

University of Wisconsin
Department of History
Spring 1992

History 444

History of East Africa

M. Wagner

class hours: MWF 9:55 a.m., 1641 Humanities

office hours: M 3:00-4:00 p.m., TR 10:00-11:30 a.m.

4124 Humanities, 263-1783

Reading and Requirements

Undergraduates

- * class participation
- * weekly readings
- * weekly journals of 3-5 pages in length, due each Friday
- * basic map quiz
- * midterm examination, take home
- * independent project, about 15 pages in length,
due in stages:
 - written proposal
 - bibliography
 - written outline
 - finished paper
- * final examination, take home

Undergraduate History Honors Students

- * all undergraduate requirements cited above
- * independent bibliographical or historiographical
assignment
- * book critique (in lieu of 2 journals)

Graduates

- * class participation
- * weekly readings
- * independent bibliographical assignment (annotated
bibliographical essay, example of a reading list to
prepare for prelims)
- * independent historiographical assignment (in preparation
for prelims)
- * 2 papers
- * final exam, take home (practice for prelims)

Texts (Available in University Bookstore):

1. Nurse, Derek and Thomas Spear The Swahili (1985)
2. Sutton, John E.G. A Thousand Years of East Africa
(1990)

Supplementary Readings : weekly assignments will be drawn primarily from these

- (R): available on Reserve in Helen C. White
- (r): requested to be placed on reserve; if not available, ask instructor
- (s): in stacks, or ask instructor
- (*): all students must examine this book

I. Basic Reference

- Ogot, B.A. and J.A. Kieran. Zamani: A Survey of East African History (New York: Humanities Press, 1971). (pioneering text by preeminent "early generation" historian) (R)
- Posnansky, Merrick, ed. Prelude to East African History (London: Oxford University Press, 1966). (standard older text) (R)
- Roberts, Andrew, ed. Tanzania Before 1900 (Nairobi: East African Publishing House, 1968). (standard text, useful) (R)
- *Spear, Thomas. Kenya's Past: An Introduction for Historical Method in Africa (London: Longman, 1981). (very useful introductory text to be examined by all students) (r)
- *Iliffe, John. A Modern History of Tanganyika (London: Cambridge University Press, 1979). (higher level text, excellent for its use of archival sources) (R)
- *Koponen, Juhani. People and Production in Late Precolonial Tanzania: History and Structures (Helsinki: Finnish Society for Development Studies, 1988). (Currently in use in Tanzania, should be examined by all students) (R)
- Ehret, Christopher and Merrick Posnansky, eds. The Archaeological and Linguistic Reconstruction of African History (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1982). (Students are advised to become aware of the methodology used in this book) (R)
- Schmidt, Peter R. Historical Archaeology: A Structural Approach in an African Culture (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1978). (Note the methodology) (R)
- Sutton, J.E.G. The Archaeology of the Western Highlands of Kenya (Nairobi: British Institute of East Africa, 1973). (Typical example of an archaeological-historical monograph) (R)

II. Historiographical Issues

- *Cohen, David William and E.S. Atieno Odhiambo. Siaya: The

Historical Anthropology of An African Landscape
(London: Currey, 1989). (To be examined by all
students) (r)

*Feierman, Steven. Peasant Intellectuals: Anthropology and
History in Tanzania (Madison: UW Press, 1990).
(Currently an important work in Tanzanian
scholarship, as well as in African history generally)
(To be examined by all students) (r)

*Jewsiewicki, Bogumil and David Newbury, eds. African
Historiographies: What History for Which Africa?
(Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, 1986) (To be
examined by all students) (R)

Zunz, Olivier. Re-living the Past: The Worlds of Social
History (Chapel Hill, UNC Press, 1985) (See chapter
4) (R)

III. Self-Definition/Identity/Ideas of Ethnicity

Schlee, Gunther. Identities on the Move: Clanship and
Pastoralism in Northern Kenya (Manchester: Manchester
University Press, 1989) (R)

Rigby, Peter. Persistent Pastoralists (London: Zed, 1985)
(Standard anthropological monograph) (R)

