

Kenya

Ethnicity in Kenya

Group selection

Kenya consists of over 40 ethnic groups. Five communities (the Kikuyu, Luhya, Luo, Kalenjin, and Kamba) each make up more than 10 percent of the population. The country covers eight regions, and regional divisions largely coincide with ethnic divisions. The Central Province is mainly populated by the Kikuyu, Nyanza is predominantly Luo, the Rift Valley is occupied predominantly by the Kalenjin and kindred groups (Masai, Turkana & Samburu), the Western is Luhya, and the North-Eastern predominantly Somali. Three regions are multi-ethnic: Nairobi, Coast and Eastern Provinces (²⁷²³, 59). Ethnicity has been a major feature of the Kenyan political landscape since colonial times, when the colonial government divided the country into provinces which were essentially created along ethnic lines (²⁷²⁴).

²⁷²³ [Oyugi, 1997]

²⁷²⁴ [Kadima & Owour, 2006]

Political parties in Kenya have been organized along ethnic identities and state-power has been contested on the basis of mobilized ethnicity (²⁷²⁵). In the absence of strong ideologies, ethnicity has provided the focus of party affiliation, and parties and ethnic groups tend to overlap. (²⁷²⁶). Typically, a party is headed by an ethnic patron who engages with the electorate chiefly through the recruitment of clients (²⁷²⁷).

²⁷²⁵ [Ajulu, 2002]

²⁷²⁶ [Makoolo, 2005]

²⁷²⁷ [Omolo, 2002]

After independence from Britain in 1963, liberation struggle icon and President Jomo Kenyatta (a Kikuyu) centralized power and introduced a de facto one-party state from 1969, ruled by the Kenya African National Union (KANU). Kenyatta established a coalition of ethno-regional notables from all major ethnic groups, but Kenyatta's rule soon became dominated by Kikuyu nationalism (²⁷²⁸, 152; ²⁷²⁹). Kenyatta died in 1978 and was succeeded by his vice-president, Daniel arap Moi (a Kalenjin). After the accession of President Moi, the state turned more authoritarian, and in 1982 it became a de jure one-party state. Moi's government overtly pursued ethnic politics and attempted to polarize the opposition parties into ethnic-based parties. Political power gradually became increasingly focused on specific ethnic groups, notably Moi's own ethnic group, the Kalenjin (²⁷³⁰). In effect, the so-called "kikuyusation" of the state under Kenyatta was followed by a process of "kalenjini-isation" under Moi (²⁷³¹, 30). Moi acceded to internal and external pressure for political liberalization in late 1991 introducing a multi-

²⁷²⁸ [Andreasen, 2004]

²⁷²⁹ [Osamba, 2001]

²⁷³⁰ [Throup & Hornsby, 1998]

²⁷³¹ [Andreasen, 2004]

party system. However, the ethnically fractured opposition failed to dislodge KANU from power in the elections in 1992 and 1997, which were marred by violence and fraud. Related to this, the Moi era would also see the cruelest and most intensive ethnic clashes since independence (²⁷³²). On 27 December 2002 Kenyans made history when Mwai Kibaki (a Kikuyu), and his multiethnic, united opposition group, the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) won the presidency following fair and peaceful elections, ending KANU's 39 years of monopoly rule. Although NARC was a multi-ethnic party or alliance, with voter support and leadership far more proportional of the ethnic groups than previously witnessed in Kenya (²⁷³³, 249), Kibaki soon came under heavy criticism of corruption, tribalism and nepotism (²⁷³⁴). Despite NARC's comfortable majority, the coalition eventually split when the government presented its constitutional draft for a referendum in 2005, thereby widely disregarding the broad consensus that had emerged through three previous constitutional conferences. Luo leader Raila Odinga opposed this, left the cabinet and established a rival coalition to campaign for a "No" vote. In November 2005, Kenyans in a referendum rejected the proposed constitution because it failed substantially to curtail the powers of the nation's chief executive. As a consequence of the referendum loss, Kibaki dismissed his entire cabinet in the middle of his administration's term, the aim being to purge all Odinga's allied ministers from the cabinet (²⁷³⁵). The ethnic divisions evident in the voting on President Kibaki's proposed constitution turned violent in December 2007, after he was declared to have defeated the Luo leader and presidential candidate Raila Odinga in an election that his supporting coalition, comprised primarily of Luos, Luhyas and Kalenjins, charged was marked by widespread vote fraud. More than 800 Kenyans are reported to have been killed and as many as 50,000 to have been displaced in the post-election attacks (²⁷³⁶). In February 2008, the parties reached an agreement, brokered by former U.N. Secretary Kofi Anan, on a coalition government with Kibaki as president, Odinga as prime minister, and an equally shared cabinet reflecting Kenya's ethnic diversity. The new government was sworn in two months later. It remains to be seen whether this power-sharing arrangement will hold.

