



COUNTRY IN PERSPECTIVE

KENYA



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View of Crater Lake Game Sanctuary

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Chapter 1 | Kenya in Perspective

Geography

Introduction

Kenya sits astride the equator in east-central Africa. The Indian Ocean lies to its southeast, and it shares land borders with five other countries: Tanzania to the south, Uganda to the west, Ethiopia to the north, South Sudan to the northwest, and Somalia to the northeast. Nairobi, the capital, is located in the southwest of the country.^{1,2}

Kenya has a wide range of topographical features, including the Great Rift Valley, Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain, a sprawling desert in the north, fertile highlands, and a long coastline in the east. Kenya shares a part of the Lake Victoria Basin with Uganda and Tanzania.³

The climate varies by location and altitude. The wettest regions are in the western Highlands, Lake Victoria Basin, and along the southern coastal areas. Despite its proximity to the equator, Mount Kenya occasionally receives snowfall. The central highlands are temperate, and the north and northeast regions are hot and dry. Rainfall is seasonal, and most regions have two rainy seasons.⁴ Arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) make up more than 80% of Kenya's landmass.^{5, 6}



Illustration map of Kenya and major cities

Wikimedia / United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Geographic Divisions

Kenya is administratively divided into eight provinces: Central, Coast, Eastern, Nairobi, North Eastern, Nyanza, Rift Valley, and Western. Each province is subdivided into several counties, for a national total of 47 counties.⁷

Kenya's terrain rises slowly from the coastal areas in a series of plateaus that meet a chain of highlands running north to south in the western half of the country. Through the center of the highlands runs the Great Rift Valley.⁸

The Coast



Aerial view of Chale Island in the Indian Ocean
Flickr / The Sands Kenya

The coastal plain begins as a narrow strip in the south and runs along the Indian Ocean for about 400 km (250 mi) where it broadens to about 169 km (100 mi) and merges into the lowlands of Somalia. The coast features white-sand beaches, coral reefs, and low forests of salt-tolerant mangrove trees.^{9, 10}

The largest city on the coast is Mombasa, home to East Africa's biggest port. Farther up the coast, the small town of Malindi, near the mouth of the Tana River, and the port town of Lamu attract tourists to their tropical beaches.¹¹ Lamu is the oldest and best-preserved Swahili settlement in East Africa and one of Kenya's three World Heritage Sites.^{12, 13}

In the past, Kenya's coast was an Arab and Persian trading center. The fusion of African and Asian influences in the coastal cities produced the Swahili language and culture.^{14, 15}

The Eastern Plateaus

This vast region of arid to semi-arid plains and plateaus extends east of the Rift highlands. The lowland Bun Plains and Ngangerabeli Plain are located near the Somali border. The Yatta Plateau, formed by one of the world's longest lava flows, stretches along the lower part of the Athi River. The Chalbi, Kaisut, and Dida Galgalu deserts are in the northeast, on the eastern side of Lake Turkana.^{16, 17}

The eastern plateaus are sparsely populated. Dirt trails that pass for roads are littered with broken down trucks. Garissa, the seat of the scorched North Eastern Province is situated on the River Tana.^{18, 19, 20}



Animals grazing on semiarid plains in Kenya
Flickr / Mister_Jack

The Northern Plains

The landscape of the northern plains, which stretches from Uganda to the plateau area, varies from craggy volcanic cinder fields such as the Lotikipi Plain in the northwest to impassable dunes. The mountains that rise in the deserts are often heavily forested and provide the local population with a refuge from the scorching equatorial sun. This desert region sometimes goes for months or years without rainfall.²¹

Lake Victoria Basin



Fishermen on Lake Victoria
Flickr / CIAT

The Lake Victoria Basin is the area of high plateau surrounding Lake Victoria and which drains into it. The lake itself occupies a relatively large proportion of the basin, and there are no inputs into the lake other than the rain which falls directly over the area. This means that water levels in the lake are especially sensitive to fluctuations in rainfall.²² The lower part of the plateau begins at 900 m (3,000 ft) and rises to 1,200 m (4,000 ft). The Kenyan portion of the basin, the Kano Plain, surrounds an 80 km (50 m) arm of the lake, called Winam Gulf, which extends eastward into the plateau.²³ This densely populated area, home to two of Kenya's five biggest cities—Kisumu and

Eldoret,²⁴ is also an area of intensive agricultural cultivation and trade. Parts of the region experience heavy rainfall, especially in July and August.^{25, 26} Mount Elgon, an extinct volcano with a peak rising to 4,321 m (14,178 ft) inside Uganda, is located on the northern edge of the basin.²⁷

The Highlands and the Great Rift Valley

To the east of the Lake Victoria Basin lies the Great Rift Valley. The Mau Escarpment forms its western edge and the Aberdare Range the east. The Aberdare Range rises to nearly 3,000 m (10,000 ft) east of the Rift Valley and extends to Mount Kenya, the country's highest peak at 5,199 m (17,058 ft). The width of the Rift Valley, which runs north-south through Kenya is 50-130 km (30-80 mi).²⁸

Several fresh and saltwater lakes, including Lake Tana, Lake Naivasha, Nakuru, Elementeita, Lake Tanganyika, and Lake Malawi, dot the valley floor, separated by extinct volcanoes.²⁹



Sprawling view of the Great Rift Valley
Flickr / Martin Kalfatovic

Climate



Summer day in the Kenyan Highlands
Flickr / Adrian Barnes

Kenya is an equatorial country with three distinct climate zones: hot and dry in the north and east, temperate in the mountains and highlands of the west and southwest, and hot and humid along the coast. The warmest months are February and March while July and August are the coolest. From October to March, hot, dry winds (kaskazi) come from Arabia, and from April to September cooler winds (kuzi) come from the Indian Ocean.^{30, 31}

Rainfall in Kenya occurs during two rainy seasons: the “long rains” season from March to May are the wettest, followed by a relatively dry period until the “short rains” season that lasts from October to December. Rainfall is heaviest along the coast and the southwest, ranging from 800 to 2,000 mm (31-79 in) a year and occurs mainly in the afternoon and evening. In the arid areas of the east and northeast rainfall drops below 500 mm (20 in) a year.³²

The coast is hot and humid from November to March, with temperatures peaking at 37°C (99°F). From June to August the temperature drops to around 28°C (82°F).

Rainfall patterns in the highlands (above 2,000 m or 6,500 ft) differ from those at lower elevations. This is especially true during July and August, usually dry months in the rest of the country but which can see 100 to 200 mm (4 to 8 in) per month at these elevations.³³

The north is the driest and hottest area of Kenya, especially at the lower altitudes, where the daily average is 30 °C (86 °F), and annual precipitation drops below 100 mm (4 in). With the onset of climate change, the region has become even hotter and drier.^{34, 35}

Bodies of Water

Tana River



The Tana River and surrounding land
Flickr / CIAT

At 1,000 km (621 mi), the Tana is Kenya's longest river. It starts in the Aberdare Mountains, northwest of Nairobi, from where it flows south, north, and south again, reaching the lowland plains of the Coast Province. The river empties into the Indian Ocean through the Tana Delta, which is home to crocodiles, hippopotamuses, monkeys, turtles and many waterbird species. Agricultural projects, deforestation, erosion, sedimentation, and development of infrastructure severely threaten the river.³⁶

The Tana River is navigable by small boat for its last 322 km (200 mi), although its meandering path makes travel time-consuming. The only sizable town along the river's lower stretch is Garissa, the capital of the North Eastern Province. The river provides up to 80% of Nairobi's water and hydroelectric power that meets half the country's electricity needs³⁷

Ewaso Ng'iro

The Ewaso Ng'iro River begins in Mount Kenya and runs through the dry plains east of the Great Rift Valley for 700 km (435 mi) until it joins the Jubba River in Somalia. The riverbanks support a variety of wildlife such as elephants, lions, buffalos, rhinos, cheetahs, leopards, zebras and more. The Lewa Conservancy and Samburu Game Reserve are among several reserves founded to protect the wildlife, which is vulnerable to droughts and development projects.³⁸ In 2009, the river dried up as the region experienced a severe drought.³⁹



Ewaso Ng'iro River in the Shaba National Reserve
Flickr / Ninara

Athi/Galana/Sabaki River

At 389 km (242 mi) in length, the Athi/Galana/Sabaki River is Kenya's second-longest perennial river. The river begins as the Athi upstream, becomes the Galana farther downstream in Tsavo National Park, finally, near its mouth on the Indian Ocean, residents of the nearby town of Malindi often refer to it as the Sabaki. The Athi's headwaters are south of Nairobi, and several of its tributaries flow through or near Nairobi. Pollution threatens the fish habitat, and many species show dangerous levels of heavy metals in their tissues. The river is protected at Tsavo East and Nairobi National Parks.⁴⁰



The Galana River
Flickr / Shever

Lake Turkana (Lake Rudolph)



Aerial view of Lake Turkana in Kenya
Flickr / International Rivers

Lake Turkana is the world's largest permanent desert lake. It has no outlets meaning that evaporation maintains the lake level, which makes it alkaline. It is 300 km (186 mi) long and 50 km (31 mi) at its widest point. Much of the water comes from three rivers, one of which originates in the northern slopes of Mount Elgon on the border with Uganda. The lake extends along the Rift Valley floor, between the Ethiopian border and the northern part of the Highlands region. Lake Turkana is one of the hottest places in Kenya.⁴¹ Temperatures around the lake can reach 50 °C (122 °F).⁴²

Lake Turkana is a breeding ground for Nile crocodiles, hippopotamuses, and several species of venomous snakes. Sibiloi National Park, along the lake's northeastern shore, is known as “the cradle of mankind” for the numerous fossil finds that led to a greater understanding of human evolution.^{43, 44} Strong desert winds are common and feed the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project.^{45, 46} Lake Turkana National Park was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.⁴⁷

Lake Victoria

Lake Victoria, Africa's largest freshwater lake, forms a natural border between Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Kenya's share amounts to the small, 3,785 sq km (1,461 sq mi) northeastern corner of the lake. The entire surface area of the lake is about 68,000 sq km (26,255 sq mi). The average depth is about 30-40m (98-132 ft), with a maximum depth of 81 m (265 ft).⁴⁸



*A fishing village on the shore of Lake Victoria
Flickr / Richard Mortel*

Several small rivers feed into Lake Victoria, but these only bring water from elsewhere in the Lake Victoria Basin. The lake's only outlet is the Victoria Nile in Uganda. An inlet of Lake Victoria, known as Winam Gulf, is the setting for Kisumu, a port city on the lake. There are several islands in the lake, including Rusinga, Mfangano, Takawiri, and Ndere.^{49, 50, 51}

Millions of people depend on Lake Victoria for survival. All three countries monitor the water levels, pollution, and fishing.^{52, 53}

Major Cities

Kenya's estimated population is nearly 50 million as of 2018. The urban population is estimated to be 26.5%.⁵⁴

City Name	Province (* = Prov. Capital)	Population 2018 ⁵⁵
Nairobi*	Nairobi*	3,700,000
Coast*	Coast*	1,000,000
Kisumu*	Nyanza*	500,000
Nakuru*	Rift Valley*	4,00,000
Eldoret	Rift Valley	218,446

Nairobi

Nairobi is Kenya's capital and also its largest city. The name Nairobi comes from the Maasai phrase Enkare Nyrobi, meaning "cool water." In 1899, the British built a camp and supply depot in the highlands between Mombasa and Kampala, Uganda for the Uganda Railway. The camp, Nairobi, housed thousands of Indian laborers who came to work on the railway, as well as British settlers. In 1905, Nairobi replaced Mombasa as the capital of the British East Africa Protectorate. When Kenya became independent in 1963, Nairobi remained



*Parliament Buildings and Uhuru Park in Nairobi
Flickr / Ninara*

the capital. Today, Nairobi is an independent municipal county administered by the Nairobi City Council.^{55, 56}

Nairobi is home to some of the largest slums in the world. Most infamous is Kibera, southwest of downtown, which houses roughly 250,000 people of the city's 2.5 million slum dwellers. Kibera's residents live on less than USD 1 a day; HIV is rampant, and health conditions are among the worst in Africa.⁵⁷

Nairobi is Kenya's principal political, economic and industrial center. The city has a large informal sector, known as jua kali (hot sun), and is the seat of the Kenya Stock Exchange. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, situated 15 km (9 mi) southwest of the city, is one of Africa's main airports.^{58, 59}

Mombasa

The coastal city of Mombasa is Kenya's second largest city. The city is the headquarters of Mombasa District and the administrative center of the Coast Province. The make-up of the city's populace reflects its role as an important node in the ancient trade network spanning the Indian Ocean. Persian, Indian, Arab, Portuguese and British influences blended with the native Swahili population and migrants from the interior of Kenya.⁶⁰



Marina in Mombasa
Flickr / Make it Kenya

The most prominent feature of the city is Mombasa Island, bridges, and a ferry connect it to the mainland. The city has two ports: Mombasa Old Port on the east side and Kilindini Harbor west of Mombasa Island.⁶¹ Kilindini is a modern deep-water port; construction began in 1896 to meet growing trade activities. Mombasa Old Port, the country's main port, serves Kenya and ten neighboring countries.^{62, 63, 64}

Kenya's only oil refinery is located in Mombasa.⁶⁵ Trade and tourism dominate the local economy, with modest industrial activity. Mombasa is home to Moi International Airport and several universities.^{66, 67}

