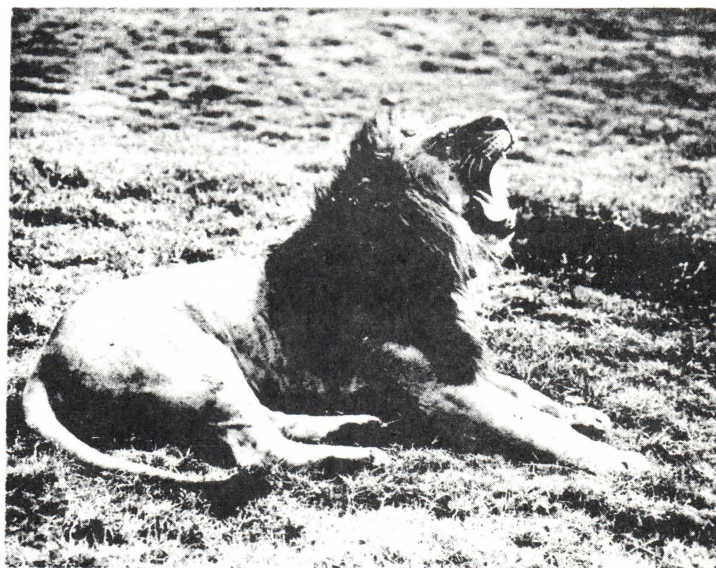


1961

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KENYA

A Background Paper



By

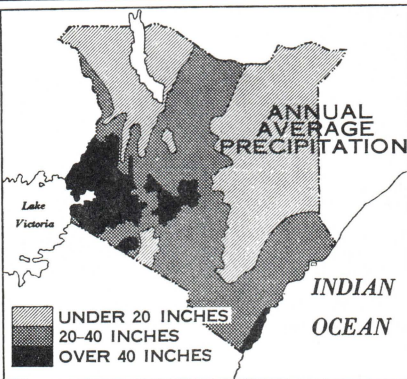
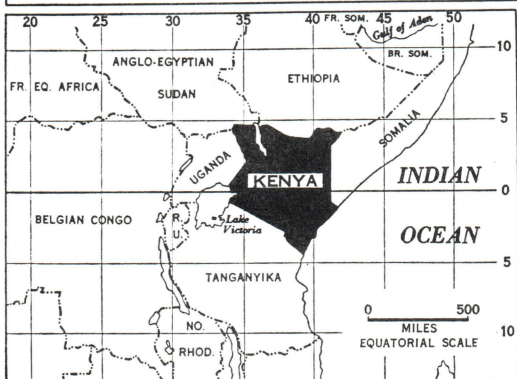
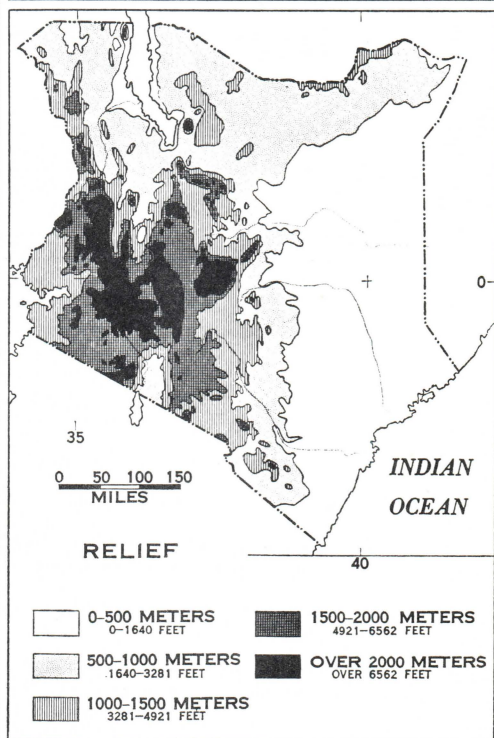
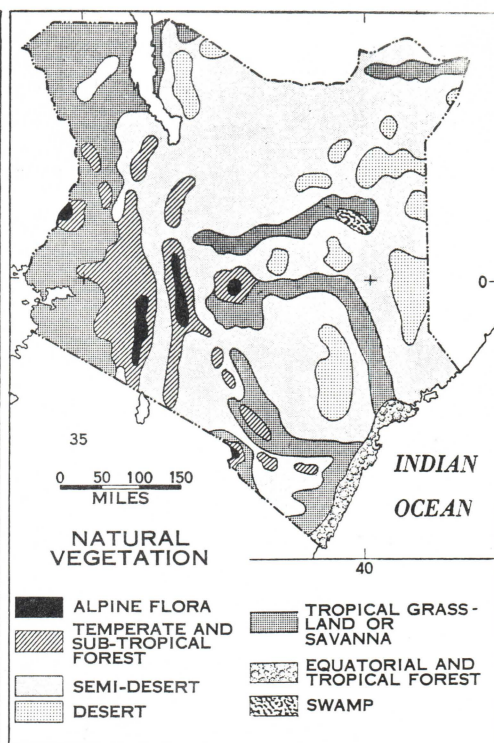
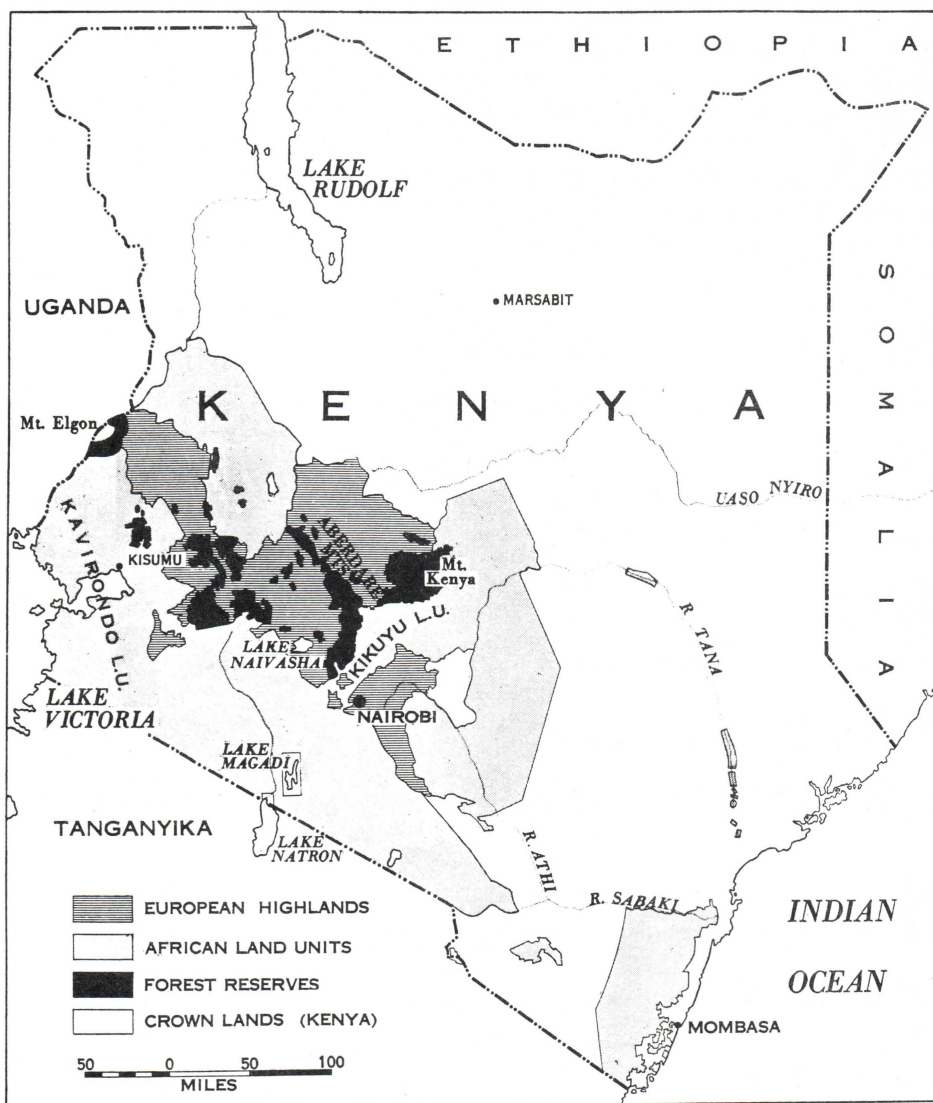
Leonard S. Kenworthy