²⁷³² [Makoloo, 2005]

²⁷³³ [Hulterström, 2004]

²⁷³⁴ [Makoloo, 2005]

²⁷³⁵ [Steeves, 2006b]

²⁷³⁶ [Kimenyi & Shughart, 2005]

The ethnic landscape: New list (based on Fearon ²⁷³⁷): Kikuyu-Meru-Embu 0.27 Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu 0.15 Luhya 0.14 Luo 0.12 Kamba 0.11 Kisii 0.06 Mijikenda 0.05 Somali 0.02 Starting out from Fearon's (2003) list, the following changes were conducted: The Kalenjin, Masai and Turkana were included into a joint group, along with the Samburu (although the latter is not mentioned by Fearon). Within this joint group the Kalenjin is by far the largest and politically most important group, but three of their fellow Nilote cousins, the Masai, Turkana and Samburu, have remained loyal associates to the Kalenjin since independence. However, no evidence was found that these three groups are politically relevant as single

²⁷³⁷ [Fearon, 2003]

groups. Bennett (1963) referred to this joint group as the ‘alliance of the pastoral tribes’ (quoted in ²⁷³⁸: 259), and since the 1990s this configuration, or ‘supertribe’ of Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana- Samburu was organized as the KAMATUSA, just like the Gikuyu (Kikuyu)-Embu-Meru Association (GEMA) from the 1970s (e.g. ²⁷³⁹). On a smaller note, the name of Gusii-Kisii was replaced with the more common Kisii (see e.g. ²⁷⁴⁰). The Boran and Rendille groups were dropped. No evidence could be found for political organization of these groups- hence they do not seem to be politically relevant in the strict sense. (Although no evidence could be found for political organization of the Somali either, this group was kept due to several examples of formal harassment and persecution of this group). With regard to the data on the size of ethnic groups, the figures from Fearon (²⁷⁴¹) were (slightly) modified relying on the 1989 Kenya Population Census of which figures are reproduced in Makoloo (²⁷⁴², 12). This seems to be the most updated reliable source of ethnic composition in Kenya (in the latest population and housing census of 1999, the government stopped providing information of the ethnic breakdown of the peoples of Kenya). According to the 1989 census the Kikuyu-Meru-Embu make up 27% of the total population, the Luo make up 12%, the joint number of the Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu is 15%, and the Kisii make up 6% of the total population. Figures for the Luhya, Kamba, Mijikenda and Somali were identical to those reported in Fearon’s list.

