'Mau Mau' and Colonialism in Kenya

The seminar will explore the nature of colonialism in Kenya as revealed in the outbreak of the 'Mau Mau' movement. There are two aspects to the problem: one historiographical and the other historical. 'Mau Mau' has generated a huge literature, and it remains a contentious issue in both historical and popular thought. In spite of abundant controversy, however, much of the history remains obscure. We will thus start by surveying and analyzing the literature before engaging in individual research on select historical topics.

Requirements: Students will be expected to write two major papers during the course of the seminar: the first a critical review of the literature on one of the topics listed for weeks 2-9, and the second a research paper on a select aspect of the overall topic. In each case, students should distribute copies of their paper to the other seminar participants (with two copies to me) by Tuesday noon preceding the relevant class. Research papers will first be presented in class and then revised for final submission at the end of the semester. Students will also be expected to write and present a critique of one of their colleagues' research papers during weeks 12-14.

Readings: All required reading is available on reserve at H.C. White. The following are also available at the University Bookstore if you wish to buy them:

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Matigari
W. Maloba, Mau Mau and Kenya
B. Berman & J. Lonsdale, Unhappy Valley (Books 1 & 2)
G. Kershaw, Mau Mau from Below
T. Kanogo, Squatters & the Roots of Mau Mau
D. Sandgren, Christianity & the Kikuyu

Abbreviations:

ASR African Studies Review
CJAS Canadian Journal of African Studies
IJAH (International Journal of) African Historical Studies
JAH Journal of African History
KHR Kenya Historical Review
Archives and Documents

Archives

Kenya National Archives, Annual Reports for Central Province; Kiambu, Fort Hall (Murang'a), Nyeri, Naivasha, Embu, & Meru districts; etc. (microfilm)
www.kenyaarchives.go.ke

Documents

East African High Commission, East African Statistical Dept., Annual Report (Nairobi)
____, Quarterly Economic and Statistical Bulletin (Nairobi)
____, Statistical Abstract (Nairobi)
____, Patterns of Income, Expenditure and Consumption of Africans in Nairobi, 1957/8 (Nairobi, 1959)
____, Reported Employment and Wages in Kenya, 1948-60 (Nairobi, 1961)
Great Britain, Annual Report of the Colony and Protectorate of Kenya (London)
____, African Labour Efficiency Survey (London, 1949) [Northcott Report]
Kenya Colony and Protectorate, African Affairs Dept., Annual Report (Nairobi)
____, Labour Dept., Annual Report (Nairobi)
____, Legislative Council, Official Report (Nairobi)
____, African Education in Kenya (Nairobi, 1949) [Bleecher Report]
____, A Plan to Intensify the Development of African Agriculture in Kenya (Nairobi, 1953) [Swynnerton Plan]
____, Committee on African Wages, Report (Nairobi, 1954) [Carpenter Report]
____, Commissioner Appointed to Enquire into Methods for the Selection of African Representatives to the Legislative Council, Report (Nairobi, 1955) [Coults Report]
____, Report of the Committee on Emergency Detention Camps (Nairobi, 1959)
____, [Fairn Report]
Mungeam, G., Kenya: Select Historical Documents, 1884-1923
Class Schedule

9/5    Jan Vansina (ASP Seminar, noon, 206 Ingraham)

9/6    Introduction (film: 'Mau Mau')
        Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Matigari (1987) (reserve)

9/13   Discourses on Mau Mau

B. Berman & J. Lonsdale, Unhappy Valley (1992), Book 2, ch 11 (reserve)
W. Maloba, Mau Mau and Kenya (1993), 1-19, 169-80; rest is optional for those who
wish more background on 'Mau Mau' itself (reserve only)
(reserve only)
J. Lonsdale, 'Foreword' in G. Kershaw, Mau Mau from Below (1997), xvi-xxx (reserve)
M. Clough, Mau Mau Memoirs (1998), 1-59 (reserve only).