WORLD AFFAIRS MATERIALS

Brooklyn College

Brooklyn 10, N. Y.

1961



Maps drawn by Vincent Kotschar

Used with the permission of the
American Geographical Society
and taken from its special
issue on Kenya

Editor's Note. The material in this Background Paper was collected in Kenya in the winter of 1958-1959 and the summer of 1961 as the author travelled into nearly every part of Kenya. It has been supplemented by wide reading. Much of it will appear in a book on Profile of Kenya, to appear in 1962. Written for boys and girls from Grades 6 to 9, it will include about 30 pages of black and white illustrations and 60 pages of text. It will be published by Doubleday and Company. The editor acknowledges gratefully the help of Mr. Alvin Epstein in the early stages of this document.

Kenya As the World In Miniature

If you want to see the world on a small scale, one of the best places to go is Kenya.

Packed within its borders are representatives of all the races of mankind, most of the world's religions, all possible forms of landscape, all stages of economic and social development, and almost all of the world's problems--in microcosm.

1. Three major races of mankind.

Africans, Asians, Europeans representing Negroid, Caucasoid, and Mongolian races.

2. Christians, Moslems, Hindus, Sikhs, and animists.

3. Various stages of economic and social development from the nomadic tribes in the Northern Province to the sophisticated city dwellers of Nairobi and Mombasa.

People living in mud and cow dung houses into which you have to crawl to city dwellers in small skyscrapers in Nairobi.

4. Many forms of landscape and geography.

Deserts

Plateau areas--a large part of Kenya

Mountains---Mt. Kenya and Mt. Elgon and across the border in Tanganyika---Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Rivers

Lowlands along the coast

The Rift Valley and craters

5. People of Various color.

Whites, blacks and various shades of brown, yellow

6. Many of the problems of the world today.

Water

Land reform

Tribalism

Internal security

Unemployment

Lack of capital for industrialization

Colonialism and imperialism

Cold War on a small scale

Lack of education and lack of proper type of education

Minority groups who desire to belong to neighboring nations

Location

Astride the Equator

Borders on the Indian Ocean and the Somali Republic on the east.

Ethiopia and the Sudan on the north.

Uganda on the west.

Tanganyika on the south.

Size.

225,000 square miles.

Larger than France.

Somewhat smaller than Texas.

Climate.

Fairly hot and humid along the Coast-Mombasa and vicinity.

Wonderful climate in the Highlands.

Long rains--April to June.

Short rains--October to December.

60% of Kenya (in the north and northeast) has small rainfall--about 20 inches a year. Only good for low-grade pasture land.

Southwest 40 inches of rainfall a year.

Mountain areas 70 inches of rainfall a year.

Two summers and two springs. Really no winter.

Mountains.

Aberdare mountains.

Mt. Kenya 17,040 feet. Snow on top.

Mt. Elgon.

Lakes and Rivers.

No large rivers. Tana the most important.

Several lakes, the most important being Lake Victoria in the southwest.

Second greatest expanse of fresh water in world.

Most of Kenya open savannah--grasslands; some desert in north.

Very good soil in a few places, including the "White Highlands" making possible two crops a year.

The Great Rift Valley is part of a giant gash in the earth's surface which extends four thousand miles from Jordan to Mozambique.

30-40 miles in width in Kenya. 2000 to 3000 feet below the surface of the surrounding country. Extinct volcanoes on floor of this valley.

Some craters. Menengau Crater reputed to be the second largest crater in the world.

The People of Kenya

Population figures are not too accurate, but the estimates for 1960 are as follows:

Africans	6,200,000
Asians	170,000
Europeans	60,000
Arabs	40,000
Others	5,000
	<hr/>
	6,475,000

Europeans. The title given to all whites, no matter where they were born. Came here originally as missionaries and as seekers of fortune, especially after the building of the railroad from Mombasa towards Kampala in Uganda around 1900.

More recently, after World Wars I and II many retired officers in the British army have come to Kenya to live.

Largely located in the cities and in the "White Highlands" as owners of large farms, usually scientifically managed.

Variety of points of view among them (See Susan Wood's Kenya: Tensions of Progress for an elaboration of this theme). Most liberal, outspoken political leader, Sir Ernest Vasey (now Minister of Finance in Tanganyika). Many have decided reluctantly within the last 2-3 years that Kenya will gain its independence soon and that they must try to make the best of a bad situation. A sizeable group of conservatives or reactionaries still exist who feel that the Africans "just came down out of the trees" and cannot really learn much, at least for another 50 to 100 years. A few liberals interested in a multi-racial society.

Credit must be given, however, to the fortitude of many of the original settlers who came to this part of the world and hewed out a living under very adverse conditions, learning to raise livestock that could live here and to plant the crops that would grow in this climate and soil.

The tragedy is the smugness and sense of superiority of some Europeans and their failure to educate the Africans (see education).

The comparative easy life of settlers now makes them reluctant to leave, plus the fact that many of them have large investments in Kenya. Where can they go now where they will have the wonderful climate of Kenya, the help of many servants, and as much income.

The greatest fears of many settlers are (1) integrated schools, (2) high taxes, (3) violence against them, (4) confiscation of their land, and (5) the spread of diseases to people and animals if Africans live in or near the White Highlands.

Asians. Came originally to Kenya to work on the railroad. Have stayed on largely as storekeepers (called dukas), as clerks in postoffices, banks, and businesses; and as middle class workers. Some have made fortunes; 75% of new buildings in Nairobi built with Asian money.

Live largely in the cities and small towns. Very few landowners. Able to succeed because of hard work and willingness to live cheaper than Europeans, education, shrewdness in business, and language facility.

Now caught between European on top and the rising Africans. Many are fearful of the future. Most of them from India; some from Pakistan.

Arabs. Largely along the coast and in the larger cities such as Mombasa and Nairobi.