Kisumu

Kisumu, Kenya's third largest city, is a port town situated on the northern tip of Winam Gulf, an extension of Lake Victoria. Kisumu is the capital of Nyanza Province, the headquarters of Kisumu District, and the commercial, transportation, and industrial center of western Kenya. The town was founded in 1901, linking Lake Victoria with Mombasa. During its first year, the town was called Port Florence, and then renamed Kisumu, which means "a place of trade," in Luo. In 2001, during its centennial celebrations, Kisumu was officially declared a city.^{68, 69, 70}

Kisumu is one of the three largest ports on Lake Victoria and the only lake port in Kenya. The British established the port in 1901 as part of a multi-modal freight system that also included railways and ports in Uganda. These linked the landlocked areas of East Africa to Mombasa⁷¹. The port currently operates at a fraction of its former capacity due in large part to the degradation of the railway infrastructure. Kisumu's International Airport is the third busiest airport in Kenya.⁷²



*The Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground in Kisumu
Flickr / Mark Souther*

Nakuru



*Nakuru City
Flickr / Tom Kemp*

Nakuru, which means “a dusty place” in Maasai, is the largest city in the Rift Valley and a major agricultural center. Tourism, food processing plants, and large-scale farming are the mainstays of the economy. Flowers grown on large farms near the city are exported to Germany, Holland, and the United Kingdom. The population is predominantly Christian, with a small number of Muslims and Hindus.⁷³

Neolithic fossils excavated at Hyrax Hill testify to the area's long history of human habitation. Nearby Lake Nakuru National Park is one of Kenya's most popular tourist attractions, famous for its thousands of flamingos.⁷⁴

Eldoret

Eldoret sits on a plateau above the Rift Valley at an elevation of 2,090 m (6,857 ft). The town's original name was 64 or Farm 64 because it was located 64 kilometers from the Uganda Railway railhead at Kibigori. The name was later changed to Eldoret, based on the Maasai word *eldore* for “stony river.”⁷⁵

Eldoret is an agricultural town, serving Kenya's “breadbasket” region with various factories processing wheat, maize, and dairy shipped in from local farms.⁷⁶ Eldoret is home to Moi University and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH). It is also home to Eldoret International Airport.⁷⁷

The high altitude is an ideal training ground for many middle and long distance runners who contribute to the town's economy with their earnings from international races.^{78, 79}

Environmental Concerns

Over-cultivation, over-grazing, soil degradation, deforestation, land erosion, loss of biodiversity, habitat encroachment, surface and groundwater contamination from urban and industrial waste, water shortages, and air and industrial pollution are some of Kenya's environmental problems.⁸⁰ Downstream from Nairobi, farmers use river water contaminated with the city's sewage, and industrial waste to irrigate vegetables sold in the city⁸¹ Unregulated logging for timber and charcoal production and urbanization have eroded Kenya's diverse woodlands. In 2016, Kenya announced it would restore 5.1 million hectares (12.6 million acres) of degraded land.^{82, 83}



*Piles of debris in Kibera
Flickr / GRID Arendal*

Plastic bags have become a big source of pollution in Kenya. In Nairobi, cattle eat discarded bags, raising fears of plastic contamination of beef. The bags, which take 20-1,000 years to biodegrade, create an enormous solid waste management challenge. In 2017, Kenya implemented a nationwide ban on plastic bags, accompanied by fines of up to USD 38,000.⁸⁴

Water hyacinth infestation in Lake Victoria has made fishing and navigation in the lake almost impossible. One solution to the problem is the manual removal of the hyacinth and processing it into pulp for card and paper materials, ropes, and weaving.^{85, 86}

Natural Hazards



*Water collection efforts in a river basin
Flickr / Climate Centre*

Kenya's most prevalent natural hazards are floods and droughts, which become more frequent due to climate change, with drought cycles occurring every 2-3 years. During a prolonged drought between 2008 and 2011, 3.7 million people were affected by famine. Torrential rains in 2018 wreaked havoc on the country only a year after a harsh drought ravaged the north and the coast in 2017, leaving 2.7 million to face starvation. The drought was declared a national disaster as acute water, and food shortages threatened counties in the region.^{87, 88} Droughts in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) have increased in both frequency and severity. These areas now experience droughts almost on an annual basis.⁸⁹

Other areas such as the Lake Victoria basin and the Tana River face the opposite problem and are subject to seasonal floods.⁹⁰ Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue fever, chikungunya, yellow fever, and malaria experience an upsurge after flooding and heavy rains subside. Cholera and hepatitis E and A outbreaks accompany water sanitation infrastructure breakdowns following severe flooding.^{91, 92} Other natural hazards include wildfires and strong winds. Landslides occur mainly in the Mount Kenya region.⁹³

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Kenya in Perspective

Chapter 1 | Assessment

1. Mombasa is Kenya's largest city. It is located on the eastern shore of Lake Victoria.
2. Because Kenya is located on the equator, the majority of its land area is covered by lush tropical forest.
3. The Tana River is Kenya's longest river.
4. Lake Turkana is an important fresh water lake used for irrigation of crops in the highlands.
5. Winam Gulf is an inlet of Lake Victoria, extending eastward into Kenya's high plateau.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True



Ruins of a mosque in Gede
Wikimedia / Maclemo

Chapter 2 | Kenya in Perspective

History

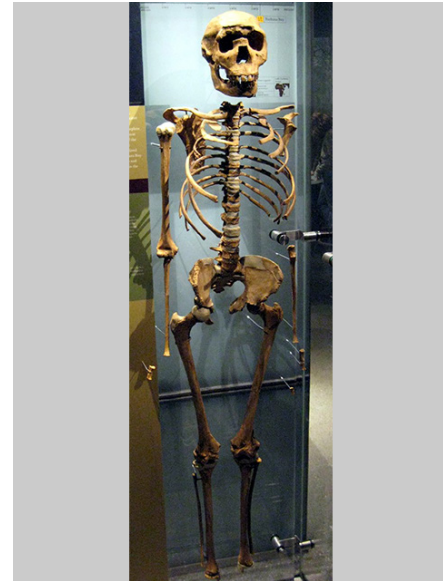
Introduction

Although humanity evolved over millions of years in the area that would later become the Great Rift Valley, evidence suggests that the first recognizably human people settled in Kenya during the Paleolithic era.¹ Cushitic, Nilotic and Bantu people arrived later, during the Neolithic era. Arab and Persian traders also arrived and settled on the coast during the first millennium, mixing with the local population and creating the Swahili culture. The Portuguese landed in Mombasa in 1498 and colonized the coast. In the mid-19th century, the British arrived and settled in the region. The people of Kenya lived under British colonial rule for several decades, but starting in the 1920s, they began to fight for their freedom. Kenya eventually gained independence from the British in 1963.²

Tribal divisions have characterized Kenya's politics. The first president, Jomo Kenyatta, was a Kikuyu, followed by President Daniel arap Moi, who was Kenyatta's vice president and a member of the Kalenjin tribe. The third president was a Kikuyu, as is current president Uhuru Kenyatta, who is also the son of Jomo Kenyatta. In 2017, the Luo ethnic group failed to vote their candidate, Raila Odinga, into office.^{3, 4}

Early History

Discoveries such as the 1.6 million years-old *Homo erectus* fossil nicknamed the "Turkana Boy" near Lake Turkana show that humans have roamed Kenya's landscape since the dawn of humanity.⁵ The first ancestors of present-day Kenyans were Cushitic-speaking people, who migrated from Ethiopia and settled in the region around 2000 BCE. The Bantu people moved into the region during the second century BCE, and the Nilotic people settled in the Rift Valley region between the 10th and 14th centuries. The Kikuyu, Kamba, and Meru came from West Africa, while the Maasai, Luo, and Samburu originated from southern Sudan.^{6, 7}



The Turkana Boy fossil
Wikimedia / Claire H.

The Arrival of the Arabs (900 CE)



Traditional Swahili doors as seen throughout Lamu
Flickr / Justin Clements

At the beginning of the 8th century, Arab and Persian merchants arrived on the East African coast and founded commercial centers in Lamu, Malindi, and Mombasa; from these locations, they established trade routes to China, Persia, and India. The traders exchanged salt, cloth, metal tools, and weapons for assets or goods such as ivory, tortoise shells, leopard skins, and slaves. Over the centuries, they converted many Africans to Islam and married into the local population, creating the people and culture known as Swahili.^{8, 9}

Portuguese Colonialism (1498–1729)



Courtyard in Fort Jesus, Mombasa
Wikimedia / Sandro Senn

The Portuguese explorer Vasco de Gama landed in Mombasa in 1498, during his voyage to find a new sea route to India. Beginning in 1505, the Portuguese carried out military campaigns to colonize the east coast of Africa and fought for control over the region for a little over 200 years. In 1593, after several raids by Ottoman Turks, the Portuguese built Fort Jesus above the Old Port of Mombasa to protect their trade route to India. The city of Mombasa was attacked several times during this period. In 1729, the people of Mombasa revolted against the Portuguese and eventually drove them out. During their colonial rule, the Portuguese attempted to convert Africans to Catholicism.^{10, 11, 12}

Wars and Rebellions (18th and 19th Centuries)

After the Portuguese left, the Omani gained control of the East African coast and suppressed numerous indigenous rebellions throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. The slave trade intensified, in part to supply labor for the Omani clove plantations on the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba. The Maasai advanced along the southern coastal area of Mombasa, raiding the locals with little resistance and consolidating their control.¹³

The Arrival of the Germans and the British (mid-1880s)

Two German explorers from the Church Missionary Society were the first Europeans to reach Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya in 1848 and 1849, but it took another 30 years for other Europeans to venture into the region because of the threat posed by Maasai warriors. The British Royal Geographic Society took an interest in East Africa and sent explorers to record and survey the region. Reports of the robust slave trade on the coast brought East Africa to the attention of the British government and the public, who pressured the Sultan of Zanzibar to abolish slavery in his lands. In 1873, the Sultan banned all slave trade from sultanate ports. Christian missionaries came to the region as well to convert the local population.^{14, 15, 16}



Maasai warriors pose for a photo in German East Africa
Wikimedia / German Federal Archives

British East Africa Company and Protectorate

In the late 1880s, British influence in East Africa was challenged by the Germans, who set up a colony in Tanganyika (Tanzania) under the German East Africa Company, without British knowledge. In response, the British set up their own British East Africa Association (later renamed Company) and pressured the Sultan of Zanzibar to hand them control over his inland territories. In 1884–85, thirteen European countries and the United States met at the Conference of Berlin to divide Africa between them. The Germans and British agreed to respect each other's sphere of influence. The Africans resisted—the Kikuyu put up a fight in Fort Lugard, Uganda but were defeated by the British military.^{17, 18, 19}

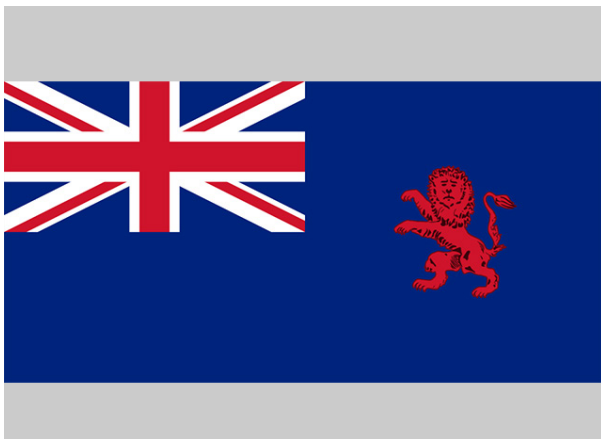
In 1895, after incurring a large debt, the British East Africa Company sold its lands and buildings to the British government and the British East African Protectorate was established. The British government financed the Mombasa–Lake Victoria railway and opened the highlands for white settlement. The railway was completed in 1906.^{20, 21}



Typical British East Africa postage stamp
Wikimedia / De La Rue

During World War I, Britain initiated hostilities against Germany in East Africa, and Germany responded. Thousands of Africans were forced to serve as soldiers on both sides of the conflict.²²

Crown Colony of Kenya and the Mau Mau Uprising (1920–1960)



The flag of Colonial Kenya from 1921 until 1963
Wikimedia / Oren neu dag

In 1920, the East Africa Protectorate became a Crown Colony and was renamed Kenya, after Mount Kenya. The colonial government gave white settlers the majority share of representation in the legislative council. In spite of a government proposal written in 1923 by the colonial secretary, in which the interests of the African population was declared paramount, black Africans were not granted representation, and Kenya was not allowed to become a fully self-governing colony.^{23, 24}

In 1921, a Kikuyu named Harry Thuku began organizing protests against the British and founded the Young Kikuyu Association (later named the East Africa Association). Thuku demanded African representation in the legislative council but did not gain support from older chiefs or other ethnic groups. His arrest by the British in 1922 provoked a general strike and protests in Nairobi. The harsh British response to

the protests cost the lives of 25 people, in what later was called the Nairobi Massacre. This event shocked people all over the world, including in Britain.^{25, 26, 27}

Through the 1920s and 1930s, tension escalated between white settlers and the African population. Indians demanded greater representation in the legislative council. The British government planned to establish a union with Tanganyika as protection against Germany.²⁸

In 1944, in response to the increased threat of war with Italy on the northern border with Ethiopia, the colonial government made Kenya the first East African territory to appoint an African to the legislative council. That same year, the nationalist Kenya African Union (KAU) political party was founded, advocating for a peaceful transition to African majority rule.²⁹

In 1946, Kikuyu leader Jomo Kenyatta, who was the general secretary of the Kikuyu Central Association—an organization that had emerged in the late 1920s after Thuku's arrest—returned to Kenya after living 16 years in England and began pursuing political rights and land reforms with the rallying call *uhuru*, Swahili for freedom. But not all African Kenyans agreed with Kenyatta's call for a peaceful transition. One of the splinter groups, the Kikuyu Mau Mau, along with some Embu and Meru fighters, advocated violence against white colonial rule. In 1952, the Mau Mau launched an uprising by attacking white settlers and destroying their farms and livestock. The British declared a state of emergency and harshly cracked down on the uprising for the next eight years. By the end of the uprising, the Mau Mau had murdered 32 white civilians: 167 police officers, and 1,819 Kikuyu who either opposed them or supported the colonial government. Official numbers put the number of rebels killed in the counterinsurgency at 11,000, including 1,090 hanged by the British administration. The Kenyan Human Rights Commission estimated that 90,000 Kenyans were executed, maimed, and tortured by the British, and 160,000 imprisoned and tortured in detention camps.^{30, 31, 32}

In 1952, at the beginning of the Mau Mau uprising, the British arrested Jomo Kenyatta. After a five-month highly politicized trial, they convicted him of leading the Mau Mau violent campaign and sentenced him to nine years in prison, three of which he spent under house arrest.³³ They also banned the nationalist KAU party. While Kenyatta was in prison, two Kenyans filled his leadership role: Tom Mboya, a Luo, who was the general secretary of Kenya Federation of Labor (KFL) between 1953 and 1963, and Oginga Odinga, also a Luo, a socialist who was the president of the Luo Union.³⁴ Both campaigned for the right of black Africans to vote and for independence from Britain.