Power relations

1963-1966: Kenyatta’s Rule (i). This period covers the first years of Jomo Kenyatta’s unopposed rule from independence in 1963 until 1966. By all accounts, his own ethnic group, the Kikuyu, was the most powerful at the time, dominating the political life beyond merely occupying the presidency (e.g. ²⁷⁴³). The formation of GEMA (Gikuyu, Embu and Meru association) was intended to strengthen the immediate base of the Kenyatta state by incorporating the Embu and Meru into a union with the Kikuyu (²⁷⁴⁴; ²⁷⁴⁵). While allocating the main cabinet posts to GEMA members, Kenyatta also sought to establish an inclusive coalition of ethnoregional notables from most other important ethnic groups (²⁷⁴⁶, 152) in such a way as to ensure that all parts of the country enjoyed some benison of patronage (²⁷⁴⁷: 96). The Kikuyu-Meru-Embu was hence coded as “senior partner” in an informal power sharing regime with Luhya, Luo, Kamba, Kalenjin and Kisii as “junior partners” (see e.g. ²⁷⁴⁸; ²⁷⁴⁹, 118). The Luo were in fact politically advantaged during the first few years of the Kenyatta rule, and the Luo leader Ogonga Odinga was even appointed as vice-president. However, Kenyatta stripped power from the position and also tried to muzzle Odinga (²⁷⁵⁰, 104). The Mijikenda people seem to have had very limited political influence under Kenyatta, although they did get one Minister in the Cabinet of 1973 (²⁷⁵¹, 118). However, there is very scarce evidence about this group for the entire period and thus decided to

²⁷³⁸ [Ajulu, 2002]

²⁷³⁹ [Odhiambo, 1998]

²⁷⁴⁰ [Makoloo, 2005]

²⁷⁴¹ [Fearon, 2003]

²⁷⁴² [Makoloo, 2005]

²⁷⁴³ [Osamba, 2001]

²⁷⁴⁴ [Muigai, 2004]

²⁷⁴⁵ [Odhiambo, 1998]

²⁷⁴⁶ [Andreasse, 2004]

²⁷⁴⁷ [Ingham, 1990]

²⁷⁴⁸ [Barkan & Chege, 1989]

²⁷⁴⁹ [Hulterström, 2004]

²⁷⁵⁰ [Okumu, 2001]

²⁷⁵¹ [Hulterström, 2004]

label them as “powerless”. The Somali are coded as “discriminated” under Kenyatta. Political restrictions against the Somali included e.g. limits of the freedom of expression, voting, and recruitment to the civil service (²⁷⁵²), which must be interpreted as targeted discrimination with the intent of excluding the group from political power.

²⁷⁵² [Minorities at Risk, 2004]

1967-1978: Kenyatta’s Rule (ii). This period covers the second part of Kenyatta’s rule from 1966 until his death in 1978. The reason for subdividing the Kenyatta era into two separate periods is the change of status for the Luos. The advantage of the Luo ended in 1966 when Odinga chose to form his own party (KPU) and join the opposition. Three years of political marginalization of the Luo led to increased tension between KPU and the KANU regime, which later exploded into violence. During the short existence of Odinga’s KPU, the KANU government systematically harassed the party and its leaders until banning it completely in 1969 (²⁷⁵³, 45). These incidents along with the assassination of the Luo Tom Mboya, KANU’s secretary general reflected the break of the unity between the Kikuyus and the Luos. In 1973 the Luos had less than half the governmental representation they enjoyed before the break. Due to the systematic isolation of the Luo from government over this period the Luo were coded as being “discriminated”. However, this coding decision could be debated: Because the Luo were in fact represented in government during the entire Kenyatta regime (²⁷⁵⁴, 118-119) the group could have been coded as “junior partner”.

²⁷⁵³ [Oyugi, 1997]

²⁷⁵⁴ [Hulterström, 2004]

1979-2002: Moi’s Rule. This period starts with Daniel arap Moi’s accession to the presidency (following the death of Kenyatta), and ends when Moi stepped down after losing the election in 2002. Moi shifted the power base of KANU from Kikuyu to Kalenjin ethnic dominance supported other key minority tribes (Steeves 2006a). Like the previous regime, Moi eventually came to rest on a small clique, most notably the Kalenjin, but also including the Masai, Turkana, Samburu, the Luhya and the coastal alliance, associated with the Mijikenda (²⁷⁵⁵, 262). Hence, Moi’s regime can be seen as a kind of power-sharing regime consisting of different ethnic groups. The Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu is coded as “senior partner”, with the Luhya and Mijikenda as “junior partners”. There is little information available about the Kamba and Kisii for this period, but according to figures presented in Hulterström (²⁷⁵⁶) the Kamba representation in government grew slightly during Moi’s regime. The Kisii were also represented in government during this period, albeit modestly. The Kamba and Kisii are hence also coded as “junior partners”. It should however be noted that these “junior partners” enjoyed very limited power under Moi’s harshly authoritarian regime (²⁷⁵⁷), and it could be debated whether “powerless” would be a better fitting classification for these two groups under Moi’s rule. Once in power, Moi swept out almost all the Kikuyus from high-