The Africans of Kenya

There is unfortunately no single term which can be used to designate the largest group in Kenya. They can be described as members of various tribes but this does not give them any unity. They can be termed as "natives" but that term has unfortunate connotations. So we are using the term "Africans" here, realizing that the Europeans, Asians, Arabs, and others could also be classified under that terminology.

By racial-linguistic division, the Africans fall into four groups:

1. The Bantus. Shorter and stockier than the others. Most numerous, such as the Kikuyu, the Meru, the Wakamba, Baluhya, and others.
2. The Nilotics. Came from the Sudan by way of the Nile valley. Settled around Lake Victoria and in the Myanza region. The large Luo group is composed of Nilotics.
3. Hamites. Largely the peoples in the northern sector of Kenya, such as the Somalis, Rendilles, and others.
4. Nilo-Hamites. Mostly Hamitic. Nomadic and pastoral people for the most part. Masai, Nandi, Kipsigis and Suk tribal people belong to this group.

By tribal groups, the Africans can be classified into a number of groupings. Some of these are actually tribes; some "nations" composed of various tribes--such as the Baluyha or Abaluhya with about 16 divisions within the "nation".

Kikuyu	1,300,000
Luo	950,000
Baluhya	820,000
Kamba	770,000
Meru	400,000
Nyika	370,000
Kisii	320,000
Embu	250,000
Kipsigis	200,000
Nandi	150,000

The remainder of the population is divided into a large number of smaller tribes.

The Kikuyu constitute about 20% of the African population. They live largely around the slopes of Mt. Kenya and east to Nairobi. They are considered by many people the most intelligent or best educated and the most industrious and aggressive. They fought over a long period with the Masai. They have been farmers, living on small plots of ground rather than in villages until the forced villagization at the time the Mau Mau revolt. They are individualistic yet have cohesion as a group. Among their best known leaders are Kenyatta and Gichuru.

The Luo live around Lake Victoria and are the second largest tribe, constituting about 15% of the African population. In the early days they were skilled fighters, using a tight-knit phalanx form with large shields and long spears. They are also farmers but many of them today are working on the farms of Europeans and in the cities. Mboya and Odinga are both Luos.

The Baluyha constitute the third largest group or about 13% of the African population. They live on farms in the Nyanza territory in western Kenya.

Homes

The variety of types of houses in Kenya is fantastic, as wide as anywhere in the world.

A few of the nomadic tribes carry the skeletons of their houses with them as they move from place to place, on the backs of camels or cattle. They take the poles with which they will make their new homes and the skins which they will throw over them. This is done exclusively in the Northern Province of Kenya.

Another type of house is the very low, mud huts of the Masai. As they move from place to place, staying a year or two, they construct houses which are only three or four feet high of mud and wattle. These buildings are so low that the people have to crawl in them. Inside there are very few belongings except for the mats of grass or the skins on which people sleep.

Most of the tribal people build more permanent homes. The Kikuyu, for example, build very sturdy huts for they expect them to last a long time. Often these are built in a day, with the help of members of the family and friends. Materials are collected for the day of the "house raising", with the men collecting the wood and the women the grass which will be woven into roofs. Sugar cane juice or honey beer is sprinkled on the ground before the hut is made. Then the post holes are dug for the outer walls by the men. Then the women take over and complete the work, weaving the grasses into a roof and making mud walls. Fire is brought from the former house and a feast ensues, like "a house warming". Most of these huts will house the entire family, with the husband on one side and the women and younger children on the other. The animals and a store-room may also be partitioned off. But in some instances a "home" consists of a cluster of small huts with one for the husband, one for the wife and younger children, and separate huts for the older boys and another for the older girls. Occasionally there is also a separate hut for the kitchen. The floors of these huts or houses are usually packed mud. Such houses are usually cool and there are no drafts because there are no windows. They are usually round shaped. A group of them on the hillside will look at a distance like a lot of birds' nests.

More and more people are now substituting corrugated iron roofs for the thatch roofs. They do not need to be repaired and are fire-proof--a distinct advantage.

As people become wealthier or more westernized in their ways of living, they tend to build square or oblong shaped houses rather than round huts, making them of brick in most instances, with many rooms as they can afford.

In the large cities there are an increasing number of housing projects for working people, built by the Kenya government, by City Councils, or by large firms. One of the largest of these is on the outskirts of Nairobi and includes 3000 houses.

The Europeans build houses very similar to the ones existing in Europe.

Food

Main dish of most of the people of Kenya is "posho".

In former days it was always made from millet. People in the north and in drier regions still use millet. Makes a brown-colored posho.

More maize (or corn) posho today.

Cooked by boiling millet or maize flour with a little water, stirring it and kneading it with a large wooden spoon as it swells and absorbs water.

Prepared by grinding millet or corn in a variety of ways.

By mortar and pestle. Or by a little hand-grinding mill. Or by taking to the local mill for grinding. Made into flour. This is done over a charcoal fire either in the regular hut or in a special hut which serves for the kitchens.

Sometimes the posho is made into a porridge. Often it is fried.

Sometimes made into cakes which can be carried all day.

Often rolled into balls and dipped into meat or vegetable gravy.

Eaten with the hands. There is a hand washing ceremony before and after meals, at the table.

Many people eat this two or three times a day.

More and more tea being drunk in Kenya today. Nomadic tribes with their cattle use milk.

Some fruit eaten. Bananas are inexpensive in most places and are used in many ways—eaten raw, cooked, fried, boiled.

Asians and many Africans in the coastal area use rice as a main dish.

Has replaced cassava and sweet potatoes which the Arabs used widely.

Curry with the rice. Often tea.

Pawpaws, like our melons, used as a fruit and also as meat tenderizer.

Clothes

The clothes of people in Kenya are as varied as other aspects of their lives.

More and more western-type clothes worn. Almost entirely in the towns and cities.

Men tend to adopt them more quickly than women.

Arab men wear white or colored gowns, with little embroidered skull caps.

Arab women wear a black cloth wrapped around the waist with a portion pulled over their heads and lower part of their face.

Asian women wear a sari, often beautifully decorated.

Asian men tend to wear western garb except on special occasions.

Some tribal people still retain their distinctive garb.

Men with blankets or loose-fitting garments and sandals or barefoot.

Women with a great deal of jewelry—necklaces and bracelets which they have made themselves, often of tiny colored beads.

Most African women today wear brightly colored cotton print dresses.

Usually barefoot and with little or no jewelry.

Cities and Towns

Nairobi. "Capital" of Kenya and the commercial center of all East Africa. City of approximately 250,000 persons (140,000 Africans, 85,000 Asians, and 25,000 Europeans). Parts of it very much like a modern metropolitan city anywhere, with tall, new buildings, traffic lights, wide streets--some of them lined with jacarunda trees with their purple blossoms.

Includes Parliament Buildings, the enlarged City Hall, the Crown Law Office, and other office buildings.

Divided into three sections-European, Asian, and African. Large housing projects erected in the African section in recent years.

Situated near the equator but also 5,500 feet high so it has a mild and very pleasant climate with a mean temperature of 67.3 Fahrenheit.

