

University of Wisconsin  
Department of History  
Fall 1999-2000

Tues & Thurs, 2:30-3:45  
1651 Humanities  
Office Hours: 4-5 Tues & Thurs

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### History 444: History of East Africa

During the course we will consider a number of major themes in the history of East Africa from the Late Stone Age to the present. We will also explore some of the methods that historians use to reconstruct that history, as well as varying interpretations and constructions of that history over time. Given the problems of studying East African history and the relatively short period of time that historians have been studying it seriously, we will probably raise more questions than answers, unearth more problems than solutions. No text, article, or lecture should be considered authoritative. The course will, accordingly, follow a mixed lecture/discussion format in order to allow you to talk and think issues through for yourself to arrive at your own understanding of the issues involved. It is therefore imperative that you read the assigned readings and think about them seriously before the class for which they are assigned, as they will be the subject of that class's activities. I have suggested some questions under each topic that you might consider while doing the reading. You will, no doubt, think of others.

#### Course Requirements:

Undergraduates (3/4 cr.): (1) class participation; (2) completing the required reading before each class meeting; (3) a map quiz; and (4) two mid-term exams and a final exam (all of which will be take home exams). Grades will be based on reading and class participation (25%), mid-term exams (25% each), and final exam (25%).

Graduates (3 cr.): (1) class participation; (2) completing the required reading before each class meeting; (3) a map quiz; (4) a final exam; and (5) four discussion papers, each based on the required and selected recommended reading for a single class. Discussion papers are intended to provoke discussion and should focus on significant analytical issues in the reading, raising pertinent questions regarding them. They should be 5-6 pages long and include a brief annotated bibliography summarizing the value of each source. Two copies of each paper must be given to me in the class for which it is prepared.

Readings: Required readings are available on reserve in the Helen C. White Library and in a Course Packet (cp) available from the Humanities Copy Center (Room 1650). A copy of the Course Packet is also on reserve (RB HISTORY 444 4). The following books are also available for purchase at University Bookstore:

- T. Spear, Kenya's Past (DT433.565 S643)
- J. Iliffe, A Modern History of Tanganyika (DT447 I39)
- D. Nurse & T. Spear, The Swahili (DT365.45 S93 N87 1984)
- Bahru Zewde, A History of Modern Ethiopia (DT386 B27 1991)
- B. Ogot & W. Ochieng' (eds.), Decolonization and Independence in Kenya (DT433.58 D4 1995)

### Early History and Historiography

- 9/2 Lands and Peoples: Histories and Historians (slides)  
no required reading

*recommended:*

- J. Koponen, People and Production in Late Precolonial Tanzania, Intro.  
D. Denoon & A. Kuper, 'Nationalist Historians in Search of a Nation,' African Affairs,  
70(1970), 329-349.  
A. Temu & B. Swai, Historians and Africanist History

- 9/7 Economy and Society  
J. Iliffe, Modern History of Tanganyika, 1-39.

*recommended*

- J. Koponen, People & Production in Late Precolonial Tanzania, Chaps 5-9 .

- 9/9 From Hunters to Farmers & Iron Workers: Languages and Peoples  
*What are some of the main lessons of the archaeological record in East Africa? How does  
archaeology differ from history?*  
*'Languages, like people, have ancestors.' What does this mean?*  
T. Spear, Kenya's Past, xii-xxiv, 1-21, 22-45.  
D. Nurse & T. Spear, The Swahili, 1-67.

*recommended:*

- D. Phillipson, The Later Prehistory of Eastern and Southern Africa  
C. Ehret & M. Posnansky (eds.), The Archaeological and Linguistic Reconstruction of  
African History, chapt by Ambrose.  
J. Vansina, 'A Slow Revolution: Farming in Subequatorial Africa,' Azania, 24(1989), 15-  
26.  
J. Sutton, The Archaeology of the Western Highlands of Kenya  
D. Nurse, 'The Contribution of Linguistics to the Study of History in Africa,' JAH,  
38(1997), 359-91.  
J. Vansina, Paths in the Rainforest, 3-33  
E. Polomé (ed.), Language in Tanzania, art. by Nurse & Philippon  
D. Schoenbrun, A Green Place, A Good Place  
D. Nurse & T. Hinnebusch, Swahili and Sabaki

- 9/14 Myths of Origin (video: 'The Shilluk')  
*What purposes do the Singwaya or Mbegha myths serve for the Mijikenda or Shambaa? for  
the historian?*  
T. Spear, Kenya's Past, 46-70.  
S. Feierman, The Shambaa Kingdom, 40-69 (reserve: DT443 F44 1974).