*A statue of rebel leader Dedan Kimathi in Nairobi
Wikimedia / Murungaru*

In 1957, the British allowed for the first direct elections of indigenous leaders to the legislative council and eight Africans won seats in the elections. One of the seats went to Mboya, another to Odinga, and another to Daniel arap Moi from the Kalenjin tribe. By 1961, Africans had a majority in the legislature.^{35, 36, 37}

Independence (1963)



The Kenya African Democratic Union offices in 1958
Flickr / Martin Dixon

In 1960, at the Lancaster House for the Kenya Conference in London, the British began negotiating Kenya's independence with delegates from the moderate Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU) led by Ronald Ngala (founded in 1960), and the Kenya African National Union (KANU) which was also founded in 1960 by Tom Mboya and Oginga Odinga. During negotiations with the British, Africans and white settlers planned the transition to independence, producing a constitutional framework and a legislature that retained the British system of administration. On 12 December 1963, Kenya gained independence from Britain. It was the last British colony in East Africa.^{38, 39, 40}

Kenyatta Presidency (1964–1978)

On August 1961, Jomo Kenyatta was released from house arrest and assumed leadership of KANU.⁴¹ His new rallying call, *harambee*, meaning pulling together, replaced *uhuru*. On 12 December 1963, Kenyatta became prime minister of the newly independent Kenya. In 1964, a new constitution established Kenya as a republic and Kenyatta was elected president with Odinga as vice president. Members of KADU joined Kenyatta's ruling party, resulting in KADU disbanding permanently. Daniel arap Moi, a former KADU leader and a representative for the Kalenjin ethnic group, joined Kenyatta's government as the home affairs Minister of Home Affairs.⁴²

Kenyatta suppressed political opposition and arrested opponents, detaining them without trial. Under his rule, Kenya became a one-party state and the most stable black African country. As an advocate of conservatism, Kenyatta rejected calls for nationalization of companies and property, promoting capitalist economic policies instead. He encouraged racial cooperation and appointed members of various ethnic groups to his government to thwart tribal-based opposition, yet maintained a Kikuyu majority. In spite of the treatment he received from the British, he adopted a strong pro-Western foreign policy.^{43, 44}



Kenya's first president, Jomo Kenyatta
Wikimedia / Israel National Photo Collection

In 1966, Kenya plunged into an economic crisis, and in 1973, economic gains were wiped out by the global oil crisis. However, during the first two decades after independence, Kenya's economic growth was among

the highest in Africa.^{45, 46} In 1966, Odinga, who was considered as a left-winger, fell out with Kenyatta over his pro-Western capitalist policies, resigning his position as vice president. After founding an opposition party, the Kenyan People's Union (KPU), Kenyatta imprisoned Odinga for two years, his political party was banned, and party members were kept from running for elections.^{47, 48} In July 1969, Tom Mboya, who served as minister for economic planning, was assassinated in Nairobi. A trial ensued, and though someone was convicted of the slaying, it is still unclear if he was the actual assassin. Mboya's death triggered severe rioting in post-independence Kenya and threatened to split the country into rival tribal factions.^{49, 50}

Kenyatta is considered as the founding father of Kenya, and in his later years, was nicknamed *mzee*, Swahili for old man. He died in office in August 1978.^{51, 52, 53}

The Daniel arap Moi Presidency (1978–2002)



Former president Moi with George W. Bush
Wikimedia / White House photo / Eric Draper

After Kenyatta's death, Vice President Daniel arap Moi, a Kalenjin, became the second president of Kenya. His presidency was confirmed in a general election 90 days later. President Moi started as a populist, supporting programs such as free milk for schoolchildren. However, his presidency became increasingly authoritarian and corrupt as he used his power to promote Kalenjin allies, divide opponents, and enhance his personal wealth. In 1982, after the National Assembly declared Kenya a one-party state, a coup d'état by junior officers of the Kenyan Air Force was quickly suppressed by the army. After the coup, the entire air force was disbanded.^{54, 55} Moi was reelected in 1983 and 1988.^{56, 57}

After the suspicious death of the foreign minister, pro-democracy demonstrations in early 1990 were crushed by paramilitary troops, and leaders of the opposition were thrown in jail. With the fall of communism, Western donor countries demanded that Moi hold multiparty elections if he wanted to continue to receive foreign aid. In 1991, Moi agreed to legalize opposition political parties, and the KANU conference agreed to introduce a multiparty political system. In December 1992, Moi won a multiparty election, despite charges of bribery and fraud. He won the election again in 1997. Hundreds of demonstrators, mainly Kikuyu, demanded constitutional reforms but many were beaten and some killed.^{58, 59}

In 2002, after being prohibited from seeking another term by constitutional amendment, Moi chose Jomo Kenyatta's son, Uhuru Kenyatta, to be his successor and the KANU candidate for the presidential election. Moi stepped down after 24 years in power. In the elections, Kenyans rejected Uhuru Kenyatta, and for the first time in the country's 39-year history, the ruling KANU party was defeated.⁶⁰

Recent Events

The Mwai Kibaki Presidency (2002–2013)

Mwai Kibaki, a Kikuyu, was one of the founders of KANU in 1960. Between 1978 and 1988, he was vice president under President Moi. In 1990, he left KANU and formed the Democratic Party (DP). In the 2002 election, he ran against Uhuru Kenyatta and won a landslide victory.^{61, 62}

In his inauguration speech, Kibaki denounced dictatorship and promised to crack down on corruption. However, his presidency was marred by corruption and tribalism. The “Mount Kenya Mafia” took over the state. The most famous case of corruption was the Anglo Leasing scandal, in which contracts were awarded to phantom companies to print high-tech passports and supply naval ships. In the disputed 2007 elections, Raila Odinga, the son of Oginga Odinga and a Luo, backed by the Kalenjin, claimed that the presidency had been stolen from him. Political violence erupted and quickly turned into ethnic clashes in which more than 1,200 died, and thousands were displaced. A few months later, Kibaki and Odinga agreed to share power in a unity government as Kenya embarked on a period of economic growth. A new constitution designed to decentralize government power and limit the power of the president was Kibaki’s greatest achievement. It was approved by voters in a referendum and signed into law in 2010. In 2013, Kibaki stepped down after being barred from running for a third term.^{63, 64, 65}



Former president Mwai Kibaki
Flickr / Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Uhuru Kenyatta Presidency (2013–Present)

In 2013, Uhuru Kenyatta, the son of Kenya’s first president Jomo Kenyatta, won the presidential election with just over 50% of the vote. Kenyatta’s opponent, Prime Minister Raila Odinga, challenged the results but the Supreme Court upheld Kenyatta’s victory. At the time of his inauguration, Kenyatta was facing charges of crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court (ICC) for bankrolling the death squads during the violence that engulfed Kenya after the disputed elections of 2007. Despite Kenyatta’s claim of innocence, several Western countries kept a distance from him because of the allegations against him.^{66, 67, 68}

In October 2014, Kenyatta went to the ICC in The Hague as a private citizen to discuss the evidence against him and suggest that the court drop the charges against him. Kenyatta mobilized several African leaders to pressure the ICC to withdraw the charges.^{69, 70, 71} The court dropped the charges in December 2014 due to insufficient evidence. A similar case against Kenyatta’s deputy William Ruto was dismissed in 2016 for the same reason.⁷²



Current president of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta
Flickr / World Economic Forum

During Kenyatta's presidency, the economy grew an average of 5% per year and foreign investment increased, with the Chinese-funded Nairobi-Mombasa railway as the most significant project. However, corruption remained very high—Kenya ranks 143 out of 180 countries on the Corruption Perceptions Index. Critics have accused Kenyatta of limiting freedom of the press and of excessive borrowing.^{73, 74}

In August 2017, Kenyatta won reelection but the opposition leader, Raila Odinga, challenged the results. The Supreme Court nullified the elections in September, citing irregularities; they ordered another election. In response, Kenyatta vowed to fix the Supreme Court. In October, Kenyatta was declared the winner of the presidential election for the second time around, winning 98% of the votes. Odinga withdrew from the election two weeks before the vote and called for a boycott. Nearly 70 people died in election-related violence during that period. In his inauguration speech, Kenyatta pledged to work for national unity.^{75, 76}

In January 2018, Raila Odinga declared himself the “people’s president” in front of a large crowd in Nairobi. His main argument was that over generations, many Kenyans have been marginalized because of geographic location, ethnic affiliation, and landlessness. The government declared Odinga’s National Resistance Movement a criminal group. The struggle for power was organized along ethnic lines: President Kenyatta is Kikuyu and his deputy William Ruto is Kalenjin, while Odinga is Luo. The Kikuyu and Kalenjin have held power since independence in 1963.^{77, 78, 79} In March 2018, a deal between Kenyatta and Odinga was announced in which the two leaders reconciled and promised to work together to unite the country.^{80, 81}

Country in Perspective | Kenya

Endnotes for Chapter 2: History

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Kenya in Perspective

Chapter 2 | Assessment

1. British members of the Royal Geographical Society were the first Europeans to discovered Mount Kenya.
2. The International Criminal Court acquitted Uhuru Kenyatta of crimes against humanity after the disputed 2007 elections.
3. Kenya has experienced only one coup since it gained independence.
4. Jomo Kenyatta was declared the “People’s President” by the KANU party after he was released from prison in 1961.
5. The Mau Mau was a Maoist insurgent organization that fought against the Kikuyu majority government in the late 1960s for the rights of the Swahili people.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. False; 5. False



*A worker picks tea on a farm along the Tana River watershed
Flickr / CIAT*

Chapter 3 | Kenya in Perspective

Economy

Introduction

Kenya is the second largest economy in East Africa after Ethiopia. The Kenyan economy relies heavily on rain-fed agriculture, and during drought years, economic growth slows down because of the poor performance of the agriculture sector.^{1,2}

Kenya's private sector consists of a formal and informal subsector. The formal sector, which is relatively healthy and productive, is controlled by a few private sector entities that operate mainly in financial services, wholesale, horticulture, tea, coffee, and sugar cane production.^{3,4} The massive, informal small business subsector is subsistence-oriented, featuring smallholder farming, food crops, and nomadic livestock rearing.⁵

Kenya is rich in unexploited natural resources. The recent discovery of oil has elevated the country to the ranks of other oil-producing East African nations.⁶

Agriculture

The agricultural sector is the largest employer in Kenya, contributing 35% to its GDP.⁷ This sector contributes another 27% to the GDP indirectly, as the main driver of non-agricultural sectors such as manufacturing, construction, transportation, education, and tourism. Agriculture accounts for 65% of export earnings and provides the livelihood of nearly 80% of the population.⁸

The country's major agricultural exports are tea, cut flowers, tobacco, coffee, and vegetables. Corn is a staple food crop. Other crops grown for consumption include sisal (a cactus-like plant used for plastics, textiles, and paper), wheat, potatoes, sugarcane, pineapple, coconut, and cashews. Cotton, dairy, beef, fish, pork, poultry, and eggs are also cultivated.^{9, 10, 11}



*Kenyan farmer working a field with cattle
Flickr / Leocadio Sebastian*



*Aerial shot of a tea farm along the Tana River
Flickr / CIAT*

Tea is one of Kenya's top foreign exchange earners. Kenya is the world's leading exporter of black tea, earning USD 1.2 billion in auctioned tea in 2018. Over 80% of Kenya's tea is sold at auctions in Mombasa, in the second-largest tea auction center in the world. Kenya's major tea markets are Pakistan, Egypt, the United Kingdom, and Afghanistan.^{12, 13, 14}

The value of Kenyan coffee is on the rise despite a decline in coffee production. The United States is the second-largest market for Kenyan coffee exports. Kenya plans to export about 30% of its coffee to the United States by the end of 2019.^{15, 16, 17}