Five miles from the city is the National Park where animals roam freely and people are required to stay in their cars.

Very modern airport a few miles from the city, near the Game Park.

Mombasa. Second largest city of Kenya, with a population of around 150,000. Divided between 90,000 Africans, 26,000 Asians, 20,000 Arabs, 2,000 Goans (from Goa in Indian peninsula), and 5,000 others.

A very old town, dating back to early days of exploration from Europe. Arab dhows or sail boats still can be seen here. Used to load ivory, gold, and other spoils from East Africa. Old city has Arab influence in architecture, with wooden balconies and hand carved, wooden doors. Narrow, winding streets.

New section includes a very modern port, steel rolling and aluminum factories, and modern houses.

Tribal people from inland now coming to Mombasa to work in the port and in factories, including Luo and Kamba people particularly.

Nakuru. Third largest city in Kenya. In the center of the Great Rift Valley on the main highway from Mombasa to Nairobi to Kisumu--between Nairobi and Kisumu.

Population of around 25,000. Largely a trading center for the "White Highlands". Pharmacies, grocery stores, farm machinery stores, library.

Has a beautiful, modern railroad station done in yellow and black. More than 100% increase in freight traffic since World War II.

Pyrethrum factor and world's first pyrethrum research laboratory (for making of D.D.T. from daisy like flower grown in the Highlands). Flour mill, blanket factory, and other smaller establishments.

Kisumu. Fourth largest city of Kenya. Administrative center of the Nyanza Province. Altitude of 3,700 feet. Located on the shores of Lake Victoria and on the railroad from Mombasa to Kampala in Uganda. One-third of the population in the province of Nyanza. Called "the granary of Kenya". Name taken from Luo word meaning "place to go to fulfill one's needs."

Center of fishing industry from Lake Victoria. Transportation center. Cotton and sugar grown in large quantities nearby.

Largest single group in the city-Asians, with about 12,000 persons. Africans next largest, with about 11,000. Europeans about 1000.

Other Important Cities. Malindi, Eldoret, Kitale, Thika, Meru, Fort Hall, Naiyasha, Kericho, Uplands, Machokos, Nyeri, Lamu, Thomson's Falls, and Nanyuki.

Earning a Living in Kenya

It is estimated that the labor force of Kenya is about 450,000. This is almost equally divided between agriculture and industry, as follows:

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	46.4
Public Service	26.0
Manufacturing and Repairs	8.2
Domestic Service	4.5
Commerce	4.3
Building and Construction	3.0
Transportation and Communication	2.1
Mining and Quarrying	1.0
Other	4.5
	<hr/>
	100.0

A large part of the population, especially in the vast northern part of Kenya, live a simple nomadic life, depending largely upon their cattle.

The per capita income of the country is approximately \$65 per person per year. That means that a large percentage make far less than that sum.

There are glaring discrepancies in income. In 1957, for example, the Asians earned 678% more than the Africans in average earnings. And the Europeans earned 1800% more than the Africans.

Corrected for price changes, the per annum income in one recent year was:

European	\$1700
Asian	\$ 500
African	\$ 30

Because of the demand for African workers on the farms of the white settlers and in industry, many Africans are moving away from their homes. But they cannot afford to take their families with them. 63% of the lowest income workers left their families behind whereas only 15% of the upper income group among the Africans left their families in their original homes.

Men picking coffee make about \$10 per month. Women pickers make slightly less. A beginning school teacher (with 8 years of schooling plus 2 years of teacher education) makes \$375 a year. A house boy in the home of a European in the city makes about \$18 to \$20 a month.

The Kenya Federation of Labor is a small but powerful body, with approximately 60,000 members. It has been active in politics as well as in labor relations. Its general secretary is Tom Mboya, one of the leading political figures in Kenya (See Leaders section).

Agriculture

Kenya is primarily an agricultural country and will undoubtedly remain so. Three-fifths of the country is dry and unproductive. This area is largely in the north, where very few people live. It is inhabited by some nomadic tribes, living largely off of their cattle.

But there is some very good land on which two crops a year can be raised---if it is farmed scientifically. Much of this land is in the White Highlands, owned and farmed by Europeans. But there are other areas which can be developed as this one section has been.

Among the crops raised at the present time in Kenya are the following:

1. Coffee. Raised chiefly on European estates around Nairobi but increasingly planted by Africans. Around \$3,000,000 yield per year. Excellent coffee.
2. Sisal. Mainly grown by Europeans, around Thika, the Coast, the Rift Valley, and Nyanza Province. Used for making rope and twine.
3. Tea. Grown largely by Europeans in the Kericho area and processed there and in Myeri. Some tea is now being grown by Africans. This is one of the most promising crops as the world market is not yet glutted as it is with coffee.
4. Pyrethrum. A daisy like flower which is dried and made into powder and used for producing D.D.T. and other insecticides. Very profitable. Grown solely by Europeans until quite recently. Market still growing for this product.
5. Tobacco. Some grown and processed into cigarettes for local consumption. More could be grown.
6. Cotton. Grown in small quantities in the Lake Victoria region.
7. Wattle-bark. Grown chiefly by the Kikuyu on the Aberdare slopes and the lower sections of Mt. Kenya. Used for tanning leather.

In addition, there is maize (corn), millet, beans, tomatoes, bananas and pine-apples and other garden crops.

Among the many problems of farming in Kenya are the following:

1. Land fragmentation. The average farm of Africans is 3 to 4 acres, but this is often divided into several plots of ground, scattered over a wide area. The government has forced the Kikuyu to consolidate their land holdings and some voluntary consolidation is going on, but there is strong opposition to this.
2. Destruction of land. Over the centuries much land has been destroyed by cattle and goats although it was possible in the past to move to another spot when the soil had become exhausted. With an increasing population this is no longer possible.
3. Diseases and Pests. The tsetse fly or East Coast Fever and rinderpest are still great hazards to farmers.
4. Lack of water. Irrigation is needed in many parts of Kenya. Some progress has been made in this respect but not nearly enough.
5. Lack of scientific methods. Farmers need help in obtaining better seeds, in growing a variety of crops including some cash crops, with better tools and fertilizers, and with marketing.

Mining

A survey of the mineral potential of Kenya is still underway, but there is very little hope of finding many minerals as this is a "new" country geologically speaking.

There is natural soda, however, in Lake Magadi--the largest source of it in the world, with the soda crystalizing faster than it is mined. Soda found in saturated solution. Yields about \$3,000,000 a year. Exported largely to South Africa.

Some copper mined; also diatomite and graphite.

Secondary Industries

Because of the lack of minerals, Kenya must depend almost entirely upon the development of secondary industries for her industrialization.

This sector of the economy has grown rapidly in recent years and now includes a wide variety of plants, such as the following:

Two large cement factories. One of them 16 miles from Nairobi on the Athi River.

Food processing plants--largely to processing of pineapples, but cans have to be purchased abroad.

A small chocolate industry, with the cacao imported.

Deep freezing of fish, especially in the Lake Victoria area.

Production of cigarettes - Rex, Clipper and other local brands.

