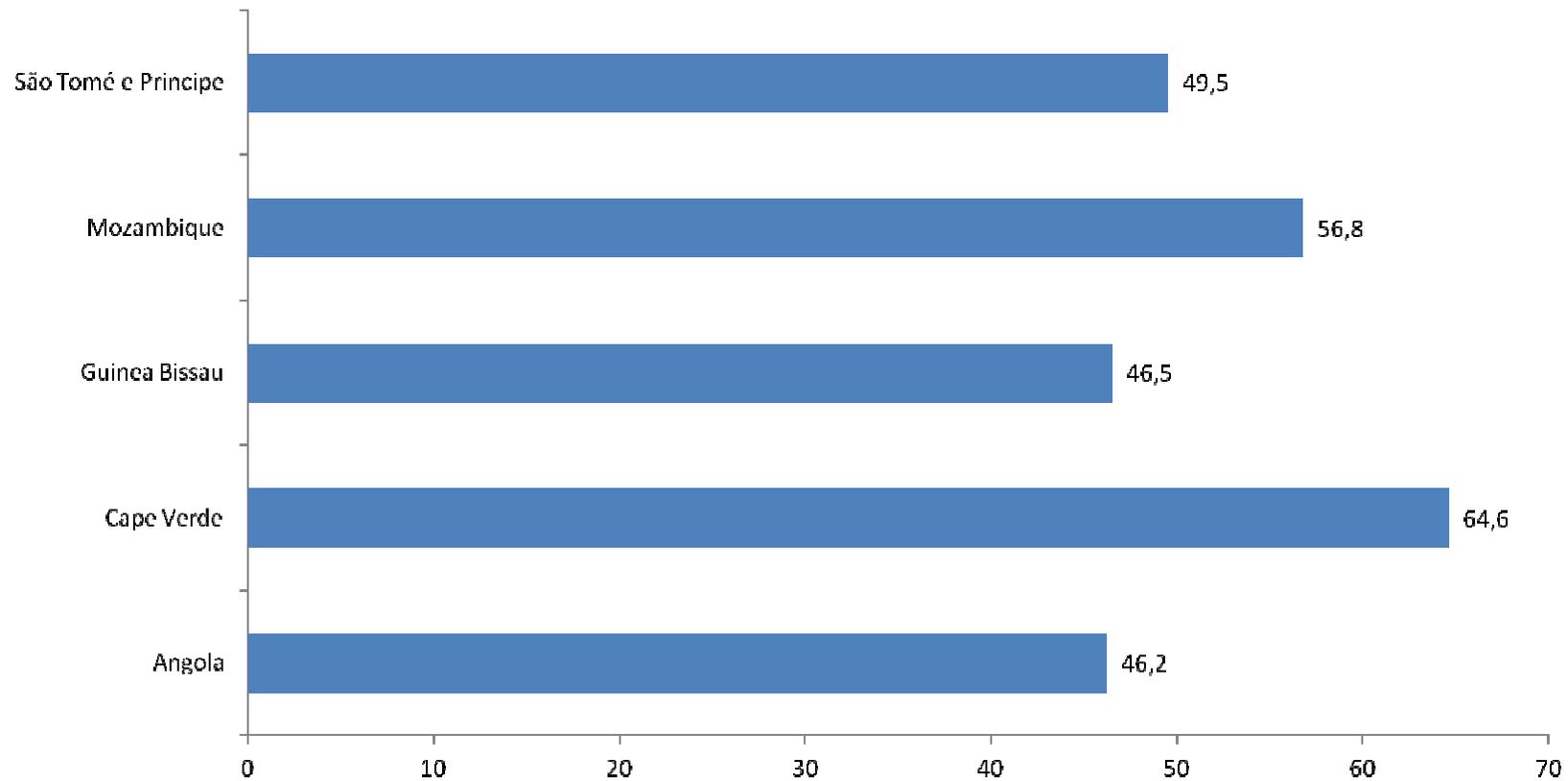
Master?