Birk-Schlosser, Dirk. Tradition and Change in Kenya: A
Comparative Analysis of Seven Major Ethnic Groups
(Ferdinand Schoning, 1984) ("Tribes" as viewed in
more recent scholarship) (R)

Chretien, Jean-Pierre, ed. Les ethnies ont une histoire
(Paris: Karthala, 1989) (Interesting collection of
essays about ethnic identities in Africa: their
creation, their meaning, their manipulation. Written
entirely in French.) (in stacks)

IV. Biographical and Autobiographical Texts

Cohen, David William. Selected Texts: Busoga Traditional
History, vol. I (1969) (Interview notes in rough text
form, to be examined together with his two monographs
Historical Tradition of Busoga and Womunafu's Bunafu,
listed below) (R)

Cohen, David William. Towards a Reconstructed Past:
Historical Texts from Busoga, Uganda (London: Oxford
University Press, 1986) (The same historian, after
writing several important historical monographs,
turns his attention again to the rough texts of his
interviews) (R)

Codere, Helen. The Biography of An African Society:
Rwanda, 1900-1960 (Tervuren: Musee Royale, 1973) (An
anthropologist conducts fieldwork against the
backdrop of a revolution. This is a collection of
biographical interviews.) (R)

Editions Jeune Afrique. Les Africains. (A set of 12 books which comprise a collection of biographies of famous African leaders. Useful for students of any level, but written entirely in French). (in stacks)

King, Kenneth and Ahmed Salim. Kenya Historical Biographies (Nairobi: East African Publishing House, 1971). (R)

Mirza, Sarah and Margaret Strobel. Three Swahili Women: Life Histories from Mombasa, Kenya (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989). (r)

Reute, Emily. Memoirs of an Arabian Princess from Zanzibar (New York: Marcus Wiener Publishing, 1989). (R)

Whitely, W.H. Maisha ya Hamed bin Muhammed el Murjebi (The Life of Tippu Tip) (Nairobi: East African Literature Bureau, 1974) (In Kiswahili and English--fully translated)

V. The East African Interior and the Great Lakes

Cohen, David William. Historical Tradition of Busoga (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1972). (Standard historical monograph of its era, to be compared with the same author's interview notes and with his second book Womunafu's Bunafu) (R)

Cohen, David William. Womunafu's Bunafu (Princeton University Press) (r)

Feierman, Steven. The Shambaa Kingdom: A History (Madison: UW Press, 1974). (One of the early good historical monographs that employed oral tradition. Particularly interesting if read together with the same author's 1990 book listed above) (R)

Newbury, Mary Catherine. The Cohesion of Oppression. (history of Rwanda) (stacks)

VI. The East African Coast and Zanzibar

Allen, J.W.T. ed. The Customs of the Swahili People: The Desturi za Waswahili of Mtoro bin Mwinyi Bakari and Other Swahili Persons (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1981). (stacks)

Cooper, Frederick. Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa (New Haven: Yale, 1977). (A classic in East African economic history) (R)

Cooper, Frederick. From Slaves to Squatters (New Haven: Yale, 1980). (Covers a later period) (R)

Sheriff, Abdul. Slaves, Spices and Ivory in Zanzibar (London: James Currey, 1987) (r)

Sheriff, Abdul and Ed Ferguson. Zanzibar under Colonial Rule (London: Currey, 1991). (R)

Strobel, Margaret Ann. "Muslim Women in Mombasa, Kenya, 1890-1973" (UCLA: Ph.D. dissertation, 1975) (R)

VII. Mau Mau (An Example of a Historical Problem)

Barnett, D.B. Mau Mau from Within (New York: Monthly Press Review, 1966) (r).