Oil refining--large, new plant in Mombasa.

Also tire plants, beer factories, manufacture of chemicals, bricks, pottery and glass.

Curious industry is the ivory market, open twice a year in Mombasa.

An important potential is the processing of agricultural products.

Water Power and Electricity

No oil, no coal, and very little water in Kenya.

Hydroelectric power is obtained from the Owen Falls Dam in Uganda and a little from Pangani Falls in Tanganyika.

There is very strict control of all water. This is a dry country and drying up. The population is increasing and they have planted towns instead of trees. Only the Tana river has water in it the year round.

The bulk of power is supplied by local oil-fired generators.

Atomic energy may help some day, but still too expensive.

Transportation and Communication

Most transportation in Kenya is still on foot, with the women almost always carrying the loads. In the case of the Kikuyu women, they wear a leather strap over their foreheads, attached to the loads on their backs.

There is also some transportation by donkeys in a few parts of Kenya.

Bicycles are increasingly popular as they can be purchased by middle-class persons. Used also by workers to get to and from work in the cities.

Railroads. The railroad is very important in Kenya, both historically and currently. Main line from Mombasa through Nairobi and on to Kisumu in the west and to Kampala in Uganda. There are several small branch lines, including an important one to Moshi in Tanganyika, connecting with their northern railroad.

Roads. About 25,000 miles of roads but very few of them are hard-surfaced. Main road from Mombasa to Nairobi to Kisumu being completed in 1961-1962 as a hard-surfaced road.

Lake and Ocean transportation. Regular steamship lines call at Mombasa on the Indian Ocean, a very good modern port. One can see their ships from the first and twentieth centuries--the old Arab dhows with their sails alongside modern steamers.

There is also modern transportation on Lake Victoria, with a new steamer launched in 1961.

Air transportation. Air transportation is also good, run by the East Africa Airlines, a subsidiary of the British Overseas Airlines Corporation. Over 30 small airports in Kenya and a very new, modern airport in Nairobi for international as well as local traffic. Also the military base outside Nairobi, using the old airport.

Bus transportation. There are many buses running locally in Kenya, usually in battered old cars. Double-decker buses in and around Nairobi to handle the large traffic in that metropolis.

Telephones, Telegraph and Radio. The telephones, telegraph and radio are owned by the government and run by the East Africa High Commission (as are the railroads). The Kenya Broadcasting Company performs a highly useful service in communication, with broadcasts in English, Swahili, and Hindustani. Television is being planned for the foreseeable future.

The Language Problem. Like many of the other new nations of the world, Kenya has no one national language. The nearest to it is Swahili, a Bantu-based language which has become the lingua franca of East Africa as the result of a need for a common trading language. English is used widely. The Asians use Hindustani and Gujarati among themselves. Many tribal languages are spoken.

Health

It is easy to underestimate or to ignore the importance of health. Yet in a sense everything depends upon it. If there is low vitality, people succumb easily to disease. If they are therefore ill, low production results. If there is low production, the revenue to individuals, families, and the government is limited and schools, highways and bridges, clinics and hospitals cannot be built or people have enough to obtain food, clothing and shelter.

It is sometimes said that Africans in general and Kenyans in particular are "competing with their parasites". They are pulled down by disease, running on half of their cylinders.

In Kenya today there is a high incidence of:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Malaria | In areas under 5000 feet in elevation. |
| 2. Worms | Tapeworm and hookworm, for example. |
| 3. Bilharzia | Especially in the Lake Victoria and Central region. |
| 4. Anemia | General lack of energy |
| 5. Veneral diseases | Not as much yaws, however, as in some parts of Africa. |
| 6. Leprosy | |
| 7. Tuberculosis | On the rise now. Estimated 130,000 "open cases in 1961." |

Malnutrition is not a disease but it must be considered basic.

Africa, including Kenya, has not yet been touched by the "Great Sanitary Revolution" which brought about widespread changes in Europe during the past century.

Some of the Things Which Are Being Done.

1. The development of a chain of small clinics throughout the nation.
150 of these have already been established and a target of 300 has been set.
2. The establishment or enlargement of hospital facilities 1000 bed
King George VI Hospital in Nairobi
New 272 bed hospital for Africans in Mombasa.
Creation of a new Infectious Diseases Hospital in Nairobi
New Aga Khan Platinum Jubilee Hospital opened in 1958 for Asians
3. Campaigns against diseases.
Active campaign against malaria.
Campaign with the help of the World Health Organization, Unicef, and the East Africa High Commission against tuberculosis.

Education

The literacy rate in Kenya is very difficult to determine. But it probably lies somewhere between 15 and 20 percent of the population.

Yet, there is a keen desire for education on the part of many people. With some it is a passion, a religion. It constitutes the door to a better tomorrow for them--or for their children.

There are five different systems of education in this small nation--for Africans, for Europeans, for Asians, for Arabs, and for Goans. This is due to the differences within the country in religion, in race, in national background, in language,---and in prejudices.

Education between the ages of 7 and 15 is compulsory for Europeans. It is mandatory for Asians in the cities. It is not required of the others.

The figures for African education for 1960 reveal the tremendous dropout rate, partly voluntary withdrawals and partly compulsory withdrawals at the end of each four year sequence where examinations are given to determine who should go beyond the 4th grade and the 8th grade. The figures are as follows:

Primary	(Four grades)	619,000
Intermediate	(Four grades)	103,000
Secondary	(Four grades)	5,500

At the secondary level only one girl to every six or seven boys.

There is little education given in schools in the north, owing to the long distances and the opposition of parents to schools in such groups as the Masai. This is also true in parts of the Rift Valley region.

Asians are more likely to get an education **than** Africans. This is one of the chief ways in which the Asians have been able to survive in this society--as clerks and small business men.

Secondary schools are separate for boys and girls--and there are very few high schools for girls. Almost all of the secondary schools are boarding schools.

Until quite recently there was no college in Kenya. Then the Royal Technical College was founded in Nairobi. College students went to Makerere College in Uganda--or abroad. Now the Royal Technical College has changed its name and emphasis and has become one of three parts of the University of East Africa (one each to the three countries), being designated now as the Royal College. A large number of students are now studying in England, Germany, Israel,-- and 500 in the United States in 1961 (including about 50 in high schools).

Some problems of education in Kenya include: (1) the five different systems mentioned above, with enormous inefficiency in staffing and financing, (2) the lack of education for girls, (3) the high percentage of dropouts, (4) the lack of teachers, especially since high school graduates almost all go into the government or into business, (5) the lack of secondary schools, and (6) lack of capital for even a basic education for all the children.

Religions

There are a variety of religions in Kenya. Among them are:

1. Animism
2. Christianity
3. Hinduism
4. Islam
5. Sikhism
6. Judaism

The largest group are animists. Animists need to be judged at their best as well as at their worst--as other religions are.

At their best, the Ibo and Kikuyu believed in a God; the latter had a regular form of worship, the former did not. The Kikuyu believed in a Supreme Being called Murungu. He lived or lives on four sacred mountains and is all pervading and invisible--the Creator of all things. He is called the Possessor of Whiteness, probably associated with the sky. His power is shown in the sun, the moon, the stars, the storms, and the rain and rainbow. Prayers to him are made by men at night and in the morning as the sun is rising. But they are not sun worshippers.