Map Quiz: due in class.

*recommended: sections dealing with origin traditions of the following:*

- I. Kimambo, A Political History of Pare  
J. Lamphear, Traditional History of the Jie of Uganda  
G. Muriuki, A History of the Kikuyu (cf. J. Kenyatta, Facing Mount Kenya)  
T. Spear, The Kaya Complex & Traditions of Origin & their Interpretation  
R. Willis, A State in the Making (Fipa)

- 9/16 Processes of Historical Change  
*What were some of the main factors that caused change in East Africa? How do these modify our interpretation of origin traditions?*

T. Spear, Kenya's Past, 71-112.

S. Feierman, The Shambaa Kingdom, 70-108 (reserve: DT443 F44 1974).

*recommended:*

J. Koponen, People and Production in Late Precolonial Tanzania, Chapt 2

C. Ambler, Kenyan Communities in the Age of Imperialism

A. Frontera, Persistence and Change

Cf. analyses of historical process in later chapters of any of the books listed under previous class with their interpretations of origin traditions: are they congruent?

### States and State Formation

- 9/21 Farmers, Herders, and the Pastoral Revolution  
*The pure pastoralist is a poor pastoralist.' True or false? And what have pastoralists done about it?*

J. Berntsen, 'The Maasai and their Neighbors,' Af. Econ. Hist., 2(1976), 1-11 (cp).

T. Spear, 'Introduction' in T. Spear & R. Waller (eds.), Being Maasai, 1-18 (cp).

*recommended:*

P. Robertshaw (ed.), Early Pastoralists of South-western Kenya

T. Spear & R. Waller (eds.), Being Maasai

R. Waller, 'Economic and Social Relations in the Central Rift Valley' in B. Ogot (ed.), Kenya in the Nineteenth Century (Hadith, 8), 83-151.

G. Dahl & A. Hjort, Having Herds

L. Cassanelli, The Shaping of Somali Society

- 9/23 The Luo Migrations and Rise of States in the Interlacustrine Region  
*How do different historians account for the processes of migration and change among the Luo? What are some of the lessons of the Luo migration for state formation among the 'Great States' of the Lake region?*

P. Curtin, et. al., African History (2nd ed.), 115-51. (reserve: DT20 A619 1995).

*recommended:*

D. Cohen & A. Odiambo, Siaya, 1-42.

A. Southall, Alur Society

C. Wrigley, Kingship and State (Buganda)

B. Ray, Myth, Ritual and Kingship in Buganda

J. Beattie, The Nyoro State

S. Karugire, A History of the Kingdom of Nkore

I. Katoke, The Karagwe Kingdom

D. Newbury, Kings and Clans

- 9/28 Ethiopia and the Rise of the King of Kings  
 Bahru Zewde, A History of Modern Ethiopia, 1-80.

*recommended:*

D. Levine, Greater Ethiopia

### The Coast and Expansion of Trade in the 19th c

- 9/30 Fishing, Trade and the Development of Swahili Society  
*How and why did Swahili society develop so differently from its mainland neighbors?*  
 D. Nurse & T. Spear, The Swahili, 68-98.

*recommended:*

- M. Horton, Shanga  
 J. Middleton, The World of the Swahili  
 R. Pouwels, Horn and Crescent  
 M. Ylvisaker, Lamu in the Nineteenth Century  
 C. Kusimba, The Rise and Fall of Swahili States

- 10/5 Rise of the Zanzibar Commercial Empire  
*How was Zanzibar able to expand in the 19th c? What was the nature of its control over the coast? And why did the abolition of the slave trade lead to an increase in domestic slavery in East Africa?*  
 P. Curtin, et. al., African History (2nd ed.), 352-76 (reserve: DT20 A619 1995).