Kenya is the world's third largest exporter of cut flowers and accounts for about 35% of all sales in the European Union. Kenyan flowers are sold in more than 60 countries. The sector employs over 100,000 people and indirectly benefits another 2 million Kenyans. The main flowers grown in Kenya for export are roses and carnations.¹⁸

Less than 20% of Kenya's land is suitable for farming; prolonged droughts increase the vulnerability of livestock and crops. Rapid population growth, agricultural expansion into arid lands, escalating conflicts,

mass migration from nomadic areas, and climate change heavily affect food production. Agricultural productivity has stagnated in recent years, and food security is still out of reach.^{19, 20}

Industry

Manufacturing

The industrial sector accounts for 15% of Kenya's GDP. Most of the country's industries are located in Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu. Many industries are concentrated in the food sector, especially the production of beer, flour, salt, and sugar. Small-scale industries include plastic, furniture, batteries, textiles, clothing, soap, and cigarettes.²¹



The Bamburi Athi River cement plant in Nairobi
Flickr / computerwhiz417

CMC Motors Kenya and General Motors are the key automobile assembly and parts manufacturing companies in Kenya.²² An oil refinery turns imported crude oil into petroleum products for domestic consumption. Kenya also has a budding steel industry that depends on new discoveries of coal, iron, aluminum, lead, organic chemicals, and commercial ship repairs.^{23, 24, 25}

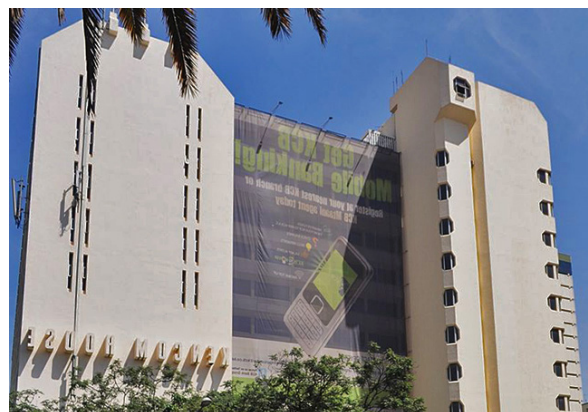
Kenya has a well-established cement industry. Several cement manufacturers moved to Kenya to participate in massive infrastructure projects such as a railway, oil refineries, and the Lamu Port Southern

Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor Project. However, falling demand and low global market commodity prices have hurt this sector.²⁶

Information Communication Technology

Information communications technology (ICT) is one of the fastest growing sectors in Kenya. The country has several internet service providers. The internet user rate, reaching nearly 90% in 2017, is among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya has more than 7 million Facebook users.^{27, 28}

Kenya, a regional leader in mobile financial services, has improved access to banks and e-government services for its citizens. The main users of the internet in Kenya are multinational corporations, international organizations, and NGOs. All government ministries



Kencom House headquarters in Nairobi
Wikimedia / Kagundu

are accessible online. Computers and cyber cafes provide web and email access in major towns. Nairobi is East Africa's most vibrant technology center.^{29, 30, 31}

Energy

According to the National Oil Company of Kenya (NOCK), domestic energy consumption relies mostly on traditional methods: burning wood and other materials accounts for 68% of overall energy consumption, use of petroleum products makes up 22%, and electricity use stands at 9%. Nairobi accounts for around 25% of the country's energy consumption.³²

In 2012, a UK-based oil company discovered oil reserves large enough for commercial exploitation (750 million barrels) in Kenya. The oil fields are located at the Lokichar Basin in the northwestern part of Kenya's Rift Valley. With this discovery, Kenya joins Uganda, Ethiopia, and South Sudan as an oil-producing East African nation.^{33, 34}



*A worker and an oil rig in Turkana County, Lokichar Basin
Flickr / DEMOSH*



*Water being released from the Ndakaini Dam
Flickr / CIAT*

Transportation and logistics infrastructure for the energy sector are of key importance since Kenya's ports also serve as gateways to Uganda and South Sudan. The state-owned Kenya Pipeline Company manages the network of domestic pipelines from Mombasa to Nairobi, Nairobi to Eldoret, and Nairobi to Kisumu. Mombasa's two port facilities have limited storage capacity and require additional infrastructure investment. The refinery in Mombasa processes crude oil from Lokichar Basin for export. Kenya still needs to upgrade its shipping facilities for petroleum products.³⁵ ³⁶ In 2018, NOCK signed a field development deal with a U.S. company. That same year, lacking a suitable railway, Kenya began trucking crude oil from the Lokichar oil fields to the refinery in Mombasa.^{37, 38}

Kenya generates nearly 60% of its electricity from five hydropower plants on the Tana River, a thermal power plant in Nairobi, and geothermal plants in volcanic zones in the Rift Valley.³⁹ A long drought in 2017 caused water levels to drop and a decrease in hydropower. Kenya buys some of its electricity from Uganda and Ethiopia.⁴⁰ A new coal power plant in Lamu is expected to supply more than half of the country's energy needs once it is operational.⁴¹

Natural Resources

Kenya's mineral deposits are largely unexplored and unexploited. After a comprehensive survey, the mining department estimated that Kenya has deposits of 77 minerals; however, the mining sector presently contributes less than 1% to GDP.^{42, 43}

Kenya is the world's third largest producer of soda ash (sodium bicarbonate) and the seventh largest producer of fluor spar, or fluorite. Africa's largest soda ash manufacturer and one of Kenya's leading exporters is located in Lake Magadi, on the floor of the Rift Valley. Over 95% of the product is exported. Soda ash is used in glass manufacturing, soaps, chemicals, paper, aluminum, cosmetics, fertilizer, water treatment, metallurgy, and drugs.^{44, 45} In recent years, soda ash revenues have been falling because of impurities attributed to the accumulation of silt in Lake Magadi.⁴⁶



*Soda Ash train, Lake Magadi, Kajiado County
Flickr / Lynne*

Other important minerals include titanium and iron ore, niobium and rare earth elements (used in electronic components such as semiconductors), limestone, manganese, diatomite, gypsum, ilmenite, zircon, and natural carbon dioxide.⁴⁷ Niobium is used to strengthen steel and in jet engines, pacemakers, and prosthetics. Titanium ore and niobium are becoming the most important minerals mined in Kenya.^{48, 49}

Gemstones are steadily rising on the list of exported minerals. Kenyan mines produce small quantities of rubies, emeralds, and tsavorite (a green gem from the region of Tsavo) – some of the world's most expensive minerals.⁵⁰



*A gold mine in Kakemega Forest
Flickr / Felix Krohn*

Gold is also becoming an important mineral export after discoveries made in western Kenya.⁵¹ The mining department projects that the gold mines at Migori have the potential earn USD 670 billion annually. In some areas like Lake Victoria, artisanal miners have mined gold for decades. This small-scale mining utilized mercury in its processes, increasing the threat of mercury poisoning until a law passed in 2016 outlawed its use.^{52, 53, 54}

Commercial deposits of coal were discovered in the Mui Basin east of Nairobi in 2010, attracting Chinese firms as well as opposition from environmentalists.

A coal-fired thermal-electricity plant is under construction in Lamu, a UNESCO site, generating strong opposition from the local population.^{55, 56, 57}

Mining has the potential to account for 10% of Kenya's GDP.⁵⁸ Earnings come from royalties and taxes paid by companies involved in mining and exports.⁵⁹

Trade



*Containers await loading onto cargo ships at the Mombasa port
Flickr / MEAACT Kenya*

Kenya has a negative trade balance of USD 23 billion in net imports. Top import partners are China, India, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, and South Africa. The main imports are refined petroleum, packaged medications, vehicles, electronics, machinery, and transportation equipment, food staples (wheat, rice, tea, raw sugar), cosmetics, clothing, and iron structures.^{60, 61}

Top export partners are the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan. The top exports are tea (23%), cut flowers (14%),

cement, coffee, petroleum products, iron and steel, and titanium ore. Other products include botanical products, nuts, honey, tobacco products, rubber, animal and fish products, paper, textile products, metals, minerals, and stones. The European Union is the main importer of Kenyan fresh fruits and vegetables.^{62, 63, 64}

Kenya has been a member of the World Trade Organization since 1995. The country is a member of COMESA, which offers preferential tariff rates to members and the EAC. Kenya enjoys preferential trade access to the United States and the European Union.^{65, 66}

Tourism

In 2017, Kenya earned USD 1.2 billion from tourism.⁶⁷ The following year, the tourism ministry unveiled a plan to increase the number of foreign and local tourists to 30.4 million and tourism jobs to 560,000 by 2030.⁶⁸

With 54 national parks and game reserves, numerous cultural and historical attractions, and a long, sunny coastline, tourism is becoming Kenya's second-largest foreign exchange source.⁶⁹ The most famous and **most visited national park** is the Maasai Mara National Reserve, which offers breathtaking views and a chance to see Kenya's "big five" (rhinos, elephants,



*Elephants in Amboseli National Park
Wikimedia / Amoghavarsha*

lions, leopards, and buffalos). Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) manages the national parks and is responsible for protecting wildlife.⁷⁰

Europe is the largest source of tourism for Kenya, with Africa in second place and the United States third. The new visa-on-arrival policy for direct U.S. and African flights announced in 2017, and a new cruise ship terminal in Mombasa, are projected to boost the tourism sector further.^{71, 72, 73}

Travel warnings resulting from threats of al-Shabaab militant group attacks and the tumultuous 2017 election drove the government to invest heavily in security to reassure visitors of their safety and counteract a drop in tourist arrivals.^{74, 75, 76}



*Diani Beach on Chale Island, Indian Ocean
Flickr / The Sands Kenya*

Banking and Finance



*The 50 Kenyan Shilling note, picturing Jomo Kenyatta
Wikimedia / Ahandrich*

Kenya's currency is the Kenyan shilling (KES). Banknotes are available in denominations of up to 1,000 shillings. As of June 2018, USD 1 equaled KES 101.166.⁷⁷ The flow of foreign currency is not regulated or limited; however, bringing in over USD 5,000 requires documentation. Most large towns and cities have major bank branches and ATMs. Foreign debit cards are accepted in many places.⁷⁸ About 94% of transactions in Kenya are made in cash; however, many consumers with access to reliable internet connections prefer online purchases.⁷⁹

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) creates monetary policy and maintains price stability. It also promotes financial stability, implements foreign exchange policies, manages foreign exchange reserves, issues currency, and advises the government.⁸⁰ Kenya has 43 banks, of which 31 are local and 12 foreign. The number of rural branches has grown, giving Kenya one of the highest financial inclusion rates in the developing world at 75%. In 2015, following the collapse of Imperial Bank and Dubai Bank due to banking malpractices, the CBK imposed a two-year moratorium on licensing new banks.^{81, 82, 83}

In 2017, Kenya ranked as the second-most attractive foreign investment destination in Africa after South Africa, despite a 57% drop in foreign direct investment (FDI) and a 55% decline in capital investment. The United Nations noted that the decline in Kenya's FDI came despite reforms that created a better business

environment. This report came shortly after the World Bank released its annual Ease of Doing Business report, showing that the overall investment climate in Kenya improved as Kenya climbed to position 80 out of 189 countries.^{84, 85, 86} The majority of FDI goes to renewable energy projects.⁸⁷

Informal Economy

Jua kali (hot sun) refers to the small roadside businesses that sell everything from tires and laundry detergent to phone cards, and include small repair workshops, manufacturers, and other entrepreneurial activities. *Jua kali* is a segment of Kenya's small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), which constitute nearly 98% of all companies. Apart from the agriculture sector, these SME employ half of all job seekers. SMEs create nearly one-third of new jobs each year but contribute only 3% to the GDP.⁸⁸

Standard of Living

Kenya scored low on the UN Human Development Index of 2016, ranking at position 147 out of 187 countries surveyed.⁸⁹ Life expectancy at birth is 64.3 years, with more than 1.5 million living with HIV/AIDS. The top causes of death are HIV/AIDS, lower respiratory infections, and diarrheal diseases. The infant mortality rate is 39 per 1,000 births.^{90, 91, 92}



Tire repair, an example of the Jua Kali industries in Kenya
Flickr / M Wagner



Shacks and other makeshift homes in Nairobi
Flickr / SuSanA Secretariat

Nearly half of the population lives on less than USD 1 a day; 36.5% are food insecure, and 35% of children are chronically malnourished. Malnutrition is among the top ten causes of death.^{93, 94} Wealth disparity is significant. Less than 0.1% of the population owns more wealth than the bottom 99.9%, the equivalent of more than 44 million people. The number of super-rich is growing rapidly in Kenya.⁹⁵

Access to health care, education, clean water, and sanitation is often out of reach for many Kenyans. Large segments of the population, including the new urban poor, are highly vulnerable to climatic, economic

and social afflictions. Kenya continues to face humanitarian challenges, particularly in the Kakuma refugee camp in the north, which houses 185,000 refugees from Somalia, South Sudan, war-ravaged neighbors, and the Dadaab camp in eastern Kenya, which is home to 235,000 refugees. In the last decade, Kenya has faced enormous pressure due to recurrent droughts that have left millions in need of humanitarian assistance.^{96, 97}

Employment

Figures released in 2018 indicate that the unemployment rate dropped to 7.4% from more than 11%. However, at least seven million Kenyans are unemployed, and 1.4 million out of 19.3 million who compose the labor force are looking for work.⁹⁸ Youth unemployment is more than twice the overall rate.⁹⁹