recommended
L. Leakey, Mau Mau & the Kikuyu (1953) & Defeating Mau Mau (1954)
F.D. Corfield, Historical Survey of the Origins & Growth of Mau Mau (Cmd 1030,
1960)
G. Kushner, 'An African Revitalization Movement: Mau Mau,' Anthropos, 60(1965),
763-802
O. Furley, 'Historiography of Mau Mau' in B. Ogot (ed.), Politics and Nationalism in
Colonial Kenya [Hadhij, 4(1972)], 105-34
E. Keller, 'The Mau Mau Transformation from Social Banditry to Social Rebellion,'
KHR, 1(1973), 188-206
M. Clough & K. Jackson, A Bibliography on Mau Mau (1975)
Perspectives on the Mau Mau Movement,' special issue of Kenya Historical Review,
5/2(1977), cf., e.g., articles by Ogot, Kinyatti, Kipkorir & Ng'ang'a.
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Barrel of a Pen (1983)
T.O. Ranger, Peasant Consciousness and Guerrilla War in Zimbabwe (1985)
J. Lonsdale, 'Explanation of the Mau Mau Revolt' in T. Lodge (ed.), Resistance and
Ideology in Settler Societies (1986) 168-77
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Matigari (1987) (reserve)
F. Cooper, 'Mau Mau & the Discourses of Decolonization,' JAH, 29(1988), 313-20
C.M. Clark, 'Louis Leakey as Ethnographer,' CJAS, 23(1989), 380-98.
B. Berman, 'Nationalism, Ethnicity and Modernity,' CJAS, 25/2(1991)
G. Kershaw, Mau Mau from Below; CJAS, 25(1991), 274-97
E. Odhiambo, 'The Production of History in Kenya,' CJAS, 25(1992), 300-7
D. Kennedy, 'Constructing the Colonial Myth of Mau Mau,' IJAHS, 25(1992), 241-60
C.M. Shaw, Colonial Inscriptions (1995) (reserve)
M. Clough, Mau Mau Memoirs (1997) (reserve)
9/20  Political Economy of Colonialism in Kenya

B. Berman & J. Lonsdale, Unhappy Valley (1992), Book 1, chs 1-2, 4-6 (reserve)

optional (for those who wish more background on colonialism in Kenya):
C. Rosberg & J. Nottingham, The Myth of 'Mau Mau' (1966), standard 'nationalist' history (reserve)
E. Brett, Colonialism and Underdevelopment in East Africa (1973), ch. 6
C. Leys, Underdevelopment in Kenya (1974), ch. 2 (reserve)

recommended
N. Leys, Kenya (1924)
W. Ross, Kenya From Within (1927)
R. Meinertzhagen, Kenya Diary, 1902-1906 (1957)
M. Sorrenson, Origins of European Settlement in Kenya (1968)
J. Munro, Colonial Rule & the Kamba (1975)
R. Waller, 'The Maasai & the British,' JAH, 17(1976), 529-53
P. Rogers, 'The British & the Kikuyu,' JAH, 20(1979), 255-69
D. Kennedy, Islands of White (1987)
B. Berman, Control & Crisis in Colonial Kenya (1991)

9/27  Land and Socio-Economic Differentiation

G. Kershaw, Mau Mau from Below (1997) (reserve)

recommended
W. & K. Routledge, With a Prehistoric People (1910)
C. Cagnolo, The Akikuyu (1933)
H. Lambert, The System of Land Tenure in the Kikuyu Land Unit (1949)
H. Lambert, Kikuyu Political & Social Institutions (1956)
D. Barnett, 'Introduction' in Barnett & Njama, Mau Mau from Within (1966)
M. Sorrenson, Land Reform in the Kikuyu Country (1967)
P. Marris & A. Sommerset, African Businessmen (1971)
G. Kershaw, 'The Land is the People' (Ph.D., Chicago, 1972)
R. Buitjenhaus, Mau Mau Twenty Years Later (1973)
E. Cavicchi, Problems of Change in Kikuyu Tribal Society (1977)
L. Leakey, The Southern Kikuyu before 1903 (1977)
G. Kitching, Class & Economic Change in Kenya (1980), chs 1-10 (sections on Kikuyu & Central Kenya) (reserve)
S. Stichter, Migrant Labor in Kenya (1982)
D. Throup, 'The Origins of Mau Mau,' African Affairs, 84(1985), 399-433
C. Presley, Kikuyu Women, the Mau Mau Rebellion & Social Change in Kenya (1992)

10/4 Religious Differentiation & the Circumcision Controversy

D. Sandgren, Christianity & the Kikuyu (1989) (reserve)

recommended
J. Kenyatta, Facing Mount Kenya (1938)
E.M. Wiseman, Kikuyu Martyrs (1958)
F. Welbourne, East African Rebels (1961)
B. Ogot & F. Welbourne, A Place to Feel at Home (1966)
M. Kovar, 'The Kikuyu Independent Schools Movement' (Ph.D., UCLA, 1970)
J. Murray, 'The Kikuyu Female Circumcision Controversy' (Ph.D, UCLA, 1974)
O. Kariuki, A Bishop Facing Mount Kenya (1985)
J. Davison, Voices from Mutira (1989)
C. Presley, Kikuyu Women, the Mau Mau Rebellion & Social Change in Kenya (1992)
C.M. Shaw, Colonial Inscriptions (1995)