Their shrines are fir trees or groves. No tree can be cut because God visits these places. This made groves the sanctuaries for fugitives, too. Sacrifices consist of unblemished rams. The part not sacrificed is eaten by the worshippers in a kind of communion service.

The Asians are largely Hindus. Some of them are Sikhs and a few Jains.

Christianity has had a powerful influence in Kenya.

Catholics number about three-fourths of a million adherents.

Protestants have about one-quarter million members but anywhere from a million to a million and a half who identify with them.

Among the various Protestant groups are the following:

1. African Inland Church. Sprang from the Africa Inland Mission. About 70,000 members. Baptists in doctrine, Congregationalists in form of organization. Fundamentalists and inter-denominational.
2. Anglican Church. About 50,000 members. Independent now of the Church of England.
3. Presbyterians.
4. Quakers. The largest single group of Quakers in the world in western Kenya. 33,000 members and 350 schools.
5. Pentecostal Assemblies of Africa.
6. Methodists. Started by English Methodists.
7. Seventh Day Adventists.
8. Church of God.
9. World Gospel Mission.
10. Salvation Army.
11. Baptists. Southern Baptists from the United States responsible for this group.

Almost all of these have had their own schools; many are now assisted by grants for schools by the Kenya government. Most schools are mission schools.

Government and Politics

At the time that this Background Paper is being written, Kenya is being governed under the Lancaster House Constitution. Swift-moving events may change the provisions given her, so readers are cautioned to check this data carefully.

At the top of the government in Kenya is a Governor, appointed by the Queen.

Assisting him is a Council of Ministers. Of these eight are unofficial posts and four are Civil Servants. Of the eight, 4 are Africans, 3 Europeans and 1 Asian. An Arab representative has the right to attend meetings of the Council of Ministers.

The Legislative Council has a total of 65 members, Of these 20 are reserved for racial minorities (10 Europeans, 5 non-Muslim Asians, 3 Muslim Asians, and 2 Arabs). 33 were elected to "open seats". The remaining 12 members were elected by the regularly elected members of the Legislative Council. A novel feature of the election of these members was the fact that the primaries were closed to members of each racial group; then the persons nominated in them were voted upon by the entire electorate. In this complicated fashion it was hoped to preserve the multi-racial character of the Legislature.

The electorate for the present government was decided upon by the following "tests". Ability to read and write English or a vernacular language unless a person was over 40 years of age, or had an income of not less than \$200, or possessed property worth \$560, or was an office-holder in a wide range of jobs. The total electorate under these terms was 1,325,000 men and women.

At the time of the last election there were five main political parties:

1. New Kenya Group
2. The United Party
3. The Kenya African National Union
4. The Kenya African Democratic Union
5. The Kenya Freedom Party

The New Kenya group was a multi-racial party, but dominated by whites and led by Mr. Michael Blundell, formerly Minister for Agriculture.

The United Party was a group composed largely of very conservative white settlers.

The Kenya Freedom Party attracted largely Asians who tended to favor the control of Africans in the Kenya government.

The Kenya African National Union gained most of its strength from the Kikuyu and Luo tribes and was headed by such men as Tom Mboya, James Gichuru, and Oginga Odinga (See Leaders Section). They had refused to become Ministers in the Council of Ministers.

The Kenya African Democratic Union drew its support from the minority tribes and was willing to work with the British in the interim government before independence. Its main leaders were Ronald Ngala and Masinde Muliro (See Leaders section)

Jomo Kenyatta

A controversial and contradictory person but without doubt the most influential individual in Kenya today. Also one of the most fabulous and fascinating figures in the world. Has become a symbol of independence in all of East Africa and also a myth. May well become the first Prime Minister of Kenya or the head of the East African Federation if it is established.

Probably born in 1893. A clever, playful, ambitious and lonely boy. Ran away from home at ten to go to a mission school run by Scotch Presbyterians. Suffered from a spinal disease and was operated on. Eventually ran away to Nairobi where he became a clerk in the Public Works Department. Later inspected meters for the Town Council.

In 1922 he joined the Young Kikuyu Association. Perturbed by growing power of the Europeans, the passage of the Registration Act requiring all males over 16 to carry an identification certificate, and the introduction of a "Hut Tax" payable in money—thereby forcing the Africans to work on the white estates to obtain money. Young Kikuyu Association driven underground but revived as Kikuyu Central Association. Kenyatta became an official in 1925 and in 1928 editor of their publication.

In 1929 to present grievances of Kikuyu to British government. Also to Europe and first of two visits to Russia. Again to London in 1931 but not received by the British government officials that time. Also to Russia. 1933-1936 a student in the Department of African Phonetics at the University of London. In 1936 studied anthropology at the London School of Economics. Wrote book on Facing Mount Kenya, an anthropological account of the Kikuyu tribe, of which he was a member (his grandmother was a Masai). Altogether 16 years in England. Married an English school teacher. Helped to organize in 1945 the Pan African Congress in London.

In 1946 Kenyatta returned to Kenya. The settler population had doubled and in 1937 another section of the Kikuyu area had been turned over to them. In 1946 the Kenya African Union was formed with James Gichuru as President. In 1947 Kenyatta became President.

Meanwhile suspicion had turned to open distrust, disillusionment to anger and bitterness over lack of land and prejudice on the part of the whites. The Kikuyu had been the best educated and most aggressive group with contacts with Europeans because of their location near Nairobi. Frustrated, many of them turned to the Mau Mau movement in desperation. It appeared in the 1940's and was banned in 1950 but it went underground. In 1952 the killing oath appeared and other harsh measures were resorted to. A reign of terrorism ensued and the British proclaimed a state of emergency. Detention camps were established and the Kikuyu were concentrated into villages where the British could control the food supply to keep it from the Mau Mau supporters. 13,547 deaths, largely of Kikuyu who did not support the Mau Mau movement. Great controversy over Kenyatta's part in the extreme measures taken by members of this movement. Did he approve or did the extremists get out of hand? Extremists among the white settlers called for the hanging of Kenyatta. Trial ensued and he was banished to the northern part of Kenya.

Over the years the British government officials and some settlers came to believe that Kenyatta was the only person in Kenya who could possibly bring unity among the warring tribes. Released in 1961. A powerful figure due to his oratorical ability, his suffering for the cause of independence, his organizational ability, his experiences abroad, and his magnetic personality.

Other Outstanding Political Leaders

Tom Mboya Considered by many people as the most shrewd political leader in Kenya today. Able, astute, aggressive, and some add arrogant. Born in 1931. Attended schools in Kenya and worked as a sanitary health inspector for the Nairobi City Council. Left to become secretary of the Kenya Local Government Workers Union. In 1953 became secretary of the Kenya Federation of Labor. Elected in March, 1957 to the Legislative Council as a member for Nairobi and returned in 1961. Secretary-General of the Kenya African National Union. In 1958 attended the All African Peoples Conference in Accra, Ghana where he was elected Chairman. Has visited the United States and England several times. Forceful speaker. Although a Luo by tribe, he has worked well with the Kikuyu and has solidified the alliance between these two dominant tribes in Kenya politically.