*recommended:*

- A. Sheriff, Slaves, Spices and Ivory in Zanzibar  
 F. Berg, 'Mombasa under the Busaidi Sultanate,' PhD, Wisconsin  
 F. Cooper, Plantation Slavery on the East Coast of Africa  
 J. Glassman, Feasts and Riot

- 10/7 Kenya: Trade and the Rise of 'Big Men' in the 19th c  
*How and why did trade affect politics in Kenya? How much did 'Big Men' really transform local politics?*  
 T. Spear, Kenya's Past, 113-146.

*recommended:*

- A. Frontera, Persistence and Change, Chaps 2, 4, 5, 9.  
 G. Muriuki, A History of the Kikuyu  
 B. Ogot (ed.), Kenya before 1900, arts. by Muriuki, Jackson, & Spear  
 B. Ogot (ed.), Kenya in the Nineteenth Century (Hadith, 8)  
 T. Spear, The Kaya Complex (Mijikenda)

- 10/12 Tanzania: Trade, Political Violence, and the Loss of Environmental Control  
*If trade led to political disaggregation in Kenya, how and why did it seem to have the opposite effect in Tanzania?*  
 J. Iliffe, Modern History of Tanganyika, 40-87.  
 S. Feierman, The Shambaa Kingdom, 120-204 (reserve: DT443 F44 1967)

*recommended:*

- J. Koponen, People and Production in Late Precolonial Tanzania, Chaps 3-4  
 A. Roberts (ed.), Tanzania before 1900  
 E. Alpers, Ivory and Slaves in East Africa  
 A. Roberts, 'Nyamwezi Trade' in Gray & Birmingham, Precolonial African Trade  
 A. Shorter, Chiefship in Western Tanzania  
 G. Hartwig, The Art of Survival  
 I. Kimambo, Penetration and Protest in Tanzania  
 J. Giblin, The Politics of Environmental Control in Northeastern Tanzania  
 D. Johnson & D. Anderson (eds.), The Ecology of Survival

### Paradoxes of Colonial Conquest and Rule

- 10/14 Establishment of Settler Colonialism in Kenya (video: 'White Man's Country')  
*How did Kikuyu, Meinertzhagen, and the settlers each view colonial conquest?*  
 G. Muriuki, A History of the Kikuyu, 136-166 (cp).  
 R. Meinertzhagen, Kenya Diary: 1902-1906, select pages (cp).

**Exam:** Undergraduate mid-term take-home handed out in class. Due at the beginning of class 10/19.

*recommended:*

- B. Berman & J. Lonsdale, Unhappy Valley, Book I, esp Chaps 1-2, 4-5.  
 E. Brett, Colonialism and Underdevelopment in East Africa  
 M. Sorrenson, Origins of European Settlement in Kenya  
 C. Brantley, The Giriama and Colonial Resistance in Kenya  
 A. Matson, Nandi Resistance to British Rule

- 10/19 Resistance and Consent in Tanzania  
*How and why did Tanzanians resist German conquest in the ways that they did? How 'traditional' was British Indirect Rule?*  
 J. Iliffe, Modern History of Tanganyika, 116-34, 168-202, 261-72, 318-41.

**Exam:** Mid-term due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized.

*recommended:*

- E. Brett, Colonialism and Underdevelopment in East Africa  
 J. Iliffe, Tanganyika under German Rule  
 M. Kaniki (ed.), Tanzania under Colonial Rule  
 D. McCarthy, Colonial Bureaucracy & Creating Underdevelopment  
 G. Gwassa & J. Iliffe (eds.), Records of the Maji Maji Rising  
 O. Mapunda & G. Mpangara, The Maji Maji War in Ungoni

- 10/21 The 'Christian Revolution' in Buganda  
*Was conversion to Christianity and the establishment of colonial rule in Buganda revolutionary, conservative, or reactionary?*  
 D. Low, Religion and Society in Buganda (cp).  
 J. Brierley & T. Spear, 'Mutesa, the Missionaries and Christian Conversion in Buganda,' IJAHS, 21(1988), 601-618 (cp).