- **She was Master?** The evidence provided by international observers by *Freedom House* and *Heritage Foundation* several years ago and lay people seek to answer this question in the following manner- **Master of What: Human Dignity?**

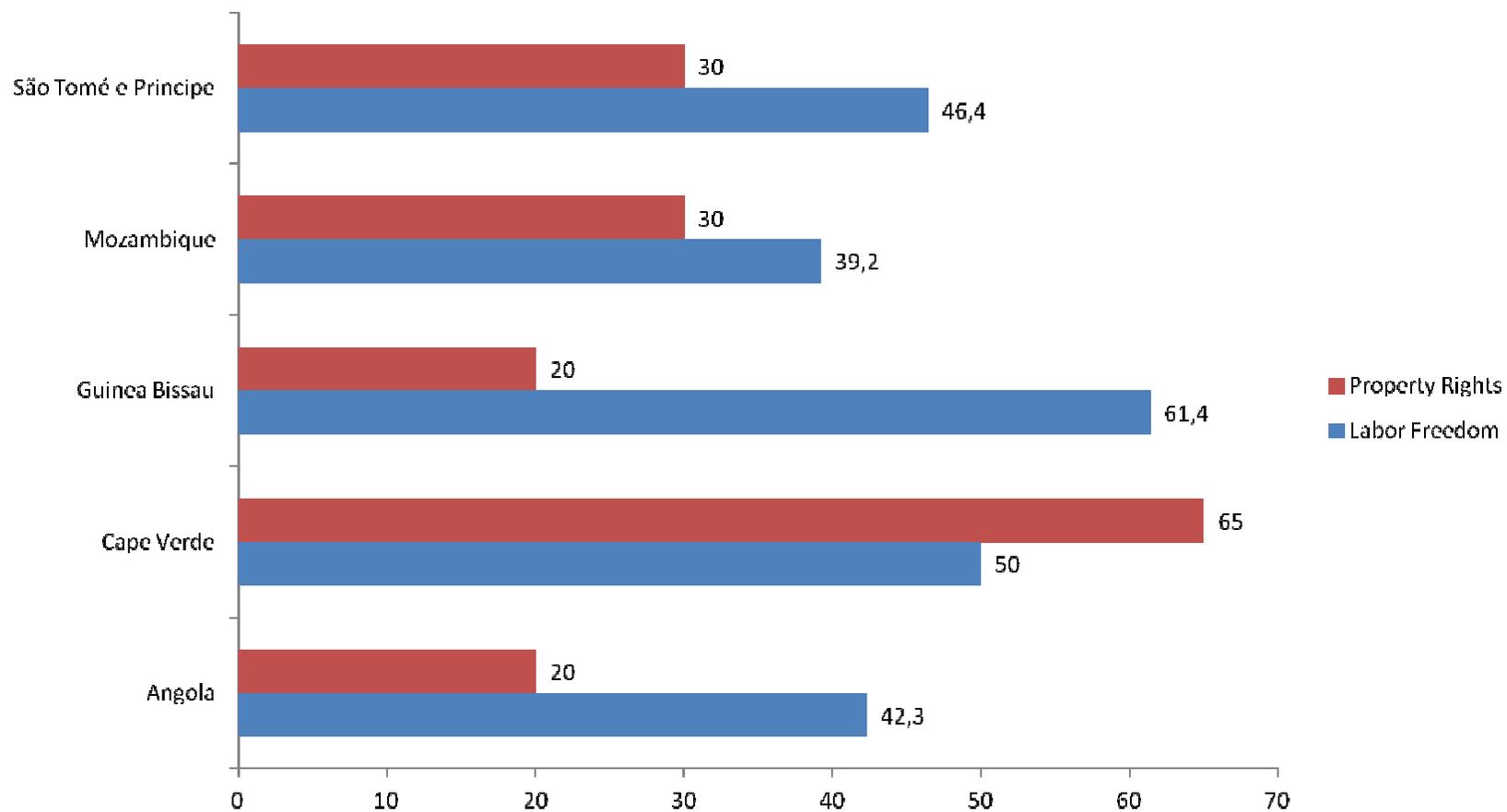
What is Economic Freedom?

- **Economic freedom** is the fundamental rights of every human to control his or her own labor or property. The economic freedom is measured by ten components (Business freedom, trade freedom, fiscal freedom, governing spending, monetary freedom, investment freedom, financial freedom, **property rights**, freedom from corruption and **labor freedom**). Economic Freedom is measured assigning a grade in which using a grade from 0 to 100, where:
 - 100-80 : Free
 - 79,9-70: Mostly Free
 - 69,9-50: Mostly Unfree
 - 49,9-00 : Repressed