Ronald G. Ngala. A member of the Giriama tribe along the Coast of Kenya. Attended local schools, the famous Alliance High School and Makerere College in Uganda where he obtained a teaching diploma. Taught and served as headmaster of various schools. Studied in England and became a supervisor of African Anglican schools in Mombasa. In 1953 became a member of the Mombasa African Advisory Council and in 1954 of the Municipal Board of Mombasa. In 1957 he was elected to the Legislative Council. Became Minister for Labor, Social Security and Adult Education for a time, resigning in 1961. Came into prominence as leader of the African delegation to the Lancaster Conference in London in 1960. As a result largely of this event he became the Leader of Government Business and Minister for Education. Mr. Ngala is the leader of the Kenya African Union which was formed in 1960 as an opposition group to Kanu. Considered by many serious, sincere, shrewd, and sometimes a straddler.

James S. Gichuru. President of the Kenya African National Union (KANU). Born in 1914 to parents who were among the first Christians in Kenya. Educated in a local mission school, Alliance High School and Makerere College in Uganda. Taught in Alliance High School (with his pupils including Odinga, Ngala and other prominent leaders today. One of the founders of the Kenya African Union and its first president. Close friend of Kenyatta. Placed under restriction in 1955 by the British government. Elected in 1961 to the Legislative Council, being unopposed for that seat.

A. Oginga Odinga. A colorful personality, powerful in the Luo tribe. Vice-president of the Kenya African National Union. Born in 1911 in the western part of Kenya--Nyanza Province. Educated locally and at the Alliance High School and Makerere College where he obtained a teaching diploma. Taught for a time and then entered business. In 1957 became a member of the Legislative Council. Has been accused of accepting money from Communist sources although few accuse him of being a Communist.

Masinde Muliro. Deputy leader of the Kenya African Democratic Union. Active in the farmers union, the cooperative movement, and the teachers union. Born in 1922. Educated in Kenya and Uganda and taught in both countries. Also studied in South Africa. Elected to the Legislative Council in 1957 and returned in 1961. Minister for Commerce, Industry, and Communications under the caretaker government headed by Ngala.

Some Important Dates in Kenya HistoryEarly History

3000 B.C.	Egyptian expeditions on East Coast of Africa.
500 B.C.	Phoenicians circumnavigated Africa for Pharaoh of Egypt.
250 B.C.	Greeks along the East Coast of Africa.
150 A.D.	Ptolemy mentions Arab traders in Mombasa.
900 A.D.	Islamic Arabs held Mombasa, Malindi and Kilwa.
1498 A.D.	Vasco da Gama, Portuguese explorer, appears in this region.
1528 A.D.	Portuguese in control along the coast.
1593 A.D.	Portuguese build Fort Jesus (in Mombasa).
1591 A.D.	British ship visited Mombasa.
1696 A.D.	Siege of Fort Jesus by the Arabs.
1729 A.D.	Portuguese rule ended.
1832 A.D.	Sultan transfers his court to the island of Zanzibar.
1800's	British trade in this region commences.

Later History

1873 A.D.	Slave market in Zanzibar closed.
1885 A.D.	Germans begin to play an active part in East Africa.
1887 A.D.	Slavery becomes illegal in the Sultan's domains.
1887 A.D.	British East African Company received concession of 10 mile strip along the Indian Ocean coast for 50 years from Sultan.
1888 A.D.	Imperial British East African Company chartered. Trading posts started.
1890 A.D.	Brussels Conference on Africa. Present boundary between British East Africa and German East Africa (Tanganyika) drawn.
1895 A.D.	British East Africa Company taken over by the British government. Kenya becomes a Protectorate.
1895 A.D.	Railroad from Malindi on the coast begun, to end eventually in Kampala, Uganda.
1899 A.D.	Railroad completed to Nairobi.
1901 A.D.	First locomotive run to Lake Victoria (December 26th).
1901-1902 A.D.	Kikuyu tribe lost around 50% of its people through smallpox, drought. Cattle lost through rinderpest, drought, and locust invasion. Withdraw from the Highlands area. Land "sold" or "loaned" to Europeans, depending upon the interpretation of this event.
1918 A.D.	End of World War I. Many Englishmen to Kenya.
1919 A.D.	The vote given to Europeans in Kenya.
1920 A.D.	Kenya becomes a Crown Colony.
1923 A.D.	Vote given to Asians.
1926 A.D.	Railroad completed to Kampala, Uganda.
1944 A.D.	First African <u>appointed</u> to the Legislative Council.
1945 A.D.	East African High Commission established for Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda.
1952 A.D.	Mau Mau revolt or uprising.
1954 A.D.	Lyttelton Constitution.
1956 A.D.	First general election with limited suffrage.
1957 A.D.	Lennox-Boyd Constitution.
1960 A.D.	Lancaster House meeting in London.
1961 A.D.	Release of Kenyatta.
???????	Independence.

Mau Mau

Many people outside of Kenya know of that land only because of the Mau Mau uprising or revolt a few years ago, which was widely publicized abroad.

This was a very important series of events or movement, but it was not a nation-wide uprising. In fact it was limited to a small group of the Kikuyu, with support from other Kikuyu and members of the Meru and Embu tribes.

Its real importance is as a reflection of the long and deep-seated resentments of the Kikuyu and others to events in Kenya during the last few years.

Among the factors which caused Mau Mau were the following:

1. Land hunger. With good land at a premium and the population growing rapidly, the African viewed with deep resentment the fact that much of the good land in the "White Highlands" was owned by Europeans and farmed by them with African labor.
2. Population Increases. Closely tied with this land hunger was the rapid growth in population among the Africans---and with little land on which to expand.
3. Color Discrimination. For years Kenya has been marked by extreme color discrimination, with separate hospitals, separate schools, laws requiring Africans to carry "passes" or identification cards, and other forms of prejudice.
4. Disillusionment. During World War I and especially during World War II many Africans from Kenya were abroad and learned of the growing feeling of nationalism around the world. The Kikuyu were the best educated and most aggressive group in Kenya, living near Nairobi, a crossroads city. They hoped to advance rapidly economically and politically and were largely frustrated in their efforts. Disillusionment turned to anger and bitterness.
5. Loss of old values and the development of no new set of values. Recent events in Kenya had led to the abandonment of old tribal ways and values without the development of new values. A lack of stability resulted, leading to uncertainty and frustration.
6. Governmental Control by the British. The tribes in recent years were not self-governing but were controlled by the British District Officers.

These and other factors built up deep resentments and bitterness, which took the form of the Mau Mau revolt, with terrorism, oath taking, and killings. This was like a volcanic eruption.

The Emergency was declared in October, 1952. The Kikuyu and some others were concentrated in newly formed villages. In 1954 Nairobi was cordoned off and 30,000 persons put into concentration camps. By force and with the help of loyal Kikuyus, the backbone of the movement was broken. The Emergency lasted until 1960. But whether the grievances which caused the movement were alleviated is very doubtful.