Kinyatti, Maina wa (ed.) Kenya's Freedom Struggle: The Dedan Kimathi Papers (London: Zed Books, 1987). (R)

Kanogo, Tabitha. Squatters and the Roots of Mau Mau, 1905-63 (London: James Currey, 1987) (R)

Furedi, Frank. The Mau Mau War In Perspective (London: Currey, 1989) (R)

Throup, David W. Economic and Social Origins of Mau Mau (London: James Currey, 1987) (History in the "classic" sense--employs written sources almost exclusively) (r)

Edgerton, Robert B. Mau Mau: An African Crucible (New York: The Free Press, 1989). (R)

Wanjau, Gakaara wa. Mau Mau author in detention (Nairobi: Heinemann, 1988). (autobiographical) (r)

Rosberg and Nottingham, The Myth of Mau Mau (r)

Thuku, Harry. Harry Thuku: An Autobiography (Nairobi: Oxford University Press, 1970). (autobiography of important leader during the transition to independence) (R)

Likimani, Muthoni. Passbook Number F-47927: Women and Mau Mau in Kenya (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Praeger, 1985) (R)

VIII. Journals

African Studies Review

History in Africa

Journal of African History

Class Schedule

WEEK 1 Geography

Mon. 20 Jan -- Martin Luther King Day (no class)

Wed. 22 Jan -- Introduction

Fri. 24 Jan -- Lecture: What is the Relationship between
History and the Environment?

DUE: journal #1: describe an experience that has shaped
your perceptions of East Africa (due Friday, 1/24)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Stager, C. "Africa's Great Rift" National Geographic
(May 1990), pp. 2-41

Ogot, B. Zamani, chapter 2 "The Geography of East Africa"

Wagner, M. "Landscapes and History: Geographies of the
Mind in Precolonial Buragane" (Chapter 1 from
dissertation)

GRAD STUDENTS:

Cohen, D.W. and E.S. Atieno Odhiambo Siaya. (Look over
this important book)

WEEK 2 Thinking Critically about "History" and
 Historiography: Sources, Authority

Mon. 27 Jan--How did African history develop as an area
of study? What implications and assumptions
have developed out of this process?

Wed. 29 Jan--What has been the impact of historical
sources on the writing of East African
history?

Fri. 31 Jan--History and authority: some issues on doing
history

DUE: journal #2: choose one point from any of the
readings and develop it further, either supporting or
critiquing it, using examples from the other readings
(due Friday, 1/31)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Ewald, J. "Foxes in the Field" African Studies Review
pp. 9-15.

Neale, C. "The Idea of Progress in the Revision of African
History" in Jewsiewicki and Newbury, African
Historiographies.

Koponen, J. "Introduction: history and historical
knowledge" in People and Production.

MacGaffey, W. "Epistemological Ethnocentrism in African
Studies" in Jewsiewicki and Newbury.

Spear, T. "Introduction" in Kenya's Past.

GRAD STUDENTS:

Henige, David "African history and the rule of Evidence"
in Jewsiewicki and Newbury.

Vansina, Jan "Bantu in a Crystal Ball" a series of two

articles in HIA.

WEEK 3 Early History of the East African Interior

Mon. 3 Feb--What is a lineage?
Wed. 5 Feb--The building of communities
Fri. 7 Feb--"Farmers and Cowboys"

DUE: journal #3: having read critiques of a variety of historical sources, what can you say about historical "facts" ? How has your notion of "fact" changed?

REQUIRED READINGS:

Spear, Kenya's Past, chapters 1-3, pp. 1-70
Sutton, A Thousand Years, pp. 1-56
Curtin et. al. African History chapter 4, on early East Africa "Economy, Society and Language"
Wagner, M. dissertation chapters 2-4

GRAD STUDENTS:

Twaddle, M. "Towards an early history of the East African interior" HIA (1975) , pp. 147-184

Note: All graduate students must make an appointment to see the instructor this week to set the schedule for their papers and projects.

WEEK 4 Interior II: Communities and Kingdoms

Mon. 10 Feb--The origins of kingship
Wed. 12 Feb--Cwezi traditions, Kubandwa cult (the ideological foundation of kingship)
Fri. 14 Feb--Historical Sources Revisited:
Kings, Authority and Oral Tradition

DUE: Map Quiz (Friday, Feb 14)
DUE: Journal #4: Are Cwezi oral traditions fact or myth, or what can be said about the "fact/myth" distinction?