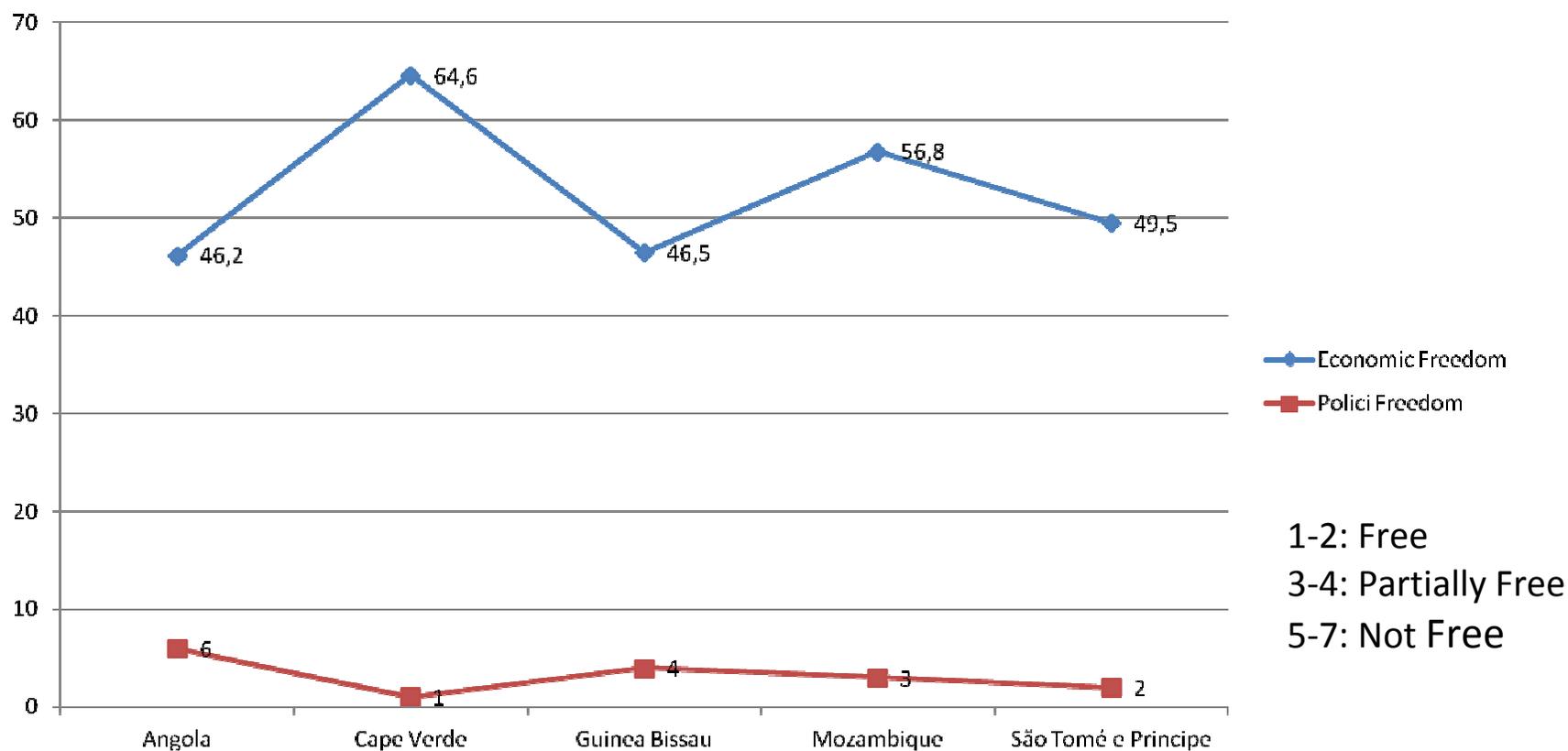
Economic Freedom



Property Rights And Labor Freedom



Economic Freedom vs Political Freedom



- Note that in these countries the right to private property, freedom of Labor and Political Freedom is **poorly protected** and consequently the fundamental expressions of freedom and responsibility **is diminished or nonexistent**. Therefore it is legitimate to deduce that the population of these countries do not meet this warranty and the right stimulus, which contradicts with what the social doctrine of the church says :

"... The Church seeks, on the contrary, the institution of private property becomes what must be, as the plans of divine wisdom and the tendencies of nature."

- I think that the aforementioned considerations provide a convincing argument that the Right to Private Property, freedom to work and political freedom, should be guaranteed both freedom of the human person, essential and indispensable element of social order.
- But not enough to claim that the natural character of private property, labor freedom and political freedom, we must have an insistence that this property and freedom is actually spread through all social classes as said by Piu XII:

"... the dignity of the person normally requires, as the natural foundation of life, the right to use goods of the earth. To this right corresponds the fundamental obligation to grant as much as possible to all, private property. "

What can I Say now?

- Oscar Wills in 1961 said “*Mater Yes, Magister not.*”

Brighton Vaz, today after 50 years, says the church does not prove to be sufficiently master, because it gave the message that was partially enacted binding in all respects and not with force.

- “*Mater Yes, but Not Sufficient Magistra*”

Obrigado!