

University of Wisconsin  
Department of History  
Fall 1994-95

History 444  
Tues & Thurs, 2:30-3:45  
1217 Humanities  
Office Hours: 4-5 Tues & Thurs

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### 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 complex 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: (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). Honors and 4-credit students will also write a term paper on one of the topics of the course. Grades for 3-credit students will be based on reading and class participation (25%), mid-term exams (25% each), and final exam (25%). Grades for 4-credit/honor students will be based on 20% for each of these, plus 20% for the paper.

Graduates: (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 at the University Bookstore, in a Course Packet (cp) available from the Humanities Copy Center (Room 1650), or on reserve in the Helen C. White Library. (A copy of the Course Packet is also on Reserve.) Recommended readings are in the stacks of Memorial and White libraries. The following books are also available at University Bookstore:

J. Iliffe, A Modern History of Tanganyika  
R. Kapuscinski, The Emperor  
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Matigari  
D. Nurse & T. Spear, The Swahili  
T. Spear, Kenya's Past

### Early History and Historiography

- 9/1 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

- 9/6 Societies and Economies  
J. Iliffe, Modern History of Tanganyika, 1-39.

*recommended*

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

- 9/8 From Hunters to Farmers & Iron Workers  
*What are some of the main lessons of the archaeological record in East Africa?  
How does archaeology differ from history?*  
T. Spear, Kenya's Past, xii-xxiv, 1-21.

Map Quiz: due in class.

*recommended:*

D. Phillipson, The Later Prehistory of Eastern and Southern Africa & African Archaeology  
C. Ehret & M. Posnansky (eds.), The Archaeological and Linguistic Reconstruction of African History, chapt by Ambrose.  
Azania, 24(1989), special issue on African agriculture.  
P. Schmidt, Historical Archaeology  
J. Sutton, The Archaeology of the Western Highlands of Kenya  
periodic reviews of radio carbon dates in JAH

- 9/13 Language and Peoples  
*'Languages, like people, have ancestors.' What does this mean?*  
T. Spear, Kenya's Past, 22-45.  
D. Nurse & T. Spear, The Swahili, 1-67.

*recommended:*

C. Ehret & M. Posnansky (eds.), The Archaeological and Linguistic Reconstruction of African History, chapt by Nurse  
C. Ehret, Ethiopians and East Africans & Southern Nilotic History  
D. Nurse, Classification of the Chaga Dialects  
D. Nurse & T. Hinnebusch, Swahili and Sabaki  
E. Polomé (ed.), Language in Tanzania, art. by Nurse & Philippon  
D. Schoenbrun, 'Early History in E Africa's Great Lakes Region,' PhD, UCLA  
J. Vansina, Paths in the Rainforest, 3-33



- 9/15 Myths of Origin (film: '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).

*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)

- 9/20 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  
 Cf. analyses of historical process in later chapters of any of the books listed under 9/15 with their interpretations of origin traditions: are they congruent?  
 C. Ambler, Kenyan Communities in the Age of Imperialism  
 A. Frontera, Persistence and Change

### States and State Formation

- 9/22 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,' African Economic History, 2(1976), 1-11 (cp).  
 T. Spear, 'Introduction' in Spear & Waller (eds.), Being Maasai, 1-18 (cp).

*recommended:*

- S. Ambrose, 'The Introduction of Pastoral Adaptations to the Highlands of East Africa,' in J. Clark & S. Brandt (eds.), From Hunters to Farmers, 212-239.  
 J. Lamphear, "The Persistence of Hunting and Gathering in a 'Pastoral World'," SUGIA, 7/2(1986), 227-265.  
 P. Robertshaw & D. Collett, 'A New Framework for the Study of Early Pastoral Communities in East Africa,' JAH, 24(1983), 289-302.  
 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  
 C. Cassanelli, The Shaping of Somali Society

- 9/27 Farmers, Herders, and the Luo Migrations  
*How do different historians account for the processes of migration and change among the Luo?*  
 B. Ogot, A History of the Southern Luo, 31-62 (cp).  
 S. Feierman, 'Economy, Society, & Language in Early East Africa,' in P. Curtin, et. al., African History, 130-139. (reserve: DT20 A619)
- recommended:*  
 D. Cohen & A. Odiambo, Siaya, 1-42.  
 J. Crazzolara, The Lwoo  
 R. Herring, D. Cohen & B. Ogot, 'The Construction of Dominance' in A. Salim (ed.), State Formation in Eastern Africa.  
 B. Ogot 'The Role of Agriculturalists and Pastoralists' in T. Ranger (ed.), Emerging Themes in African History  
 A. Southall, Alur Society
- 9/29 States in the Interlacustrine Region  
*What are some of the lessons of the Luo migration for state formation among the 'Great States' of the Lake region?*  
 S. Feierman, 'Political Culture and Political Economy in Early East Africa,' in P. Curtin, et. al., African History, 147-171. (reserve: DT20 A619) .  
 I. Berger, 'Dieties Dynasties and Oral Tradition' in Miller (ed.), The African Past Speaks, 61-81 (cp).

Exam: Undergraduate mid-term take-home handed out in class. Due at the beginning of class 10/4.