²⁷⁵⁵ [Ajulu, 2002]

²⁷⁵⁶ [Hulterström, 2004]

²⁷⁵⁷ [Makoloo, 2005]

ranking political positions and replaced them with his own Kalenjins (2758; 2759). Despite being economically advantaged, the Kikuyu suffered the most under Moi in terms of political restrictions (see 2760, 257; 2761). Moreover, the representational marginalization of the Luo in government from the Kenyatta regime actually worsened under Moi (2762, 118-119). Moi banned all ethnic organizations, including both GEMA and the Luo Union (2763, 436; 2764, 108; 2765, 153). Furthermore, the Kikuyu and Luo were the main the victims of ethnic violence in the 1990s sponsored by the Moi regime (2766). Consequently the Luo and Kikuyu- Meru-Embu groups were both coded as “discriminated” during Moi’s rule. The Somali are coded as “discriminated” under the Moi era as well. For example, since 1989 Kenyan Somalis are required to carry two identity cards to prove their citizenship (2767, 491-492)

2003-2005: Kibaki’s NARC Government. This period starts in 2003 with the formation of the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) government. On 27 December 2002 NARC’s presidential candidate Mwai Kibaki (a Kikuyu) was elected as Kenya’s third president through the first electoral change of government since independence. NARC is in fact a coalition of two coalitions. The first, the National Alliance of Kenya (NAK) links Kibaki’s Kikuyu-based Democratic Party (DP) with a dozen other ethno-regional parties. The second is the Luo-based Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). In the NARC cabinet of 2003 there were four factions comprising mainly Kikuyu, Luo and Luhya (2768, 91-93). Overall, Murunga & Nasong’o (2769, 7) conclude that the major discontinuity with the Moi regime is that power shifted away from the Kalenjin elite to the Kikuyu and their tribal kinsmen. According to Steeves (2770, 230), with the NARC government, the Kikuyu, Embu and Meru people have concentrated power narrowly in their hands. Despite criticism of corruption, tribalism and nepotism, however, NARC remained a multi-ethnic party (or alliance), with voter support and leadership far more proportional of the Kenyan population than previously witnessed in Kenya (2771: 249). In the cabinet of 2003, all the politically relevant ethnic groups were represented with two or more Ministers each (cf. 2772, 7), except the Kisii which lacked representation. The Kikuyu-Meru-Embu were thus coded as “senior partner” and the rest of the groups “junior partners”, except the Kisii which were labeled “powerless”. There was no evidence of political discrimination of any of the politically relevant ethnic group from government during this period. There was no evidence for any political organization that specifically represent Somali group interests for this last period either. However, the discrimination of the Somali under Kibaki seems to be of a more general character and not directly limiting the access to government positions of these groups (In fact, according to Throup (2773, 7), the Somali actually obtained a cabinet member in the NARC cabinet of 2003). Hence, the Somali were coded as being politically “irrelevant” for this period.

2758 [Carey, 2002]

2759 [Okumu, 2001]

2760 [Throup & Hornsby, 1998]

2761 [Barkan & Chege, 1989]

2762 [Hulterström, 2004]

2763 [Barkan & Chege, 1989]

2764 [Okumu, 2001]

2765 [Andreas, 2004]

2766 [Freedom House, 2006]

2767 [Minority Rights Group, 1997]

2768 [Barkan, 2004]

2769 [Murunga, 2006]

2770 [Steeves, 2006a]

2771 [Hulterström, 2004]

2772 [Throup, 2003]

2773 [Throup, 2003]