An acute lack of skilled labor adds to Kenya's unemployment challenges. Kenya's thriving mining and petroleum sectors are struggling to fill positions that require specialized skills like welding, pipe fitting, drilling, and operation of heavy equipment. Instead, these industries rely heavily on foreign technical expertise and production skills. Other fields suffering from a skilled labor gap are business, construction, information technology, and engineering. In response, Kenya is taking steps to open more specialized training centers and update higher education curricula so that standards and training match up with the demands of the job market.^{100, 101}



*Clay bead makers working in a factory in Nairobi
Flickr / Catherine B.*

Outlook



*A transport truck carries workers in the Chalbi Desert
Flickr / Luciano Rizzello*

the manufacturing sector, and improving food security.^{104, 105} Several factors, such as climate, political instability, unfavorable international market developments, and lackluster investment are enduring risks for the country's recovery.^{106, 107, 108}

The slowing GDP growth of 4.9% in 2017, down 0.9% from 2016, was attributed to climate, political instability, and economic factors. However, the outlook is positive. The economy is projected to grow by 5.9% in 2019, inflation to decline to 6.3%, and the fiscal and current account deficits to decrease.^{102, 103}

Growth is expected to be boosted by the strong performance of the agriculture, financial, ICT, and transportation sectors. Additionally, the government will seek to boost the economy by investing in its “Big Four” agenda: improving access to affordable housing, making healthcare truly universal, growing

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Chapter 3 | Assessment

1. Kenya exports more tea than coffee.
2. Kenya has a strong mining sector thanks to its rich mineral deposits.
3. Domestic terrorism, recurrent droughts, and political violence have made Kenya one of the least attractive foreign investment destinations in Africa.
4. Kenya's oil fields are located near the coast.
5. One of the top causes of death in Kenya is HIV/AIDS.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. False; 4. False; 5. True



*Pokot Tribe members outside their hut in the Baringo district
Flickr / www.j-pics.info*

Chapter 4 | Kenya in Perspective

Society

Introduction

Almost 50 million people belonging to more than 40 ethnic groups call Kenya home, each group with its own language and culture. The largest ethnic groups are the Kikuyu, Luhya, Luo, Kalenjin, and the Kamba. Less than 1% of the population consists of non-African groups such as Arabs, Asians (Indians and Pakistanis), and Europeans, most of which live in the coastal region. One of the most famous tribes of Kenya is the Maasai, which accounts for only 0.7% of the population.^{1,2}

Ethnic Groups

Kenya's population comprises 22% Kikuyu, 14% Luhya, 13% Luo, 12% Kalenjin, 11% Kamba, 6% Meru, 6% Kisii, 15% other African groups, and 1% non-African including Asian such as Indians, Europeans, and Arabs.^{3, 4} Indigenous Kenyans are divided into three main groups: the Bantu, Nilote, and Cushite.⁵

The Bantu

Africa's largest linguistic group is the Niger-Congo family of languages. Included in this group are the Bantu-speaking peoples.⁶ The Bantu number approximately 85 million throughout the continent and speak more than 500 variants of the language.⁷ Kenya's Bantu peoples account for more than 70% of its population. The major tribes among the Bantu are the Kikuyu of the central highlands, the Luhya of western Kenya, and the Kamba people of eastern Kenya. Other groups include the Kisii people from the Rift Valley region, the Swahili (descendants of Arab-Bantu intermarriages), the Taita, and the Mijikenda of the coast. Most rural Bantus are agriculturalists and grow the majority of Kenya's cash crops.^{8, 9}



*Women from the Herero ethnic group in colorful garb
Flickr / Txaro Franco*

The Kikuyu (Agikuyu) are Kenya's largest ethnic group. The Kikuyu Bantu language is spoken in central Kenya. The Kikuyu are predominantly farmers, inhabiting the Central Highlands around Mount Kenya. Most of Kenya's coffee crop is grown on Kikuyu land. The Kikuyu are predominately Christian.¹⁰ They dominate the economy in urban areas and have had a strong influence on politics since Kenya gained independence from British rule. Africa's first Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai is a Kikuyu, as have been three of Kenya's four presidents.^{11, 12, 13}

The Luhya (Abaluhya) are the second-largest ethnic group, residing mostly in the Western Province. The Luhya are comprised of 17 subgroups, each speaking a different dialect. Luhya are farmers who cultivate maize, beans, cassava, vegetables, and sugarcane. The Luhya adopted Christianity and rarely engage in traditional rituals. The Maragoli and the Bukusu are the largest Luhya subgroups. The Luhya are a powerful political force active since the colonial era.^{14, 15, 16}

The Kamba (Akamba) reside in the semi-arid Eastern Province, from Nairobi to Tsavo and northeast to Embu. They are the fifth largest ethnic group in Kenya and speak Kamba. They are renowned for their woodcarving and sisal basket weaving skills. Their handicrafts are sold in Kenya and around the world. The Kamba are also active in politics and business.¹⁷

The Nilote

The Nilotic people reside in the broad Rift Valley region and around Lake Victoria and comprise about 25% of Kenya's population. They are made up of three distinct groups: the River Lake Nilotes, which includes the Luo; the Plain Nilotes, which consist of the Maasai, Turkana, and Samburu; and the Highland Nilotes, which consist of the Kalenjin.¹⁸

The Luo are the third largest ethnic group in Kenya, consisting of 26 subgroups. They live on the shore of Lake Victoria in Nyanza Province. Many Luo live in big cities such as Nairobi, Mombasa, Eldoret, and Nakuru, but the majority are still concentrated in rural areas. They are known for their fishing culture and have played an active role in politics since pre-colonial times. By tradition, Luo wives inherit the property when their husbands die. Luo initiation rites involve the removal of six teeth from the lower jaw. The father of former U.S. President Barack Obama was a Luo.^{19, 20}



Maasai people perform a traditional dance
Flickr / Harvey Barrison

The Kalenjin are the fourth largest ethnic group in Kenya, consisting of eight subgroups. They live in the Rift Valley and the higher areas of the plateau and practice subsistence farming and pastoralism. They are known for their athletic abilities – many famous long-distance runners belong to this ethnic group. Kenya's former president Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi is a Kalenjin.^{21, 22}

The Maasai and Samburu are nomadic pastoralists who live along the Great Rift Valley on arid and semiarid land bordering Tanzania.²³ They are among the best-known ethnic groups in Kenya, yet account for less than 1% of the population.^{24, 25}

The Cushites



An El Molo woman holds up a necklace
Flickr / Ray in Manila

The Cushites (Cushitic) make up a small portion of Kenya's population and are mostly nomadic pastoralists who own herds of cattle, sheep, goats, and camels. They live in the arid and semiarid eastern and northeastern regions of Kenya, around Lake Turkana and the remote coastal areas. The largest Cushite group are Somalis. Other groups include the Rendille, Boarana, and Oromo.²⁶

Other Groups



Attendees at an Asian wedding in Kenya
Flickr / Harsh1.0

Arab, Pakistani, or Indian (Kenyan Asians), and European Kenyans make up the remainder of the ethnic groups. Many Indians and Pakistanis (Indo-Paks) came to Kenya during British colonial rule to work on the Kenya-Uganda railway and remained in the country after independence. Though some of them fought against British colonialism, for many years, they lacked representation in national politics. In 2017, President Uhuru declared Kenyans of Asian heritage the 44th tribe of Kenya.^{27, 28}

European Kenyans are British in origin and descended from the farming and colonial populations. Most European Kenyans live in cities such as Nairobi and Mombasa and have little involvement in politics. The Arabs, who are descendants of Yemeni, Omani, and Persian traders, live mainly on the coast.^{29, 30}

Linguistic Groups

Kenya is a multilingual country. English and Swahili are the two official languages. Other languages and dialects spoken by Kenya's ethnic groups are divided among three main language groups: Bantu, Nilo-Saharan, and Afro-Asiatic.³¹

Kenya inherited English from the British, who began to colonize its territory in the 19th century. English is used in formal conversations, print and electronic media, business, and academia. It serves as a lingua franca in urban settings.³²



The Wamu Milk Café in Kenya
Flickr / ILRI

Swahili, a Bantu language also known as Kiswahili, is the national language of Kenya and is used by most Kenyans. Several dialects of Swahili are spoken along the coast. The earliest written evidence of Swahili is found in letters from 1711, using Arabic script. Swahili is a mandatory subject taught up to high school. It is one of the most common African languages, spoken by nearly 50 million people.^{33, 34}

The most dominant of the indigenous languages are Swahili, Kikuyu, Luhya, and Dholuo.³⁵ Kikuyu, another Bantu language, is spoken by Kenya's largest ethnic group and is related to the Embu, Mbeere, and Meru languages spoken by communities in the Mount Kenya region. The language is also spoken by members of other ethnic groups, especially in business interactions.^{36, 37, 38}

The Luhya language, also a Bantu language, is not a single language but a collection of mutually understood dialects spoken by the Luhya people of western Kenya. About 1.2 million people speak Luhya in Kenya.^{39, 40}

The Luo speak Dholuo, a Nilo-Saharan language. The languages of the Kalenjin, Maasai, Samburu, and Turkana also belong to the Nilo-Saharan family.⁴¹

The Somali and Oromo people who inhabit the arid and semiarid regions of the north and northeast speak Afro-Asiatic languages.⁴² Sheng is a slang commonly spoken in Nairobi. It is a mixture of Swahili, English, and other indigenous languages. Urban youth are more fluent in **Sheng** than in the purer forms of Kiswahili.^{43, 44}

Religion

Kenya's constitution guarantees freedom of religion and worship. The majority of Kenyans are Christians. A sizable Muslim minority resides mostly on the coast and in the northeast of the country.⁴⁵

Christians

Nearly 80% of Kenyans are Christian, with the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches as the most established denominations. Other Christian groups include the African Inland Church, Seventh Day Adventists, and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa.^{46, 47} Christianity arrived in Kenya in the 15th century with the Portuguese and expanded through the 19th century with the help of missionaries.⁴⁸



*Attendees at a Roman Catholic church meeting in Kenya
Flickr / Make it Kenya*

Muslims

About 10% of Kenyans are Muslim. Most are concentrated in the northeastern regions, Mombasa and the coast.⁴⁹ Islam reached East Africa in 700 CE through Muslims who originated from Oman and Yemen. A second wave of Muslims arrived in the 10th century, made up of Arabs who settled on the northern coast. By the end of the 10th century, large parts of the coastal areas were converted to Islam by Persian immigrants.⁵⁰



*Muslim schoolchildren pose together in Nairobi
Flickr / Make it Kenya*

Kenya's Muslims are not a homogeneous group. Many are African converts from different ethnic groups, while others are Arabs, Somalis, and migrants from South Asia. The Muslim community is facing increased discrimination, hostility, and stereotyping since the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi.⁵¹

Muslim courts (*kadhi*) have legal jurisdiction over personal law for the marriages, divorces, and inheritance affairs of Muslims. In 1973, the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims was founded to unite the Muslim community and resolve conflicts between Muslim groups and organizations.⁵²

Indigenous Religions and Other



Indigenous Kenyans, Nakuru
Flickr / JuanjoMayan

About 2% of the population practices indigenous religions mixed with some aspects of Christianity. *Dini ya Msambwa* is a religion practiced by the Luhya who use portions of the Bible while practicing witchcraft. Many indigenous African religions have been abandoned. The Kikuyu, for example, worshiped a single god, Ngai, and believed that their god created a man and a woman who had nine daughters who later married and started the Kikuyu tribe. Some Kamba still believe in Ngai, but in the form of an invisible god who lives in the sky and is called Asa (father).^{53, 54, 55} Kenyan descendants of Indian and Pakistani laborers practice Hinduism and Sikhism.⁵⁶

Cuisine

A long history of Arab invasions, Portuguese and British colonialism and migrations from Asia has influenced Kenya's cuisine as much as the cultures and traditions of Kenya's indigenous tribes. From their Brazilian colony, the Portuguese introduced maize, pineapple, cassava, and sweet potatoes. They also brought oranges, lemons, and pigs from China and India. The Indians who primarily worked on the railways brought curry dishes, *chapatti* (fried, flat round bread), and *samosas* (triangular deep-fried pockets filled with spicy meat or vegetables). The British brought tomatoes, cucumbers and white potatoes.^{57, 58}



A Kenyan cooks chapatti bread on a hot plate
Flickr / International Potato Center Sub Saharan Africa

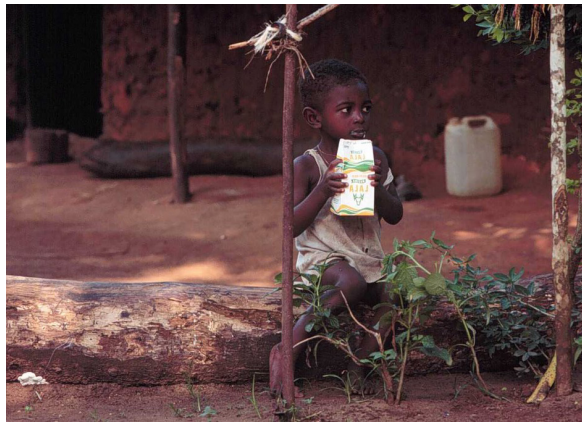
Food also varies by geography. The Maasai, who are cattle herders, eat beef and goat but do not eat wild game or fish. The people who live near Lake Victoria eat fish stews and rice. Swahili dishes are influenced

by contact with Arab and Indian traders and utilize coconut and Indian spices.⁵⁹

The most common food in Kenya is *ugali*, a type of grainy dough made from cornmeal or maize flour added to boiling water. *Ugali* is served with meat or vegetables. The traditional way of eating *ugali* is to pinch a piece of dough and scoop some sauce or stew with it. *Githeri*, a traditional Kikuyu dish, is a mix of boiled corn and beans eaten as a main dish all through Kenya. *Irio* is another Kikuyu dish made from boiled corn and potatoes or boiled peas and potatoes. The mix is then mashed into a thick paste, formed into balls, and dipped into meat or vegetable stews. *Kachumbari* is a type of salad or a condiment made from shredded onions, cabbage, tomatoes and peppers, and dressed with lemon juice and coriander. *Sukuma wiki*, which means, “stretch the week,” is a mix of fried kale or spinach, onions, and tomatoes. When oil is not available, the vegetables are simmered in water. *Nyama choma* means grilled, broiled, or barbecued meat, usually beef, lamb, or goat. *Kuku choma* refers to roasted chicken, and *samaki choma* refers to fish. Coconut rice is eaten on the coast.^{60, 61, 62}



