Map 2. Map of contemporary Mozambique. © Maura Pringle, Queen's University Belfast.
CHAPTER THREE

THE SOCIAL ORIGINS OF GOOD AND BAD GOVERNANCE: RE-INTERPRETING THE 1968 SCHISM IN FRELIMO

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Good governance became the catch phrase of international development agencies in the late 1990s. It originates in the crisis of neoliberal Washington consensus that had once prescribed overcoming the accumulated contradictions of bureaucratic developmentalism by switching to the business-friendly policies. When the promised market growth failed to arrive in so many poor countries, the standard agenda of neoliberal reforms could not be revised due to the heavy ideological and institutional investments made by Western donor agencies. Instead, criticism was shifted to the implementation process. This is why, as David Woodruff masterfully explains, in the late 1990s the neoliberal agenda was extended to stress the fight against corruption, institution building, rule of law, accountability, transparency and other now familiar measures under the rubric of good governance.¹

Mozambique in the early 2000s was hailed as an encouraging example of better governance. Granted, not an entirely ideal example, for some degree of corruption was obviously present. Yet, Mozambique became an African country that international donors could cite among those making progress. Curiously, Mozambique had been also regarded a more encouraging example during the previous epoch of socialist developmentalism. Moreover, from the global epoch of socialist developmentalism to the epoch of market globalization Mozambique continued under the same ruling party, Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO), and even under the same political personnel. Such continuity in power smacked of political opportunism to many commentators.² It is not, however,