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**Besides Mau Mau**

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the Constitutional movement – Constitution talks of the 1950s mainly in 1957,1959 and the 1960s (1960-1963), also contributed to Kenya’s Independence.-

The talks were between Kenyan nationalists, amongst them Jomo Kenyatta, TomMboya, Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi, Ronald Ngala, Masinde Muliro, MartinShikuku, Oginga Odinga, Jeane Seronney among othes with British officials –that eventually culminated into Kenya’s independence in 1963.

**Note**

 Nonetheless, the Mau Mau sent shock waves to British settlers as well as administratorsin Kenya and undermined the very foundation of colonialism in Kenya.

**The Post-Independence Kenya (1963 to the Present)**

At independence, the Kenya government virtually inherited the colonial structure.-

That is politically, economically and socially.-

Indeed it has been almost impossible to dismantle the colonial state

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It is not surprising that Kenya has experienced neo-colonialism since 1963. Kenyais still tied, particularly economically, to British and the Western World ingeneral.

**(a)**

**Politically**

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Kenya still maintains a centralized system of government inherited atindependence.-

This contributed to the emergence and evolution of “personalized rule” (duringthe Kenyatta and Moi regimes) powerful President with executive powers (andabove the law).

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The same powers were inherited by the current president (as vested in Kenya’sConstitution of 1963). The only different is the current president – is operating inthe multi-party era; and in a coalition government.

**Note:**

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Jomo Kenyatta was Kenya’s first president and was in power from 1963 – 1978;(died in August 1978) – he was a Kikuyu from Central Kenya.-

Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi was Kenya’s Second president ruled from 1978 –2002. He is Kenya’s first retired president. He was removed from power through popular vote.-

Currently, there is Mwai Kibaki – came to power through popular vote – aimed atremoving Moi and KANU (Kenya African National Party from power). Moi justas Kenyatta was accused of heavy handedness and corruption tendencies while in power. Kenyatta was also a KANU President.-

Kenya was under a single party from 1964 – when KADU (Kenya AfricanDemocratic Union) an opposition party was disbanded.-

Multi-party politics re-emerged and endorsed in the Kenyan Constitution in 1992.-

Kenya is now a multi-party state with NARC (National Alliance RainbowCoalition) in power (2003 – 2007). NARC was made up of about 14 political

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 9 parties. It is a coalition form of government with its own internal problems, but, itis the hope of Kenyans that it does not break the current government.-

2008 – 2012 – Coalition government headed by Kibaki – serving a second andlast term.-

The coalition government (2008 – 2012) is under three main parties Party of National Unity (PNU); Orange Democratic Movement (ODM); and OrangeDemocratic Movement Kenya (ODM-Kenya).-

President Kibaki is from PNU-

Prime Minister Raila Odinga from ODM-

Vice President Musyoka Kalonzo from ODM - Kenya.

**(b)**

**Economically**

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Kenya is a developing country with a developing economy-

Today, Kenya’s economy is capitalist oriented and tied to the global world. It isaffected by World Bank and IMF (International Monetary Fund) like otherdeveloping countries. For instance, in the 1980s, it was affected by StructuralAdjustment (SAPs) and Liberalization of the world markets. Today it is alsoaffected by globalization as other parts of the world; and the global crisis.-

Given the fact that it has a weak economy, it heavily felt the impact of SAPs aswell as globalization.

**Generally**

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Kenya is an agricultural country. It relies on a mixed economy (farming, animalkeeping, fishing and trade).-

Main exports include, tea, coffee, pyrethrum for the manufacture of insecticides.-

It also relies on foreign aid and internal resources to sustain the economy.-

It has a weak manufacturing sector. For example vehicles come in form outside,with few assembling plants (or factories in the country).

**Note**

The Coalition governments (2003 – the present) mainly emphasizes economic recoveryand fight against poverty.

**(C)**

**Socially**

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Main sectors are education and health sectors.-

The government promotes free primary education, for all primary school goingchildren. But this is yet to be achieved.-

Health care is a major problem. Majority of the Kenyan population have no accessto health care. Both public and private sectors, including religious operated healthfacilities are encouraged. Besides, the use of traditional medicine also play a rolein health care.-

Religion – freedom of worship ensure that it is enshrined in the currentConstitution. Kenya has Muslims, Christians (majority) and traditionalists.-

Poverty is rampant, and it is one of the challenges facing the Kenyan government.Related to poverty is the fight against ignorance and disease; as well as stateinsecurity (fight against crime, cattle raids and militia groups).

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**Important Remarks about Kenya**

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It is the cradle of mankind, based on archaeological evidence – for exampleexcavations at Koobi Fora (an important excavation site in the world) in NorthernKenya (on shores of Lake Turkana).-

Kenya is among the most important countries in Africa and to the internationalCommunity. For instance it is the headquarters of UNEP (United NationsEnvironmental Program) at Gigiri in Nairobi.-

Kenya is also known as a tourist destination with a rich resource of wild animals –important National Parks. The Tsavo and Nairobi National Parks. The GiraffeCentre, Ostrich Centre in Nairobi.-

 National Museums found in all parts of the country, house Kenya’s past historyincluding Fort Jesus in Mombasa. Museums are found in virtually all towns inKenya. The Nairobi National Museum also houses the archeological artifactsexcavated in various parts of the country. It also has a snake park.-

Kenya is also known for its long distance runners in the world. Sports andathletics in particular is very important.-

Generally, Kenya has a pleasant climate and has a very hospitable (friendly) population.

**Last but not least**

The country is undergoing Constitution making. Kenyans are looking forward to see anew Constitution in place to accommodate the country’s needs