*recommended: see Bibliography*

- 10/4 Ethiopia and the Rise of the King of kings  
 Bahru Zewde, A History of Modern Ethiopia, 1-80. (reserve: DT386 B27 1991)

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

*recommended: see Bibliography*

D. Levine, Greater Ethiopia

### **The Coast and Expansion of Trade**

- 10/6 Fishing, Trade and the Development of Swahili Society  
*Why did Swahili society develop so differently from its mainland neighbors?*  
 D. Nurse & T. Spear, The Swahili, 68-98.

*recommended:*

G. Freeman-Grenville, The East African Coast (documents)  
 W. Mackay, 'Precolonial History of the Southern Kenya Coast,' PhD, Boston  
 J. Middleton, The World of the Swahili  
 R. Pouwels, Horn and Crescent  
 M. Ylvisaker, Lamu in the Nineteenth Century  
 A. el Zein, The Sacred Meadows  
 N. Chittick, Kilwa and Manda  
 P. Garlake, The Early Islamic Architecture of the East African Coast



- 10/11 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?*

S. Feierman, 'A Century of Ironies in East Africa' in P. Curtin, et. al., African History, 391-417. (reserve: DT20 A619)

*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 & Slaves to Squatters  
 J. Glassman, 'Social Rebellion & Swahili Culture,' PhD, Wisconsin  
 W. Whiteley, The Life of Tippu Tip

- 10/13 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)

- 10/18 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, Political History of Pare & Penetration and Protest in Tanzania  
 J. Giblin, The Politics of Environmental Control in Northeastern Tanzania  
 J. Ford, The Role of Trypanosomiasis in African Ecology  
 D. Johnson & D. Anderson (eds.), The Ecology of Survival  
 H. Kjekshus, Ecology Control and Economic Development in East African History

### **Paradoxes of Colonial Conquest and Rule**

- 10/20 Establishment of Settler Colonialism in Kenya (film: '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, 3, 9-11, 13-14, 39-41, 49-53, 59-60, 152-3, 217-9 (cp).

*recommended:*

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

10/25 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.

*recommended:*

- E. Brett, Colonialism and Underdevelopment in East Africa  
 J. Iliffe, Tanganyika under German Rule  
 M. Kaniki (ed.), Tanzania under Colonial Rule  
 I. Kimambo & A. Temu (eds.), History of Tanzania  
 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

10/27 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:* (see Bibliography)

### **Women & the Transformation of Agricultural Production**

11/1 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)  
 S. Levine, Mothers and Wives, 161-215. (cp)

*recommended:*

- F. Cooper, On the African Waterfront  
 W. Elkan, Migrants and Proletarians  
 R. Grillo, African Railwaymen  
 W. Rodney, et al, Migrant Labour in Tanzania during the Colonial Period  
 R. Sandbrook, Proletarians and African Capitalism  
 I. Shivji, Law, State and the Working Class in Tanzania  
 S. Stichter, Migrant Labor in Kenya  
 P. Gulliver, Labour Migration in a Rural Economy  
 M. Hay, 'Economic Change in Luoland,' PhD, Wisconsin  
 M. Hay & S. Stichter (eds.), African Women South of the Sahara,  
 J. Vincent, Teso in Transformation  
 L. White, The Comforts of Home



- 11/3 Women and Cash Crops  
*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.

*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.  
 G. Kitching, Class and Economic Change in Kenya, Chaps 8-10  
 O. Mascarenhas & M. Mbilinyi, Women in Tanzania  
 C. Presley, Kikuyu Women, the Mau Mau Rebellion and Social Change in Kenya  
 M-L. Swantz, Women in Development

**Christianity and the Making of Colonial Society**

- 11/8 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.  
 R. Horton, 'African Conversion,' Africa, 41(1971), 101-108. (cp)

*recommended:*

- R. Strayer, The Making of Mission Communities in East Africa  
 T. Beidelman, Colonial Evangelism

- 11/10 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  
 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'**

- 11/15 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 11/17.

*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

11/17 Kenya

No required reading.

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

11/22 Autocracy and Empire in Ethiopia*How was Haile Selassie able to rule for so long and why did his regime fall?*

- R. Kapuscinski, The Emperor.

*recommended:*

- Bahru Zewed, A Modern History of Ethiopia, 81-231.  
 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

11/24 Thanksgiving

**Rise of Mass Nationalism**11/29 Origins of Mau Mau (film: '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: see also Bibliography*

- B. Berman & J. Lonsdale, Unhappy Valley, Book II, Chaps 11-12.  
 R. Buijtenhuis, Essays on Mau Mau  
 F. Furedi, The Mau Mau War in Perspective  
 T. Kanogo, Squatters and the Roots of Mau Mau  
 W. Maloba, Mau Mau and Kenya

12/1 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*



- 12/6 The Debate over Mau Mau and Nationalism in Kenya (film: '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?*  
 Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Matigari. (compare with Ng'ang'a & Ogot above)

*recommended: see Bibliography*

- 12/8 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*

### 'African Socialism'

- 12/13 'African Socialism' in Kenya  
*What does 'African Socialism' mean in Kenya?*  
 C. Leys, Underdevelopment in Kenya, 63-117. (reserve: HC517 K4 L49 1975)

*recommended:*

- 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

- 12/15 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)

Final exam: handed out in class. Due in my office at 4:00, Thurs, Dec 22nd.

*recommended: see Bibliography*

- 12/22 Final Exam due in my office at 4:00.

### 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>
<u>CSSH</u>	<u>Comparative Studies in Society and History</u>
<u>SUGIA</u>	<u>Sprache und Geschichte in Afrika</u>