*recommended:*

- J. Rowe, 'Revolution in Buganda,' Ph.D., Wisconsin  
 M. Southwold, Bureaucracy and Chiefship in Buganda  
 J. Taylor, The Growth of the Church in Buganda  
 M. Twaddle, Semei Kakunguru and the Creation of Uganda  
 C. Wrigley, 'The Christian Revolution in Buganda,' CSSH, 2(1959), 33-49  
 D. Low & R. Pratt, Buganda and British Overrule

### Women & the Transformation of Agricultural Production

#### 10/26 Migrant Labor and Women

*How did migrant labor affect domestic agricultural production? the role of women?*

J. Iliffe, Modern History of Tanganyika, 151-167, 301-317, 381-404.

J. Hay, 'Luo Women & Economic Change during the Colonial Period' in Hafkin & Bay, Women in Africa, 87-109 (cp).

*recommended:*

F. Cooper, On the African Waterfront

W. Elkan, Migrants and Proletarians

R. Grillo, African Railwaymen

I. Shivji, Law, State and the Working Class in Tanzania

S. Stichter, Migrant Labor in Kenya

M. Hay, 'Economic Change in Luoland,' PhD, Wisconsin

M. Hay & S. Stichter (eds.), African Women South of the Sahara,

L. White, The Comforts of Home

#### 10/28 Women, Cash Crops and Peasant Society

*What was the impact of cash cropping on domestic production? on women?*

J. Iliffe, Modern History of Tanganyika, 273-301.

J. Davison, Voices from Mutira, 33-56 (cp).

*recommended:*

S. Feierman, Peasant Intellectuals, Chaps 6-7

I. Kimambo, Penetration and Protest in Tanzania, Chaps 4-6

G. Kitching, Class and Economic Change in Kenya

D. Parkin, Palms, Wine, and Witnesses

J. Brain, 'Less than Second Class' in Hafkin & Bay, Women in Africa, 265-282.

C. Clark, 'Land, Food, Women and Power in 19th c Kikuyu,' Africa, 50(1980), 357-370.

### Christianity and the Making of Colonial Society

#### 11/2 Christian Africa or African Christianity?

*What role did the Christian missions play in colonialism? How did the missionaries see that role? How did African Christians view it?*

J. Iliffe, History of Modern Tanganyika, 203-239.

*recommended:*

R. Strayer, The Making of Mission Communities in East Africa

T. Beidelman, Colonial Evangelism

T. Spear & I. Kimambo, East African Expressions of Christianity

H. Hanson & M. Twaddle, Religion and Politics in East Africa

#### 11/4 Independent Christian Churches in Kikuyu

*Why did Africans convert to Christianity and how did they interpret it?*

D. Sandgren, Christianity and the Kikuyu, 31-98 (99-160 recommended) (reserve: BR1443 K4 S26 1989).

*recommended:*

J. Kenyatta, Facing Mount Kenya

J. Murray, 'The Kikuyu Female Circumcision Controversy,' PhD, UCLA

F. Githieya, The Freedom of the Spirit

C. Hohler-Fatton, Women of Fire and Spirit

- A. Rasumssen, Modern African Spirituality  
 B. Ogot & F. Welbourn, A Place to Feel at Home  
 W. Sangree, Age, Prayer, and Politics in Tiriki  
 J. Taylor, The Growth of the Church in Buganda  
 F. Welbourn, East African Rebels

### 'The Second Colonial Occupation'

#### 11/9 Tanzania

*During the period between the wars and immediately after, just when the British began taking their colonial mission seriously by expanding schools, missions, health services, and agricultural development, colonialism experienced its greatest crises. Why?*

J. Iliffe, Modern History of Tanganyika, 342-380 (436-484 recommended).

**Exam:** Undergraduate mid-term handed out in class. Due before class 11/16

*recommended:*

- R. Austin, Northwest Tanzania under Colonial Rule  
 C. Ingle, From Village to State in Tanzania  
 G. Maquire, Towards Uhuru in Tanzania  
 R. Pratt, The Critical Phase in Tanzania  
 J. Samoff, Tanzania

11/11 no class: write mid-term exams.