REQUIRED READINGS:

Spear, T. Kenya's Past, chapter 4, pp. 71-112
Curtin et. al. chapter 5 on political culture and political economy in early East Africa
Berger, I. "Deities, dynasties and oral tradition: the history and legend of the Abacwezi", pp. 61-81 in Miller, J. The African Past Speaks
Wagner, M. chapters 5-6

GRAD STUDENTS:

Berger, I. "Religion and Resistance", selected readings
Cohen, D. W. "Reconstructing a Conflict in Bunafu" in J. Miller The African Past Speaks
Vansina, J. "The Disease of Writing: Ganda and Nyoro Kinglists in a Newly Literate World" in J. Miller The African Past Speaks
Newbury, D. "Bunyabungo: The Western Rwandan Frontier, 1750-1850" in Kopytoff, I. The African Frontier

NOTE: undergraduate students will write take-home

WEEK 5 Introduction to the Swahili Coast

- Mon. 17 Feb -- Graeco-Roman Period, up to 800 A.D.:
Connecting East Africa to "The Known World"
- Wed. 19 Feb -- Early Swahili Society, 800-1000 A.D., and
the Shirazi Period, 1000-1500 A.D.
- Fri. 21 Feb -- On Human Beings (not simply "slaves") in
Coastal History: an Introduction to
Afrocentrist History

REQUIRED READINGS

Nurse and Spear, The Swahili entire text, with special
emphasis on chapters 1, 4, 5

WEEK 6 Swahili Coast, 1100-1500

- Mon. 24 Feb -- Rise of Swahili Town-States, 1100-1500:
the development of an idea
- Wed. 26 Feb -- Swahili Town-States, 1100-1500, Part II: a
critique of "beads on a rosary" and "trade
is an engine driving change"
- Fri. 28 Feb -- Discussion on Swahili Culture 1100-1500:
physical and behavioral representation of
social hierarchy (archaeology and
architecture, ethnography and etiquette),
and the concept of ideological hegemony

DUE: Journal #5: Develop a question about the history or
historiography of the Swahili Coast and discuss it,
drawing from the readings (due Friday, 2/28)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Sutton, A Thousand Years, pp. 58-88.

Allen, J.W.T. (ed) The Customs of the Swahili People,
(appendix 1, pp. 211-230).

Cooper, Frederick. Plantation Slavery on the East Coast
of Africa, introduction, pp. 1-22 and chapter 1, pp.
23-26.

WEEK 7 Linking Interior East Africa and the Coast, ca.
1500-1800

- Mon. 2 Mar -- What links existed between the coast and the
interior? Broad Brush-Strokes
- Wed. 4 Mar -- Links II: Case studies from the Kamba,
Nyamwezi, Makua-Lomwe and Yao
- Fri. 6 Mar -- Slides and discussion: the significance of
trade

DUE: Journal #6: What impact has the failure of previous
scholars to link the histories coastal and interior
peoples had on the overall picture of East African
history? Why is this significant? (due Friday, 3/6)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Andrews, Robert "Nyamwezi Trade"
Lamphear, John "Kamba Trade"

GRADUATE READINGS

Alpers, Edward. Ivory and Slaves, chapters 1 and 2.

***** Spring Break *****

UNDERGRADS: working on paper proposal, due Monday

GRADS: working on papers and projects

WEEK 8 -- Kingdoms and States: Coast and Interior, ca.
1600-1800

Mon. 16 Mar -- Portuguese on the East African Coast:

A Tale of Two Cities, Kilwa and Mombasa

Wed. 18 Mar -- Great Lakes Kingdoms: Case Study of the

Kingdom of Burundi, 1500-1800

Fri. 22 Mar -- Discussion: what is "civilization" ? why do

historians focus on kingdoms and civilizations?

DUE: proposal for independent project (due Friday 3/22)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Cooper, Frederick. Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of
Africa, chapters 2-4, pp. 47-149.