10/11 African Politics in Colonial Kenya

M. Clough, *Fighting Two Sides: Kenyan Chiefs & Politicians* (1990) (reserve only)

*recommended*
J. Murray-Brown, *Kenyatta* (1972)
'Perspectives on the Mau Mau Movement,' special issue of *Kenya Historical Review*, 5/2(1977), cf., e.g., articles by Ogot, Kipkorir & Ng'ang'a.
W. McLellan, 'Africans and Black Americans in the Comintern Schools, 1925-34,' *UAHS*, 26(1993), 371-90

10/18 Mau Mau in the White Highlands & the City


*recommended*
R. Gatheru, *Child of Two Worlds* (1964)
M. Blundell, *So Rough a Wind* (1964)
N. Kahiro, *Man in the Middle* (1973)
G. Gikoyo, *We Fought for Freedom* (1979)
M. Tamarkin, 'Tribal Associations, Tribal Solidarity, and Tribal Chauvinism in a Kenya Town,' JAH, 14(1973), 257-74
S. Stichter, 'Workers, Trades Unions & the Mau Mau Rebellion,' CIAS, 9(1975), 259-75
M. Ross, Grass Roots in an African City (1975)
R. Sandbrook, Proletarians and African Capitalism (1975)
M. Tamarkin, 'Mau Mau in Nakuru,' JAH, 17(1976), 119-134 [repr. in KHR, 5/2(1977), 225-241]
A. Hake, African Metropolis (1977)
C. Dicke, Africa in Nairobi During the Emergency' (MA, UW, 1978)
L. White, 'Separating the Men from the Boys,' IJAHS, 23(1990), 1-26
C. Robertson, Trouble Showed the Way (1997)

Mau Mau in the Reserves and The War in the Forest

Berman & Lonsdale, Unhappy Valley (1992), Book 2, ch 12 (reserve)

recommended
T.F.C. Bewes, Kikuyu Conflict (1953)
E. Huxley, A Thing to Love (1953) -- novel
L. Leakey, Mau Mau & the Kikuyu (1953) & Defeating Mau Mau (1954)
I. Leigh, In the Shadow of Mau Mau (1954)
J.F. Lipscomb, White Africans (1955)
M. Slater, The Trial of Jomo Kenyatta (1955)
C.T. Stoneham, Out of Barbarism (1955)
M. Koinange, The People of Kenya Speak for Themselves (1955)
R. Ruark, Something of Value (1955) -- novel
P. Evans, Law and Disorder (1956)
W.W. Baldwin, Mau Mau Manhunt (1957)
I. Henderson, The Hunt for Kimathi (1958)
F. Kitson, Gangs and Countergangs (1960)

D. Barnett & K. Njama, Mau Mau from Within (1966)
W. Itote, Mau Mau General (1967)
G. Wachira, Ordeal in the Forest (1968)
C. Waciuma, Daughter of Mumbi (1969)
K. Murithi, War in the Forest (1971)
J. Wamweya, *Freedom Fighter* (1971)
K. Muchai, *The Hardcore* (1973)
E. Mutonyi, *Mau Mau Chairman*
G. Gikoyo, *We Fought for Freedom* (1979)

B. Ogot, 'Revolt of the Elders' in *Hadith*, 4(1972), 134-49
R. Buijtenhuijs, *Mau Mau Twenty Years After* (1973)
B. Ogot, 'Politics, Culture and Music in Central Kenya,' *KHR*, 5(1977), 275-86
D. Mukarur Ng'ang'a, *Mau Mau, Loyalists, and Politics in Muranga,* *KHR*, 5(1977), 365-84
Maina wa Kinyatti, *Thunder from the Mountains* (1980)

10/31 Allen Isaacman, 'Slaves, Soldiers and the Construction of Ethnic Identities' (ASP seminar, noon, 206 Ingraham)

11/1 Independence and Decolonization

W. Maloba, *Mau Mau and Kenya,* ch 7-9 (reserve)

recommended
T. Mboya, *Freedom and After* (1963)
O. Odinga, *Not Yet Uhuru* (1967)
J. Kenyatta, *Suffering without Bitterness* (1968)
D. Goldsworthy, Tom Mboya (1982)
D. Gordon, Decolonization & the State in Kenya (1986)
A. Thurston, Smallholder Agriculture in Colonial Kenya (1987)
R. Bates, Beyond the Miracle of the Market (1989)

Research Papers

11/8 no class; individual research

11/14 Abdul Sheriff? (ASP seminar, noon, 206 Ingraham)

11/15 no class; individual research

11/22 Thanksgiving

11/29 class presentations (3:30-6:30)

12/6 class presentations (3:30-6:30)

12/13 class presentations (3:30-6:30)

12/17 Revised research papers due.