

## HI32B0

### UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Summer 2020

## HI32B

### Kenya's Mau Mau Rebellion, 1952-60

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Time allowed: 7 days

Paper Published: 26 May 09:00am

Submission: By 11:00am on 2 June via Tabula

Answer TWO questions - Each question is limited to 1500 words.

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#### Assessment Guidance:

- You **MUST** read the supporting information on the History website: <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/students/covidexam/>
  - You **MUST** submit answers on Tabula by 11:00am on the deadline date (all deadlines can be found on the [departmental exam timetable](#) or on your Tabula assessment page).
  - You **MUST** ensure that you upload the correct answer paper to the correct module.
  - Your exam answer paper **MUST** include:
    - Student ID number.
    - The module code and the module title.
    - Clearly state which questions have been answered.
  - Answers should be a maximum of 1500 words.
  - Answers are not expected to include a bibliography or footnotes, however, if you have consulted any materials please list these at the end of your answers.
  - Answers should **NOT** include any significant amount of material already presented in **ANY** assessed work.
  - Where necessary, papers for modules affected by industrial action in the 2019-2020 academic year include additional questions to provide a full range of topics.
  - This take-home assessment is a one-year variance from the normal examination format due to COVID-19 and will apply only in the 2019-2020 academic year.
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1. Comment on any **THREE** of the following gobbets:

- (a) "As you know we are looking into this question and have sent a despatch to the Governor of Kenya on the matter. I understand that the natives, and especially the younger men of the Kikuyu Central Association, are likely to be strongly opposed to any change, but you may rest assured that we shall do everything that is possible."

**The UK National Archives, CO533/392/10, 'Operation on Kikuyu Girls (Circumcision) 1929', Drummond Shiels (Secretary of State for the Colonies) to Ormsby-Gore, 6 January 1930.**

- (b) “I took only one Mau Mau oath. ... I was caused to vow against leaving alone anything possessed by a white man, any weapons especially the precision ones, and revealing any activity or the person responsible, and the whereabouts of any of their illegal effects.”  
**The Kenya National Archive, KNA NBI/PC/ARCH/LAB/27/2/1, Confession of Kamau Maina, June 1957.**
- (c) “A number of chiefs and other prominent members of the Kikuyu tribe, all of proved loyalty, are much distressed by the conviction and imprisonment of Samuel Githu for assault, and by the failure of his Appeal, and are anxious concerning the effect of this upon the morale of Loyalists in general.”  
**The UK National Archives, FCO 141/6336, ‘Complaints by Detainees, 1958-61’, Humphrey Slade to Private Secretary to the Governor, 27 July 1959.**
- (d) “To achieve this end there must be expelled from the city a number of Kikuyu sufficient to relieve the tension caused by the numerical preponderance of this tribe. Only by the removal of the conditions which encourage terrorism and intimidation can we restore to other tribes and to the potentially loyal Kikuyu their confidence in the Government and their willingness to co-operate.”  
**The UK National Archives, CO 822/796, ‘Operation Anvil: Outline Plan by Joint Commanders’, 1954.**
- (e) “There are some women who took the Mau Mau oath because of threats from their husbands as well as fearing being killed by Mau Mau. ... For this kind of woman it is better for her to understand that she is not helping the country but she is suppressing it and increasing the evils of Mau Mau, and bringing in poverty to the country. Do not fear in helping the Government to uproot Mau Mau, because it is spoiling all our affairs.”  
**The Kenya National Archive, KNA AHC/9/52, Department of Information, Mwanamke no.1 January 1954.**
- (f) “It is as well to ask from the start whether, in a situation which aroused – and still arouses – such high emotions on both sides, it was wise to appoint for the purposes of ‘an historical survey’ one who was so intimately involved in the camp opposite to that which he surveys.”  
**Kikuyu, Embu and Meru Students Association, Makerere College, ‘Comment on Corfield’, November 1960.**

2. Why were *githaka* rights so contested by Kikuyu squatters?

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3. To what extent can the causes of the Mau Mau rebellion be identified in the proceedings and outcome of the Kenya Land Commission of 1933?

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4. How do you account for the low number of white settlers killed during the Mau Mau rebellion?

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5. What motivated Kikuyu Loyalists to take up arms against the rebels?

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6. What role did Jomo Kenyatta play in the Mau Mau rebellion?

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7. Why did the British authorities decide to use torture in the detention camps?

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8. Who was responsible for the Hola massacre of March 1959?

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9. How do you explain the rapidity of Kenya's decolonisation after January 1960?

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10. Why did Mau Mau remain a banned organisation in Kenya until 2003?

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11. 'Operation Anvil was the key turning point for the British counter-insurgency' - How far do you agree with this statement?

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12. Did the emergency lay the foundations for an independent Kenya?

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**END**