Nyama Choma, a roasted meat dish, common in Namanga
Flickr / IXiaojun Deng



A child drinks maziwa lala (sour milk)
Flickr / ILRI

Mandaazi is a semisweet flat doughnut served for breakfast or as dessert with coffee or tea. *Matoke* is a Ugandan dish consisting of mashed plantains cooked with tomatoes, onions, garlic, chilies, and lemon juice. It is eaten with rice, *ugali* or *chapatti*.^{63, 64}

Although Kenya is famous for its coffee, many Kenyans prefer to drink tea, usually with sugar and whole milk. Tea is called *chai*, but it is not the same as the spicy Indian beverage with the same name. *Maziwa lala* is a popular beverage made from fermented milk. Locally brewed beer is also a favorite among Kenyans. Tusker is Kenya’s signature beer.^{65, 66, 67}

Traditional Dress

Throughout most of Kenya, traditional clothes have been replaced by Western-style attire. However, some ethnic groups have preserved their traditional garments and jewelry. Many Kenyans wear a mix of *kanga*, *kitenge*, and *kikoi*. The *kanga* is Kenya’s most traditional garment. It is used as a baby carrier, headgear, and waist or torso wrap. It has colorful designs and is often adorned with Swahili or English sayings. *Kitenges* are similar to *kangas* and are very popular. They are made of thicker fabric and come in different cuts. *Kitenge* fabrics are also used to make contemporary shirts, dresses, and pants. Men and women wear

kitenges for special occasions. *Kikoi* is a fabric used as a beach wrap, blanket, scarf, shawl, and tablecloth. Both men and women use this fabric.⁶⁸

The traditional dress of the Swahili people, who are a mix of Cushite, Bantu, Arabs, Portuguese, Hindi, and Indonesian, is influenced by traditional Islamic dress. Men wear a long, white robe called *kanzu* and a small, round white hat with elaborate embroidery. Swahili women wear long dresses called *buibui* and cover their heads with the *hijab*. Some women use a veil to cover their faces. Swahili men wear traditional dress primarily during religious ceremonies and on Fridays. In urban areas, Swahili men wear Western-style clothing.^{69, 70}



Maasai men dressed in traditional clothing
Flickr / Ann Powell Groner

The Maasai traditional attire is a red cotton wrap called *shuka* (sheet or loincloth). To complete the *shuka*, the Maasai adorn themselves with elaborate, colorful beaded jewelry around the head, shoulders, arms, neck, and wrists. Red signifies earth, courage, independence, and blood. *Shukas* can also be blue or green and have stripes and checkered patterns.^{71, 72} The Maasai often walk barefoot or wear simple sandals made of cowhide.⁷³ Today, elite fashion houses use the iconic Maasai *shuka* in their designs without compensating the Maasai people. A group known as the Maasai Intellectual Property Initiative initiates legal challenges against companies that copy the Maasai signature style without licensing agreements.⁷⁴

The Samburu, who are related to the Maasai and speak the same language (Maa), also wear *shukas* and adorn themselves with elaborate beaded necklaces, headdresses complete with ostrich feathers and shells, and bracelets. The Samburu also paint their faces in red ochre.^{75, 76} The Turkana, who are also related to the Maasai, adorn themselves with piles of colorful beaded necklaces. Women wear sleeveless garments made from animal skins, embroidered with ostrich shells. Men paint their hair with bright crimson dye.^{77, 78}



A Samburu man wearing a Shuka
Flickr / Jalil Arfaoui

Gender Issues



Kenyan women carrying containers for water
Flickr / SIM USA

clothing is punishable by imprisonment for up to 20 years. The maximum penalty for rape is life imprisonment, but most sentences are no longer than 10 years.⁸⁰

The Coalition on Violence against Women estimates that 16,500 rapes occur per year in Kenya, but rape is rarely reported or investigated. Domestic violence against women is widespread, but law enforcement often views it as a private family matter and rarely intervene.⁸¹

Although FGM/C was banned in 2001 (and amended in 2011), about 21% of girls and women in Kenya have undergone the procedure, with the highest number concentrating in the northeast. FGM/C is often carried out during holidays.⁸² Government officials, NGOs, and celebrities participate in public awareness programs to stop the practice.⁸³ Wife inheritance, in which a man inherits the widow of his brother or other relatives, is against the law, as are forced marriages.⁸⁴

Kenya's constitution provides equal rights for men and women and prohibits gender discrimination; however, the justice system and customary laws often discriminate against women, limiting their political and economic rights.⁷⁹

The law criminalizes rape; sexual violence within marriage; incest; stalking, harassment; intimidation; sex tourism; physical, economic, emotional, psychological and verbal abuse; early and forced marriage; female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C); and wife "inheritance;" but enforcement is limited. Insulting the modesty of people by stripping them of



Women of all ages are in danger of FGM
Flickr / UK Department for International Development

Arts

Arts and Crafts

Kenya's culture has produced a variety of arts and handicrafts. Among the popular handcrafted artifacts are wood sculptures, sisal baskets, Maasai beaded jewelry, gold and silver jewelry, musical instruments made of local materials, soapstone sculptures, tribal masks, paintings, prints, batik cloth, *kangas*, *kitenges*, and the traditional *kikoi* (African sarongs).⁸⁵

Music and Dance

Kenya has a rich and diverse musical and dance culture, as each ethnic group has its own musical style, instruments, and dances. Among the popular musical styles are the *mugithi* (Western-style folk music that centers on politics and society) and *ketebul* of the Kikuyu, and the *ohangla* music of the Luhya. The contemporary *lingala* and *benga* rhythms are adapted to each tribe's musical style. *Benga*, Kenya's distinct pop music, has been the Luo's contribution to Afropop since the 1960s. *Taarab* music originates from the coast and is inspired by Arab and Indian immigrants. Many of the best Kikuyu musicians come from Gatanga, not far from Nairobi. The Kikuyu have a vibrant recording industry that includes gospel and popular music.^{86, 87, 88}



Children perform with drums for onlookers in a village
Flickr / April Rinne



Performers demonstrate the Maasai warrior dance
Flickr / GioRetti

Kenyans use dance to communicate, celebrate initiation rites and important events, and complement religious ceremonies. The Maasai *adumu* (a jumping dance) is an initiation ceremony in which boys walk in a circle and jump to the rhythm of a song, but no musical instruments accompany the dance.⁸⁹ *Mwomboko* is a traditional Kikuyu dance performed by elderly men and women on days that commemorate historical events and government ceremonies. The dance was initially a performance where married men and women met and socialized and later became a protest movement.⁹⁰ *Isikuti* is a traditional dance performed by men and women of the Luhya tribe during weddings, births, and funerals. In the coastal region, *chakacha* is performed and watched by Swahili women. Women from the Kamba ethnic group perform the *kilumi* dance, accompanied by drums and singing.⁹¹

Theater and Literature

Kenyan literature has a large body of oral and written folklore. The Swahili (also called Kiswahili) literary tradition dates back to the 18th century and includes poetry as well as fiction and drama.^{92, 93} Contemporary Kenyan authors write about Western imperialism and post-colonial society. Celebrated Kenyan novelist, playwright and scholar Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, a Kikuyu, has been publishing for over 50 years. Though many Kenyan authors publish in English, Thiong’o publishes his writings in Kikuyu.^{94, 95, 96} One of Thiong’o’s best-known novels is *A Grain of Wheat*, an examination of the impact of Kenya’s independence on ordinary citizens.⁹⁷ Some of Kenya’s most celebrated authors are women, such as Grace Ogot, the first African female writer to be published in English; Muthoni Garland; and Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor.⁹⁸

Sports and Recreation

Soccer is the most popular sport in Kenya. The national team is known as the Harambee Stars (Harambee means, “let’s pull all together” in Kikuyu). The most popular club teams are the AFC Leopards from Nairobi and the Coast Stars from Mombasa.^{99, 100}

Kenyans dominate most of the world’s long-distance races. Kenyan runners are internationally famous and are estimated to have won about half of all long-distance running Olympics and World Championship competitions. Runners from the Kalenjin tribe claim most of those medals.^{101, 102, 103}



Youth athletes play together
Flickr / Sports Friends



Floor hockey at the World Winter Games 2017
Flickr / Special Olympics 2017

Kenya inherited rugby, cricket, volleyball, field hockey, and horseracing from the British. Golf is also popular in Nairobi.¹⁰⁴ Netball is a game played mainly by girls.¹⁰⁵ Recreational sports such as hiking, walking safaris, scuba diving and snorkeling, deep-sea fishing, and sailing are popular with tourists.^{106, 107, 108}

The East African Safari Classic Rally is a nine-day, 5,000 km (3,106 mi) race that passes through Tanzania and Kenya. Only vintage cars can participate.¹⁰⁹

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Kenya in Perspective

Chapter 4 | Assessment

1. Kikuyu is one of the official languages of Kenya.
2. The Cushitic people live in the arid and semiarid regions of Kenya.
3. The Maasai tribe is the second largest ethnic group in Kenya after the Kikuyu.
4. The majority of Kenyans are Christians.
5. Ugali is a mystical god worshiped by the Bantu people.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. False; 4. True; 5. False



*Interim Juba Administration forces on the back of a truck
Flickr / AMISOM Public Information*

Chapter 5 | Kenya in Perspective

Security

Introduction

Kenya is a key regional actor in East Africa and a vital partner of the United States. After the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya became strategically important in the fight against international terrorism and extremism, especially against the Somalia-based al-Shabaab group. Kenya's military is ranked among the strongest in Africa. Kenya maintains close ties with its neighbors and seeks to resolve conflicts through diplomacy. With its strategic land borders and access to the Indian Ocean, Kenya is committed to deepening regional integration through infrastructure development and economic cooperation. Kenya plays an important role in promoting regional stability by hosting a large refugee population from neighboring countries. Some of the challenges that plague Kenya are terrorism, police and government corruption, ethnic divisions, and eruptions of violence during elections.^{1, 2, 3}

U.S.-Kenya Relations

The U.S. government views Kenya as an important strategic ally and a key regional actor in East Africa. Kenya is on the frontline of the fight against international terrorism and the regional al-Qaeda affiliate in East Africa, al-Shabaab, based in Somalia. The United States relies on Kenya's ability to promote regional stability and host refugees from across the region.^{4, 5, 6}

Other U.S. goals in Kenya include strengthening the institutions of democracy; improving human rights and good governance; preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and improving healthcare; fighting poverty; and promoting strong economic and business ties between the two countries. The Peace Corps has about 150 volunteers in Kenya.^{7, 8}



*Uhuru Kenyatta poses with Barack and Michelle Obama
Flickr / U.S. Department of State*



*Kenyan and U.S. military members meet
Flickr / US Army Africa*

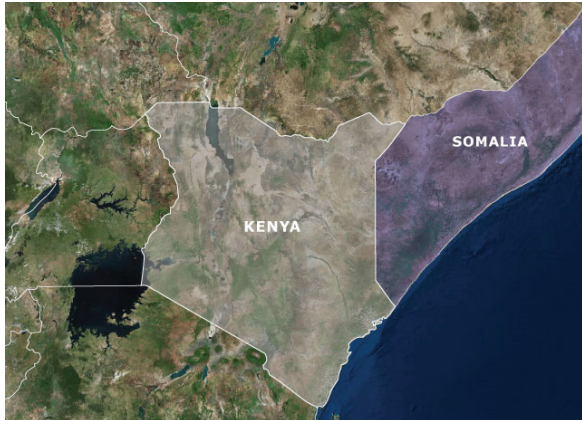
Kenya ranks among the top recipients of U.S. foreign aid and is the largest recipient of U.S. security assistance in Africa. Kenya is the largest African recipient of the Department of Defense's "train-and-equip" counterterrorism assistance, focused mostly on helping secure the border with Somalia. Kenya purchases arms and defense equipment such as fighter aircraft, helicopters, and Air Force computer systems through the Foreign Military Sales program. Kenya also hosts the largest U.S. diplomatic mission in Africa, from which U.S. agencies manage regional programs.^{9, 10}

Economic ties between the United States and Kenya are strong and growing. Kenya is eligible for benefits through the African Growth and Opportunity Act. It is also a beneficiary of the Power Africa Initiative, which supports the development of Kenya's renewable energy sector through financing and technical assistance.¹¹

Human rights abuses, violations of civil liberties, corruption, and economic slowdowns following ethnic clashes periodically complicate U.S.-Kenya relations.¹²