#### 11/16 Kenya

B. Ogot & W. Ochieng' (eds.), Decolonization and Independence in Kenya, 7-79.

**Exam:** Mid-term due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized.

*recommended:*

- B. Berman & L. Lonsdale, Unhappy Valley, Book II, Chapt 10.  
 B. Berman, Control and Crisis in Colonial Kenya  
 R. Tignor, The Colonial Transformation of Kenya  
 D. Troup, Economic and Social Origins of Mau Mau

### Rise of Mass Nationalism

#### 11/18 Origins of Mau Mau (video: 'Mau Mau')

*Who joined the 'Mau Mau' revolt? Why?*

J. Spencer, "KAU and 'Mau Mau'," KHR, 5(1977), 201-224 (cp).

T. Kanogo, 'Rift Valley Squatters and Mau Mau,' KHR, 5(1977), 243-252 (cp).

D. Ng'ang'a, 'Mau Mau, Loyalists, and Politics in Murang'a,' KHR, 5(1977), 365-384 (cp).

*recommended:*

- B. Berman & J. Lonsdale, Unhappy Valley, Book II, Chapt 11-12.  
 G. Kershaw, Mau Mau from Below  
 R. Buijtenhuis, Essays on Mau Mau  
 T. Kanogo, Squatters and the Roots of Mau Mau  
 W. Maloba, Mau Mau and Kenya

- 11/23 The War in the Forest  
*What were people fighting for?*  
 D. Barnett & K. Njama, Mau Mau from Within, 23-72 (cp).  
 B. Ogot, 'Politics, Culture, and Music in Central Kenya,' KHR, 5(1977), 275-286 (cp).

*recommended: see Bibliography*

11/25 Thanksgiving

- 11/30 Mau Mau and Nationalism in Kenya (video: 'Kenyatta')  
*What were the links, if any, between Mau Mau and the development of the nationalist movement in Kenya. And why do you think Kenyans of all political persuasions continue to debate furiously over the meaning of Mau Mau today?*  
 B. Ogot & W. Ochieng' (eds.), Decolonization and Independence in Kenya, 7-79.

*recommended: see Bibliography*

- 12/2 Nationalism in Tanganyika, Uganda, and Zanzibar  
*Why did nationalism take different forms in different countries?*  
 J. Iliffe, Modern History of Tanganyika, 405-435, 485-576. (That is a lot, I know, but skim to get the main points of Iliffe's argument.)

*recommended: see Bibliography for individual countries*

- 12/7 Autocracy and Empire in Ethiopia  
*How was Haile Selassie able to rule for so long and why did his regime fall?*  
 Bahru Zewde, A History of Modern Ethiopia, 81-149, 178-231.

*recommended:*

- C. Clapham, Haile Selassie's Government  
 D. Levine, Wax and Gold  
 H. Marcus, Haile Selassie I  
 J. McCann, From Poverty to Famine in Northeast Ethiopia

### 'African Socialism'

- 12/9 'African Socialism' in Kenya  
*What does 'African Socialism' mean in Kenya?*  
 B. Ogot & W. Ochieng' (eds.), Decolonization and Independence in Kenya, 83-147, 187-261.

*recommended:*

- C. Leys, Underdevelopment in Kenya  
 C. Leo, Land and Class in Kenya, esp Chapters 4-8.  
 D. Gordon, Decolonization and the State in Kenya  
 R. Kaplinsky, Readings on the Multinational Corporation in Kenya  
 S. Langdon, 'The State of Capitalism in Kenya,' Review of African Political Economy, 8.  
 M. Sorrenson, Land Reform in Kikuyu Country  
 G. Wasserman, The Politics of Decolonization in Kenya



12/14 Ujamaa in Tanzania

*Assess the validity of Nyerere's claim that ujamaa was the basis of traditional African society in Tanzania.*

J. Nyerere, Freedom and Socialism, 231-250, 337-366. (cp)

*recommended: see Bibliography*

**Final exam:** handed out in class.

12/23 **Final exam:** due in my office (5118 Humanities) at 12:00 noon, Thurs, Dec 23rd.

Abbreviations

<u>IJAHS</u>	<u>International Journal of African Historical Studies</u>
<u>JAH</u>	<u>Journal of African History</u>
<u>KHR</u>	<u>Kenya Historical Review</u>