Wagner, Michele. dissertation chapter 5 on the coming of
the Baganwa (review from week 4)

WEEK 9 East Africa, ca. 1800s: long-distance trade
and Omani hegemony

Mon. 23 Mar -- Along Three Trade Routes: Overview of East
African Trade Infrastructure

Wed. 25 Mar -- Case Study: Mtemi Mirambo, the Wanyamwezi,
and the Central Route

Fri. 27 Mar -- Discussion: The Significance of Mirambo and
the Value of Studying Life-History

(followup on Afrocentrist perspectives in
African History)

DUE: bibliography for independent project (Friday 3/27)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Cooper, Frederick. Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of
Africa, part 2, pp. 153-268.

REVIEW:

"Nyamwezi" (review from week 7--"week 7" file in Historical
Society)

"Kamba" (review from week 7--"week 7" file in Historical
Society)

WEEK 10 East Africa, ca. late 1800s: From Omani Hegemony
to European Colonial Conquest

- Mon. 30 Mar -- The Meaning of Slavery in 19th century
East Africa, Ideological Hegemony, and the
Transition to Plantation Economy:
Examining Cooper's Thesis
- Wed. 1 Apr -- The East African Coast and Hinterland,
1845-1885: Guns and Rain
- Fri. 3 Apr -- Guns and Rain, Part II: Societies on the
Verge of Colonialism

DUE: journal #7: choose one from among the main arguments
of Cooper's book and analyze it (Friday, 4/3)

REQUIRED READINGS:

2 or 3 sets of readings from the following sources:
Burton, Richard F. The Lake Regions of Central Africa
Stanley, Henry M. How I Found Livingstone
Stanley, Henry M. Through the Dark Continent
Hore, Edward C. "Ujiji"

WEEK 11 East Africa: Early Colonial Period, 1880-1910

- Mon. 6 Apr -- Background to Imperialism, 1880-1890:
"Resisters vs. Collaborators" ?
- Wed. 8 Apr -- Colonial Conquest, 1885-1902: Commerce,
Colonels, and Christians Go Marching On
- Fri. 10 Apr -- Discussion: Mwezi Gisabo and the Conquest
of Burundi

DUE: basic outline of argument/analysis which you will
present for your independent project (Friday, 4/10)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Unesco, vol 7 chapter 7 "African initiatives and resistance
in East Africa, 1880-1914"
Unesco, vol 7 chapter 2 "European partition and the
conquest of Africa: an overview"

WEEK 12 Early Colonial Period: Kenya Case Study

- Mon. 13 Apr -- East African Labor under early colonial
rule: the Case of Kenya
- Wed. 15 Apr -- "We are Squatters on Our Own Land"
- Fri. 17 Apr -- Film: "White Man's Country"

DUE: independent project (Friday, 4/17 -- NO EXTENSIONS)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Choose two from the reserve packet of readings on Kenya

WEEK 13 Early Colonial Period: Tanganyika Case Study

- Mon. 20 Apr -- Tanganyika and the Roots of the Maji Maji
War
- Wed. 22 Apr -- Maji-Maji
- Fri. 24 Apr -- From Brutality to Paternalism: the End of
Maji Maji through World War One

DUE: final journal: choose an issue raised in the material on Kenya or Tanganyika, or ask a comparative question and seek to answer it (Friday, 4/24)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Selections from the Maji Maji papers (choose three from the packet of readings)

WEEK 14 Later Colonial Period: The Realization of Colonial Rule

Mon. 27 Apr -- Paternalism Revisited: Mandates and the League of Nations

Wed. 20 Apr -- Stuck in the Middle: "Chiefs"

Fri. 1 May -- Discussion: Indirect Rule, Social Engineering and the Creation of "Tribes"

REQUIRED READINGS:

Ngugi wa Thiong'o Decolonising the Mind (selections)

WEEK 15 The Colonial Legacy

Mon. 4 May -- "Structures" once established: dependency theory, ideological hegemony, physical infrastructure

Wed. 6 May -- Resistance movements and the shape of independence

Fri. 8 May -- "Tribes", Armies and Political Parties: Where are we today?

FINAL ASSIGNMENT: receive take-home exam, weighted in grade to be the equivalent of approximately two journals

REQUIRED READINGS:

selection of recent magazine and newspaper articles