

## HI32B0

### UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

September 2020

### HI32B

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

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Time allowed: 7 days

Paper Published: 02 September 09:00am

Submission: By 11:00am on 09 September 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/covid19andstrikeinformation/covidexam/>
  - You MUST submit answers on Tabula by 11:00am on the deadline date (all deadlines can be found on the departmental exam timetable (<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/students/covid19andstrikeinformation/covidexam/spt-tt>) 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) "The necessity for an increased labour supply cannot be brought too frequently before the various native authorities, nor can they be too often reminded that it is in their own interests to see that their young men become wage earners and do not remain idle for the greater part of the year. They should be informed that the government is now taking steps to keep all native labourers while out of their Reserves under supervision, and in the conditions of camps, etc., regularly inspected."

**Labour Circular No. 1. Nairobi, 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1919. Colonial Office, *Despatch to the Governor of the East African Protectorate Relating to Native Labour and Papers Connected therewith*. London: HMSO, 1920.**

- b) "Claims to the alleged Kikuyu lands alienated for European settlements were the mainsprings of all Kikuyu political movements... I have shown quite clearly that European settlement was undertaken not by the indiscriminate seizure of land by unscrupulous Europeans from the defenceless and primitive African – a view still expressed by many whose political background appears to have prejudiced their judgement – but as a result of the predetermined policy of H.M. Government... these vast areas of empty land cried out for economic development, a development which was quite beyond the capacities or capabilities of the native population at that time."

**Colonial Office, *Historical Survey of the Origins and Growth of Mau Mau*. London: HMSO, 1960.**

- c) "In his recent appreciation on the subject of future military policy in Kenya, the Commander-in-Chief assessed the importance of Nairobi to the Mau-Mau movement. His views may be summarised thus:-
- a. The city provides a convenient and rich source of supply of recruits, arms, ammunition and money.
  - b. It makes available a secure base for the mounting of operations within the city itself, and in the adjoining Settled Areas.
  - c. It forms a focus for the dissemination of Mau-Mau doctrines amongst other tribes, particularly the Kamba."

**The UK National Archives, CO 822/796, 'Operation Anvil: Outline Plan by Joint Commanders', 1954.**

- d) "District: Fort Hall  
Location: 4  
Sub. Loc. Kabati  
Age: 12 years

... I took only one Mau Mau oath. Soon after the Operation "Anvil" one Muiruri Kambogo alias 'Murera' (now dead) told me to take an oath so that he might use me in his illegal activities. He and one Ngari? 'Chui' took me to Kamukunji in an unknown house and the oath was administered to me. "

**Kenya National Archives, NBI/PC/ARCH/LAB/27/2/1, Confession by Kamau Maina, June 1957.**

- e) "Up to this date every sensible Kikuyu must have seen the evils done by Mau Mau. Those that were oathed have realised that they were misled. The original of Mau Mau are the gangsters who were stauling [sic] in the country too lazy to do anything and so were unable to support themselves... Those who deceive you that the blood shed will gain anything do not believe them. They just want you to suffer and at the same time loose [sic] a great deal of your wealth. What good have they done to you?"

**Kenya National Archives, AHC/9/23, F. N. Kung'u (Senior Inspector of Cooperative Societies, Nyeri District), 'To All Kikuyu', printed in *Uhuru wa Nyeri*, 3/11/1952.**

- f) "We are sending you this as an urgent cry of S.O.S. as since we were transferred from Takwa... many of us have been badly tortured; invalided; turned into deafs; dumb; emasculated and some have had our hip-joints permanently luxated and various other brutal atrocities."

**The UK National Archives, FCO 141/6336, 'Complaints of Detainees, 1958-61', letter from detainees at Thiba Works Camp to Dingle Foot MP, 18/8/1958. Released under the Hanslope Disclosure of 2012.**

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2. How useful is the report of the Kenya Land Commission for understanding the role of land in the Mau Mau rebellion?

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3. How did white settlers seek to influence the colonial government's management of the Emergency in Kenya?

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4. Why was Paramount Chief Waruhiu murdered in October 1952?

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5. What role did gendered struggles play in the Mau Mau rebellion?

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6. To what extent was the Lari massacre a success for the Mau Mau rebels?

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7. Explain the reasons for the implementation of the 'Dilution Technique' at Mwea.

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8. What is the historical value of memoirs written by Mau Mau veterans?

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9. Why did the British release Jomo Kenyatta from detention?

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10. What impact has the discovery of the 'migrated archive' had on historical writing on the Mau Mau rebellion?

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**END**