Relations with Neighboring Countries

Somalia

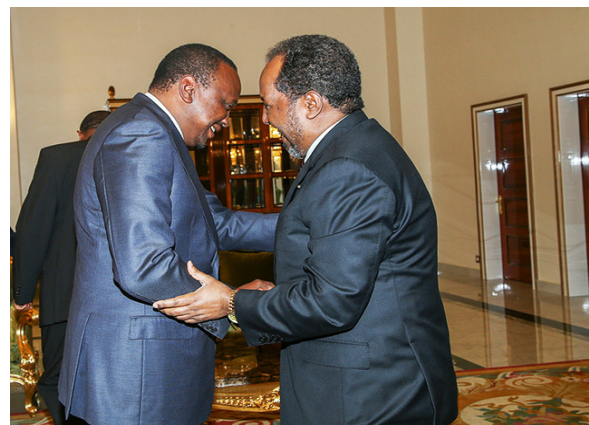


Locator map of Kenya and Somalia
DLIFLC

Kenya has a Somali population of 2.4 million, including thousands of refugees and illegal Somali residents. A recent survey showed that if current population trends continue, the Somali group will become one of the top three largest ethnic groups in Kenya within the next 20 years. The native Somali territory is the Northeastern Province near the border with Somalia. The Somali people maintain close contacts with their kin in Somalia. Tensions between the local Somali population and the Kenyan government rise when Kenya launches counterterrorism attacks in Somalia.^{13, 14, 15}

In October 2011, 2,400 Kenyan troops entered southern Somalia. The pretext for the incursion was a string of high-profile cross-border kidnappings and murders of Westerners by freelance Somali criminals, but the underlying cause was the deteriorating security situation in the northeast and the need to push back al-Shabaab, which controlled much of southern Somalia.^{16, 17, 18} Uganda and Ethiopia also participated in the costly operation. Kenya lost between 100 and 200 troops.¹⁹

Kenya has an ongoing maritime border dispute with Somalia over a 100,000 square km (38,600 sq mi) area in the Indian Ocean, potentially rich in oil and gas, about 270 km (168 mi) from the shoreline. Kenya has already marked the disputed territory for licensing, prompting Somalia to accuse Kenya of stealing its oil and take the case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2014. Kenya claims that this dispute was initially settled in 1979, but the relevant documents were lost in the 1990s war in Somalia. Kenya also claims that the dispute was settled for a second time in 2009 when the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding for the maritime border. The case is awaiting a final ruling by the ICJ. Experts suggest that the two countries cooperate and share their natural resources, similar to the way Nigeria agreed to share resources with neighbor São Tomé and Príncipe.^{20, 21, 22}



Kenyatta meets with Somali president Mohamoud in 2016
Flickr / AMISOM Public Information

The security situation in Somalia is of great concern to Kenya. In its effort to stabilize Somalia, strengthen its economy, and reduce its dependency on foreign aid, Kenya hosts the largest Somali refugee population in

the world and participates in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which was founded in 2007 as a regional peacekeeping organization.^{23,24} In 2016, Kenya signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with Somalia, focusing on security as the two countries fight al-Shabaab. In 2017, Kenya opened a new chapter of cooperation with Somalia as President Uhuru Kenyatta announced a plan to open two border crossings and relaunch direct flights between Nairobi and Mogadishu.^{25, 26, 27}

Ethiopia



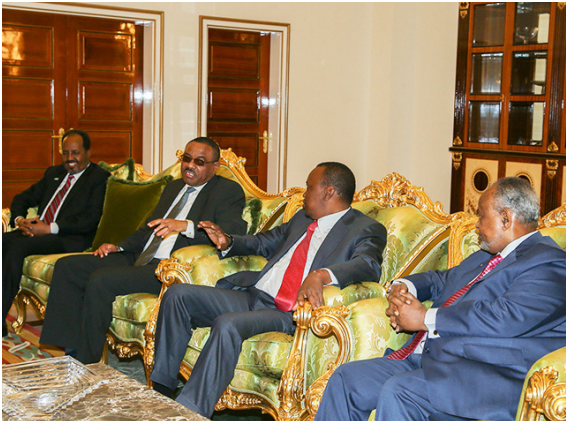
Locator map of Kenya and Ethiopia
DLIFLC

Kenya and Ethiopia have strong historical, diplomatic, military and economic relations. This relationship stretches back to the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in the years leading up to WWII. During this struggle, Kenya supplied a safe haven and medical attention to the Ethiopian resistance. Ethiopia reciprocated during the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya during the 1950s. The basis for this relationship was the friendship between the Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie and the future President of Kenya, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta. In 1961, while Kenya was still under British colonial rule, the Emperor appointed the first ambassador to Kenya.²⁸

In 1964, Ethiopia and Kenya signed the Kenya-Ethiopia Defense Pact, in which they agreed to help each other in case they were attacked, mainly by Soviet-backed Somalia, who harbored territorial ambitions for a Greater Somalia in parts of Kenya and Ethiopia. The pact is still in effect. Ethiopia is currently a member of AMISOM.²⁹

Kenya and Ethiopia maintain high-level diplomatic relations. In 2018, the two countries' presidents met and agreed to accelerate the special status agreement they had signed to establish a binational commission that streamlines bilateral economic cooperation and trade relations.^{30, 31}

Both countries are members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a trade bloc that also includes Uganda, South Sudan, and Somalia.³² The presidents of Kenya and Ethiopia have signed cross-border agreements, partly backed and funded by the United Nations, to improve security and trade along their shared border. The agreements are aligned with the IGAD drought relief efforts in the region.^{33, 34}



Meeting of leaders at the AMISOM Heads of State summit 2016
Flickr / AMISOM Public Information

The two countries share water resources along their common border on the Omo River, Lake Turkana, and Daua River.³⁵ The controversial Gibe III Dam on the Omo River, which Ethiopia completed in 2016, threatens the livelihood of Kenyans who live along the shores of Lake Turkana. However, Kenya was in regular consultation with the Ethiopian government regarding the dam and has supported the project.³⁶ ^{37, 38} Kenya has a power purchase agreement with Ethiopia, in which Kenya will import 400 megawatts of hydroelectricity every year once Ethiopia completes the Grand Ethiopia Renaissance mega-dam on the Nile River.^{39, 40, 41}

The Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor Project (LAPPSET) provides Ethiopia a corridor to the Indian Ocean. The two countries signed a pact on an oil pipeline that will run from Lamu to Addis Ababa as part of the LAPPSET project.⁴²

South Sudan



Locator map of Kenya and South Sudan
DLIFLC

The relations between Kenya and South Sudan focus on finding a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict in South Sudan, improving border security, and expanding infrastructure networks that link the two countries.⁴³

In 2005, Kenya played a central role in negotiations sponsored by IGAD, which resulted in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army. The agreement sought to end the bloody conflict that had divided north and south Sudan since 1956. In 2011, under the CPA, the

people of South Sudan voted for independence through secession in a referendum. In 2013, another civil war broke out and threatened to destabilize the region. Kenya's active role in mediation, participation in the peacekeeping force in South Sudan, and acceptance of thousands of refugees and migrants from South Sudan contributed to the strong relations between the two countries.^{44, 45, 46}

In 2018, a senior UN official accused Kenya of fueling the five-year civil war between South Sudan President Salva Kiir's loyal forces and his former deputy Riek Machar, an accusation that Kenya denied.^{47, 48} In July 2018, President Kenyatta reiterated Kenya's commitment of restoring peace and stability in the region to the commander of U.S. Africa Command.^{49, 50}

The construction of LAPSSET testifies to Kenya's commitment to bringing social and economic prosperity to South Sudan. LAPSSET involves airports, railways, roads and, most importantly, an oil pipeline between Lamu and landlocked South Sudan.⁵¹

Uganda



Locator map of Kenya and Uganda
DLIFLC

Trade and diplomatic relations between Uganda and Kenya are strong. In July 2000, the two countries and Tanzania established the East African Community (EAC) to encourage progress and regional integration in East Africa.⁵²

In 2017, Kenya exported USD 457 million in goods to Uganda, and Uganda exported USD 552 million in goods to Kenya, making Uganda one of Kenya's largest trade partners.^{53, 54, 55} To facilitate the movement of goods and services between the two countries, Kenya opened a one-stop border post at the Suam Crossing in northwest Kenya.^{56, 57}

The two countries maintain strong diplomatic ties. President Kenyatta has visited Uganda several times since taking office, including some high-profile state visits. In 2018, Kenyatta made a three-day official visit to Uganda for the EAC summit.^{58, 59, 60} The president of Uganda has visited Kenya on multiple occasions as well.⁶¹

Uganda uses the port of Mombasa to get access to international markets. Uganda will also benefit from the LAPSSET project, in which a pipeline, roads, and railways will link its oilfields to the new port in Lamu, Kenya.^{62, 63}

A dispute over the ownership of Migingo Island, a small rocky outpost on Lake Victoria populated by Ugandan and Kenyan fishermen, escalated during the 2000s and strained bilateral relations. In 2009, the two countries decided to withdraw from the island, conduct a border survey, and study colonial maps in order to determine its status.^{64, 65} The situation has not yet been resolved satisfactorily. In 2018, Kenyan fishermen were still complaining of harassment by Ugandan security officials, who in turn claimed that the island belonged to Uganda.⁶⁶



*Kenyatta with Museveni, President of Uganda
at the UNCTAD XIV opening*
Flickr / UNCTAD

Tanzania

Although it is a founding member of the EAC, Tanzania's relationship with Kenya remains a troubled one. For example, Tanzania is the only country in the EAC that requires Kenyans to show a passport and visa to enter.⁶⁷ Relations between the two countries have been lukewarm since 2015 when Tanzanian President John Magufuli took office. Tanzania undermined Kenya's economic plans by working with Uganda to reroute Uganda's oil pipeline through Tanzania instead of Kenya and refused to sign an EAC trade deal

with the European Union after Kenya had already signed it.^{68, 69}

Trade between the two countries constitutes over 45% of the entire trade within the EAC, despite repeated trade disputes over Tanzanian restrictions and taxes on Kenyan goods.⁷⁰ Tanzania is the fourth largest exporter to Kenya after South Africa, Egypt, and Uganda.⁷¹ In 2017, Tanzanian exports to Kenya dropped from its 2015 high of USD 800 million to USD 291 million. Kenya's exports to Tanzania fell to a 10-year low in 2018 to USD 201 million.^{72, 73} In 2018, the two countries decided to settle their trade disputes before they developed into a full-blown trade war.⁷⁴



Locator map of Kenya and Tanzania
DLIFLC

Diplomatic relations between the two countries soured in 2017 after Tanzanian authorities seized and auctioned off nearly 4,000 cattle belonging to Kenyan Maasai herders, who had crossed into Tanzania in search of pastures. Kenya, on the other hand, allowed 4,000 cattle from Tanzania to enter its territory freely. Kenya protested the hostile action against its citizens, claiming that cross-border grazing occurs along all its borders, but no other country has resorted to such radical steps.^{75, 76} The two countries began marking and reaffirming their 769 km (478 mi) border in order to increase awareness and sensitivity of border issues.^{77, 78}

Police

Kenya has a civilian police force that is highly trained and specialized. The National Police Service (NPS) is a subordinate of the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. The NPS includes the Kenya Police Service (KPS) and the Administration Police Service (APS).^{79, 80}



Kenyan Police Officers at an awards ceremony
Flickr / AMISOM Public Information

The NPS maintains specialized subunits such as the paramilitary General Service Unit (GSU), which provides security to the president; the state houses; foreign airlines; and strategic installations. It participates in riot control, oversees anti-poaching and counterterrorism operations, and combats livestock theft. The Directorate of Criminal Investigation is an independent department responsible for criminal investigations and includes an anti-narcotics unit, antiterrorism unit, and a forensic unit. The Administration Police Service is responsible for traditional police duties and includes traffic, railway, and transport police units. Other units are the airport and maritime police, national highway police, a canine unit utilized for crime detection and prevention, and diplomatic and tourism units.^{81, 82}



*Police engage with rioters in the Nairobi business district
Flickr / DEMOSH*

Two civilian organizations provide external oversight of the police: the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) and the National Police Service Commission (NPSC).⁸³ Police misconduct and abuse is a serious problem. Incompetence and corruption, harassment of witnesses, and a lack of cooperation with external investigators of abuse are some of the problems internal affairs investigators struggle to address.^{84, 85, 86} Police officers serving in urban areas wear blue or green uniforms. Those in conflict zones wear camouflage fatigues.⁸⁷

Military

The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) have an estimated 29,100 personnel, including paramilitary and reserve forces. The KDF has three branches: the Kenya Army, Kenya Air Force (KAF), and Kenya Navy. The Kenyan military is ranked 11th best in Africa and is one of the best-equipped militaries on the continent.^{88, 89, 90}

Military service is voluntary and open to men and women between the ages of 18 and 26. Enlistees sign for nine years in the Kenya Army and KAF, and seven years in the Kenya Navy. Recruits must present a valid Kenyan national identity card proving their citizenship and possess a school-leaving certificate. Retirement is mandatory at 55.⁹¹

Kenya Army

The military structure is based on the British model. The primary mission of the Kenya Army is to defend the country against outside aggression, but other missions include disaster relief and maintenance of domestic order. Kenyan units have served in numerous international peacekeeping missions in Africa (such as AMISOM, EASF, and UNDP) and in Europe.⁹² The Kenya Army is equipped with an estimated 70 combat tanks, 55 artillery systems, and 600 armored vehicles.⁹³ The army's headquarters is in Nairobi.^{94, 95} The United States provides substantial financial aid and training to Kenyan troops.⁹⁶