Two positive results of this movement were the realization by the whites of the feelings of many Africans, with an increase power given to them, and the consolidation of land holdings which resulted from this period.

Beauty in Kenya

There is beauty everywhere in the world and Kenya is no exception.

And beauty takes many different forms for what is beautiful to one person may not be beautiful to another. But here are some of the different kinds of beauty in Kenya.

Most striking is the landscape for there is some spectacular scenery here.

There are the white clouds, like cotton candy or giant soap bubbles, or at other times like huge icebergs or mammoth white sheets stretched across the sky. Such clouds seem to be always present in Kenya.

Then there are expansive vistas of green--the dark green of the trees and the light green of the crops and certain shrubs--like giant video screens.

Or there are the wide expanses of desert and shrub as far as the eye can see, with here and there a fever tree looking like a large umbrella. And to add another kind of beauty there are groups of giraffes, stretching their necks into the sky, herds of buffalo, and lions and zebras and wild beasts and deer.

Along the coast are the giant baobab trees with their enormous trunks spreading out in all directions as if the tree had been inverted with the tops of the trees looking like a mass of roots.

Or there are the glossy green coffee bushes punctuated with bright red berries as if they had been lacquered, the yellow green of the tea plants, and the lacey green leaves of pepper trees, relieved here and there by the red and yellow print dresses of women as they move to and from the nearby markets with the produce on their heads or on their backs.

If you like birds, you will be thrilled by the hundreds of pink flamingoes resting on their thin legs on Lake Nakuru or its shores, looking like tiny red airplanes with the lake as their landing field.

Then there is the beauty of mountains, too. Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance, over the border in Tanganyika, but towering over Kenya too. Or Mt. Kenya and Mt. Elgon, wearing their snow white caps part of the year as if to remind people of their height.

At certain times of the year in Nairobi there are the jacaranda trees with their beautiful blue blossoms.

Then there is the beauty which men and women, and sometimes children, create with their hands. The Kamba people have long had a special aptitude for wood carvings, shaping a wide variety of soft and hard woods to make stools and eating utensils or pressing tiny colored beads into the wood to make variegated patterns. In recent years they have turned this skill into money making animals, wooden masks, and eating implements for the passing tourists.

But the Kamba are not the only people who create beauty with their hands. The Kisumu make exquisite soapstone figures and black and white pottery; the Somalis beautiful baskets and trays; the Masai women colorful necklaces and bracelets of bright beads.

And to these forms of beauty the English have brought their love of flowers and gardens and have beautified the towns and cities where they live with beds of flowers of many kinds, some local and some imported.

Still another kind of beauty in Kenya is the beauty of music and the dance, which we shall describe on the next page for it is fun as well as beauty.

Fun in Kenya

Fun takes different forms, too, in Kenya as well as in other parts of the world.

Boys start at a very early age to tend the cattle. That means long, tedious hours with nothing to do as the cows amble along and munch the grass. So the boys today do as they have done for centuries—making balls from the tall grasses for games of pitch and catch. Or they make hoops or baskets of the wiry grasses and toss stones through them like a basketball game. Sometimes they take the tiny pebbles from the beds of streams and play KODE, like our game of jacks. Or they run and jump, vieing with each other to see who can run the fastest or jump the farthest.

For boys who live near the water, there is always fishing and swimming. Or as they grow older—canoeing in the canoes made from the trunks of sturdy trees—or just some pieces of wood bound together with sturdy grasses.

Sometimes the boys climb up the tall coconut trees, pierce the spathe or top of the palm with a knife to get the sweet juice. Or they gather the juice and save it to let it ferment and then try to persuade their fathers to let them sip a little of it from the gourds taken from the garden.

The girls are usually busy around the house and in the gardens, working with their mothers, but they too like to run and jump unless their mothers scold them for acting like boys. These Kenya girls don't play with dolls much because they have their younger brothers and sisters to care for and dolls aren't nearly as much fun as real babies.

In the evenings there are often dances after the work is done and the fires are lit. Sometimes these are for everyone in the village compound but often there are childrens dances somewhere in the village or a neighbor's compound.

These dances vary from tribe to tribe, although every tribe likes to dance.

The Chuka men like to make tiny shields edged with feathers and place them on their shoulders. Then they make skirts out of fibers and add black or red and black belts. Their drums are long and narrow and are slung over their shoulders with a strap.

The Embus are famous for their stilt dances, with the dancers in black cloaks with masks of animal skins. Dressed in this way they gyrate on stilts to waltz tempo.

The Suk tribesmen are famous for their mimicry of animals and animal movements which they do garbed in skins for clothing.

Perhaps the most spectacular dances are those of the Kamba who do much acrobatic dancing which requires a great deal of stamina and skill

Many of these dances are being forgotten but they are still important outside the towns and cities and once a year there is a dance festival in Nairobi in the huge stadium where many of the tribes perform for each other, other Africans, the Asians, the Europeans and the tourists with the money going to some worthy charity.

The Future of Kenya

No one can predict with any certainty what the future will bring to Kenya. But scattered throughout this Background Paper are indications of some of the problems with which it is now faced and will be faced in the foreseeable future. Every country has its problems and new nations are likely to have more problems than older ones. Of the new nations Kenya has perhaps as many as any single emerging country. Since it is impossible to predict, perhaps it is best to pose some questions about the foreseeable future, as follows:

1. Can the wishes of various elements in Kenya regarding independence be worked out amicably?

Can the Somalis and others in the north be persuaded to remain in the country of Kenya or should they be allowed to join up with the Somali Republic? Can the people of the Coastal Strip be persuaded to remain in the new Kenya or should they be given independent status?

2. Can the African minorities be satisfied in the new Kenya?

Can Kanu and Kadu aims be integrated?

3. Can the Europeans and Asians be integrated into the new Kenya?

Can the know-how of these two groups be used? Will their property---and their lives---be safeguarded in the next few months? Can civil servants be persuaded to stay on to help in the new government?

4. Can a stable economy be built in the new Kenya?

Can the flow of capital outside the country be stopped and new capital be enticed to Kenya? Can agriculture be improved and secondary industries be encouraged? Can unemployment be curbed?

5. Can the problems of land be worked out satisfactorily?

Can land consolidation be speeded up and resettlement developed?

Can the settlers in the White Highlands be persuaded to stay and yet lands which are not used be turned over to Africans? Can better farming methods be encouraged rapidly?

6. Can education be furthered and improved?

Can the schools be integrated relatively rapidly? Can capital be found for further education? Can teachers be found and trained? Can a satisfactory educational system for Kenya be developed?

7. Can health be improved?

8. Can water resources be preserved and improved?

9. Can friendly relations with neighboring and other nations be developed?

Can an East Africa Federation be worked out satisfactorily? Can Kenya escape the ravages of the Cold War?

10. Can a new system of values for the new Kenya be developed?

Bibliography

The items listed here are not separated as to grade level although the annotations on some of the items will give some indications of where they can be used best in schools. However, many secondary school students can and should use some of the more difficult materials; others will need to use some of the more simple accounts.

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Some articles on Kenya may be found in the two American magazines specializing in Africa. They are:

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