*Kenyan soldiers serving in AMISOM in Saa'moja
Flickr / AMISOM Public Information*

Kenya Air Force



A Kenya Air Force helicopter in the air
Wikimedia / Alan Wilson

The KAF is one of the largest in the region. The main mission of the KAF is to defend the sovereignty of Kenya's airspace. Other missions include support of the army and navy and disaster relief. The KAF has more than 130 aircraft, including fighter jets, transport, trainer and surveillance aircraft, and 69 helicopters. Aircraft are equipped with anti-tank, air-to-air, and air-to-surface missiles.^{97, 98, 99} In 2018, Kenya purchased three Spartan transport aircraft and an undisclosed number of helicopters from Italy.¹⁰⁰ The KAF headquarters is in Mombasa.¹⁰¹

Kenya Navy

The Kenya Navy is the biggest navy along the east coast of Africa. The Kenya Navy protects the country's 536 km (333 mi) coastline from invasion, participates in the anti-terrorism and anti-piracy operations, and provides support to the KDF.^{102, 103} The Clearance Division Unit (CDU) supports the fleet by conducting deep-sea diving and underwater inspections, beach surveys, parachute jumps, unexploded ordinance disposal, and lifesaving operations.¹⁰⁴ The Kenya Navy headquarters is located in Mtongwe Port in Mombasa.¹⁰⁵



Kenyan Navy's KNS Shujaa and Nyayo side by side
Wikimedia / US Navy / PH1 (NAO) Chris Desmond

The Kenya Navy has contributed to the international anti-piracy efforts in the Indian Ocean. In 2011, the French navy donated a patrol vessel to Kenya to aid in the efforts against Somali pirates.^{106, 107, 108}

Cybersecurity

Kenya's Information Communication Technology Authority operates under the Ministry of Information Communication and Technology. The Communication Authority of Kenya oversees the management of cybersecurity.^{109, 110}

Kenya is one of the most connected countries in Africa, with nearly 90% of the population connected to the internet, and as such is vulnerable to cybersecurity threats. In 2014, Kenya launched e-citizen, a well-developed portal for various government services. Many private entities have online platforms where Kenyans can pay for products and services by using mobile payment platforms.^{111, 112}



A typical cyber café in Kenya
Flickr / ebel

The cyber threats Kenya faces involve basic hacking, financial fraud, social media account hijacking, theft of government documents, and cyber espionage. The frequency and sophistication of cyber attacks have increased over the last decade. Kenya has been a victim of global cyber attacks and is also a center of cybercrime in Africa.^{113, 114} In 2017, Kenya lost an estimated USD 210 million to cybercrime, second only to Nigeria, which lost USD 649 million.^{115, 116} A computer and cybercrime bill passed in 2018 addresses cybercrime, but critics claim that it also curtails media freedom and free speech.¹¹⁷

Issues Affecting Stability

Domestic and foreign security threats compromise Kenya's generally peaceful reputation. State and police corruption, abuse of power, terrorist threats, poverty, urban crime, and ethnic disputes that translate into periodic civil unrest are major challenges to Kenya's long-term stability.¹¹⁸

Militant and Terrorist Groups

International, regional, and domestic terrorist groups operate in Kenya. Al-Qaeda is an international group based outside the region; it targets mostly the United States, such as in the 1998 bombing of the U.S.

Embassy in Nairobi. The Somali al-Shabaab and the Ethiopian Oromo Liberation Front are based outside of Kenya, in Somalia and Ethiopia respectively. They occasionally operate inside Kenya against civilians and military personnel. Lastly, al-Hijra is a domestic Islamist terrorist group affiliated with al-Shabaab.¹¹⁹



Terrorist attack at an Israeli hotel in Mombasa
Flickr / Israel Defense Forces

Other regional groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army and the Allied Democratic Forces, a rebel group affiliated with international terrorist groups and operates near the border of Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, threaten the stability of the entire region.¹²⁰

The activities of the Islamic Party of Kenya, an unregistered organization that operates among the coastal Swahili population, are of concern to the government. Local support networks and corruption among immigration officers make it possible for foreign fighters to enter the country and become citizens.^{121, 122}

Al-Shabaab

Al-Shabaab, which translates to “the youth,” formed in the late 1990s and has pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda since 2012. The Somali-based terror group seeks to overthrow the Somali government and impose a fundamentalist Islamic state in the Horn of Africa, which includes Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Somalia.^{123, 124}



*Al Shabaab fighters surrender to AMISOM troops
Flickr / AMISOM Public Information*

Al-Shabaab controls much of southern Somalia and small pockets of Kenya and Ethiopia. In areas under its control, al-Shabaab imposes a strict version of Sharia law associated with Salafism and Wahhabism. The group persecutes non-Muslims, attacks aid workers, and abducts women and children for exploitation and human trafficking purposes.^{125, 126}

Al-Shabaab has frequently targeted the Somali government and AMISOM. Since the group allied itself with al-Qaeda, it has conducted attacks on neighboring countries. In September 2013, the group attacked the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, a mall frequented by Westerners, killing 68 people and wounding 175. In April 2015, five al-Shabaab gunmen stormed Garissa University in Kenya, killing nearly 150 students.^{127, 128} Al-Shabaab exploits political and ethnic divisions inside Kenya to radicalize frustrated Muslim youths and retaliates against Kenyan civilians and military personnel because of Kenya's participation in AMISOM.^{129, 130} Al-Shabaab is designated a global terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department.¹³¹

Al-Hijra

The terrorist group al-Hijra, also known as the Muslim Youth Center (MYC) and al-Qaeda East Africa (AQEA), currently operates in Kenya. It consists of Kenyan and Somali followers of al-Shabaab and is considered a wing of that organization. Al-Hijra was implicated in a series of bombings, including the Westgate and Garissa massacres.¹³² The group was added to the U.S. list of terrorist organizations in July 2018.^{133, 134}

Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)



Oromo Liberation Front fighters retreating to Kenya
Wikimedia / Jalpeyrie

against Oromo rebels based in the border town of Moyale, Kenya, after they allegedly killed a Kenyan police officer.¹³⁹ The OLF is considered an ethnic separatist guerrilla group by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.¹⁴⁰

The Oromo Liberation Front struggles for the independence of Oromo, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group. The OLF seek the creation of Oromia as an independent state. The group was formed in 1973, outlawed in 1992, and has since waged a low-level armed struggle against the Ethiopian government. Clashes between OLF rebels and the Ethiopian government occasionally spill into Kenya.¹³⁵ OLF leaders hide in Nairobi, and Oromo civilians become refugees in Kenya when clashes between Ethiopian government forces and Oromo rebels erupt near the border.^{136, 137, 138} In 2010, Kenyan and Ethiopian security forces conducted a joint military operation

Political Violence and Tribalism

Political violence is a major challenge that has the potential to threaten stability in Kenya. Kenyan politics have been tainted by ethnic tensions and tribalism since its independence. Clashes occur along ethnic lines mainly between the largest ethnic groups, the Kikuyu, Luo, and Kalenjin. A major political crisis erupted during the contentious presidential elections in December 2007. When President Mwai Kibaki, the Kikuyu incumbent, was declared the winner of an extremely close race, the outrage of the Luo supporters for challenger Raila Odinga turned violent. Many people were shot by the police, often in strongholds of Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement. Politicians on both sides were implicated in the killing of over 1,000 people and the displacement of some 500,000 during six weeks of violence.^{141, 142}



Supporters of the Orange democratic movement at a rally
Flickr / DEMOSH

During the disputed 2017 presidential elections, ethnic tensions again threatened to turn violent. Three people were killed in clashes across Kenya, and opposition leaders urged their supporters to boycott the rerun election.^{143,144}

Corruption



*Political signs and protestors on the street in Kenya
Flickr / Katy Fentress*

Poverty, corruption, and abuse of power fuel unrest among the diverse population. Kenya suffers from high levels of corruption, including tax evasion, fraud, bribery, and abuse of office in every sector of the economy and government. The National Police Service is ranked as the most corrupt institution in the country. The police engage in false imprisonment, human rights abuses, and fabrication of charges to extort bribes.^{145, 146} According to Transparency International's 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index, Kenya was the 143rd least corrupt nation out of 180 countries, showing a small improvement from position 145 the previous year.^{147, 148}

In 2015, President Kenyatta declared corruption a national security threat. In 2018, hundreds of young Kenyans marched in Nairobi following revelations of a scandal at the national youth agency, where workers in charge of public funds had stolen more than USD 100 million.¹⁴⁹

Refugees

Kenya currently hosts nearly 600,000 refugees, making it one of the world's biggest refugee host countries. The Dabaab Refugee Complex, near the Somali border, hosts almost 350,000 refugees and is the world's largest refugee camp. There are close to 190,000 refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Uganda, and Rwanda in the Kakuma refugee camp, near the border with South Sudan in northwestern Kenya. Over 80% of Kakuma's refugees are women and children. Another 57,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers live in Nairobi. Somalis compose a little over 70% of the refugee population.^{150, 151, 152}



*Tents in the Shalom City refugee camp
Flickr / MothersFightingForOthers*

Escalating insecurity near the Dabaab refugee camp and a series of attacks and kidnappings by al-Shabaab have led to growing intolerance toward the Somali refugee community and the profiling of ethnic Somalis. In 2016, the government announced it would close the Dadaab camp and repatriate all Somali refugees, claiming that the camp had become a haven for terrorists and criminals, and it compromised national security.¹⁵³ However, a High Court ruling blocked the move.^{154, 155}

Water Security



*Women collecting water in Kenya, a common required activity
Flickr / Nestlé*

Kenya is facing increasing water security risks. The main causes for water insecurity are climate vulnerabilities; insufficient investment, development, and coordination, especially in slum areas; and population growth.¹⁵⁶

The country has suffered from a series of climate shocks in recent years. Between 2011 and 2018, long consecutive droughts hit the arid and semiarid regions of northeastern Kenya and were extremely costly.^{157, 158}

Urban Kenyans are increasingly reliant on unregulated private water suppliers that can charge much more than the official rate. The situation in rural areas is worse, especially for people in northern Kenya, a region that is highly susceptible to drought.^{159, 160}

Outlook

The complications of ethnic divisions are still potent in spite of the conciliatory tone of politicians. Polarized politics are rooted in frustration around land ownership, access to resources, and ethnic loyalties. In order to maintain peace and stability, the government has to reconcile its corruption, ensure that security forces do not abuse their power, improve employment opportunities, and broaden the benefits of economic expansion to marginalized communities.¹⁶¹ The threat of terrorist attacks and kidnapping remains high.¹⁶²



*Protestors at the Love Protest in Nairobi, 2012
Flickr / Katy Fentress*

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Kenya in Perspective

Chapter 5 | Assessment

1. Kenya has a border dispute with Somalia over territory in the Indian Ocean.
2. Women are not allowed to serve in the Kenya Defense Forces.
3. AMISOM is one of the peacekeeping missions administered by Kenyan military units.
4. Kenya is a hotbed of cybercrime in Africa.
5. Dadaab is a terrorist group that pledged its allegiance to ISIS with the goal of ridding the Horn of Africa of Western influences.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. False; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False

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Final Assessment

1. The Swahili people originated in South Africa and settled in Kenya in the first millennium BCE.
2. Kenya inherited its currency from the British and named it the Kenyan sterling.
3. Urban youth in Nairobi often speak Sheng.
4. Kenya shares Lake Victoria with South Sudan and Ethiopia.
5. Water hyacinth is one of the main cut flowers grown in Kenya. It is cultivated for export to Europe.
6. Lamu is a port town and a UNESCO site.
7. Most of Kenya's presidents have been Kikuyu.
8. Kenya became a crown colony of the British Empire in the mid-1600s.
9. Kenya has outlawed the use of mercury in its gold mines.

10. The disputed elections of 2007 saw Kenya's worst incidences of political violence to date.

11. New hydroelectric plants on the Tana River and thermal electricity plants in the Rift Valley have reduced Kenyans' reliance on wood burning to 5% of overall energy consumption.

12. Kakuma is a large refugee camp located in northwestern Kenya. The majority of the refugees are women and children.

13. People from all over Kenya use mobile banking services.

14. Vasco da Gama was the first European to land in Mombasa.

15. Migingo Island is a famous tourist resort on Lake Victoria.

16. Droughts affect mainly the eastern and northeastern parts of Kenya.

17. The National Police Service is considered the most corrupt institution in Kenya.

18. Indo-Paks are the 44th tribe of Kenya.

19. *Shuka* is the honorific title of the Kikuyu elder who conducts boys' initiation rite into adulthood.
20. President Daniel arap Moi died in office after being president for 24 years.
21. Al-Shabaab is a South Sudanese rebel group that fought for independence from Sudan. Kenya helped bring the two sides to the negotiating table.
22. Nairobi began as a small British camp on the highlands at the end of the 19th century.
23. Located near Mombasa, al-Hijra is the largest air force base in Kenya.
24. Kenyans dominate most of the world's long-distance running races.
25. *Jua kali* refers to Kenya's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. False; 5. False; 6. True; 7. True; 8. False; 9. True; 10. True; 11. False; 12. True; 13. True; 14. True; 15. False; 16. True; 17. True; 18. True; 19. False; 20. False; 21. False; 22. True; 23. False; 24. True; 25. True