2006-2007: Odinga leaves Kibaki's Government. It appeared reasonable to split Kibaki's first term into two periods due to some major power shifts that happened in the wake of the constitutional referendum in late 2005, which led to a change of status for the Luos. Cracks within the broad interethnic yet fragile NARC coalition emerged when Kibaki's Kikuyu-dominated inner circle failed to honor several pre-election agreements, including the implementation of constitutional reform. This would have resulted in the creation of a strong prime minister, a role promised to Raila Odinga, the political leader of the Luo community and one of NARC's key figures (2774). The coalition eventually split when the government presented its own constitutional draft, perceived to consolidate powers of the presidency and weaken regional governments (harnet sievers). Raila Odinga opposed this, left the cabinet and established a rival coalition, the ODM (Orange Democratic Movement) to campaign for a "No" vote. He succeeded with the latter, as Kibaki's reform package was rejected by a wide margin of the Kenyan electorate in a constitutional referendum in November 2005. As a consequence of, and immediately after, the referendum loss, on 23 November 2005, Kibaki dismissed his entire cabinet in the middle of his administration's term, the aim being to purge all Raila allied ministers from the cabinet. Due to this systematic isolation of the Luo from government in the aftermath of the referendum the Luo were coded as being "discriminated". There is no information available about the exact ethnic composition of the cabinet in this period, but the author is aware that most other groups were at least represented in government, including members of Odinga's allies from the Luhya group (see e.g. 2775). For this reason the status of any other group was not changed. Yet, some analysts refer to this second half of Kibaki's first term as a "hegemony of the Kikuyu, Meru and Embu governing coalition" (e.g. 2776, 77). It could hence be debated whether one should rather view the GEMA (Kikuyu-Meru-Embu) as in "dominance", and the rest as powerless, or discriminated (as in the case of the Luos) Overall, the constitutional referendum led to a reformation of the political landscape and the formation of two major parties: Kibaki's Party of National Unity (PNU) and the Odinga-led Orange Democratic Movement (ODM). Although both parties contained leading members of various ethnic groups, the Kenyan electorate viewed the contest as one between Luo and Kikuyu. This period ends with the presidential election in December 2007.

²⁷⁷⁴ [Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2009]

²⁷⁷⁵ [Steeves, 2006b]

²⁷⁷⁶ [Khadiagala, 2010]

2008-2011: The Grand Coalition Government. The ethnic divisions evident in the referendum on President Kibaki's proposed constitution turned violent in December 2007, after he was declared to have defeated the Luo leader and presidential candidate Raila Odinga in an election that his supporting coalition (comprised primarily of Luos, Luyhas and Kalenjins) charged was marked by widespread vote fraud. More than 800 Kenyans are reported to have been killed and as many as 250,000 to have been displaced in the post-election

(²⁷⁷⁷).

This period starts in February 2008, when the parties reached an agreement (brokered by former U.N. Secretary Kofi Annan) on a PNU-ODM coalition government with Kibaki as president, Odinga as prime minister, and an equally shared cabinet reflecting Kenya's ethnic diversity. The new government was sworn in two months later. In the words of Chege (²⁷⁷⁸, 126), "the political tools used to end the conflict are well known. They include a grand coalition government of all major parties and leaders; power-sharing between ethnic-based factions; and allocation of executive positions so that all major groups are fairly represented". In order to double-check that all the ethnic groups listed above are in fact represented with at least one minister in the Grand Coalition Government, the entire list of cabinet members recording their ethnic affiliations was checked (based on numerous sources), and it can be confirmed that this indeed seems to be the case. The Kikuyu-Meru-Embu and the Luo group were thus coded as "senior partner" leaving all other groups as "junior partners". According to BBC (²⁷⁷⁹), the cabinet is fifty percent Kibaki appointed ministers and fifty percent Odinga appointed ministers, which reflects a carefully balanced ethnic coalition.

The grand coalition continued its existence until elections in 2013. In 2010, a new constitution was approved in a popular referendum with only the Rift valley (Kalenjin et al.) province voting "No" with the majority of its votes. Minor reshuffles took place during the years, but its nature as a "grand coalition" was not changed. With Kibaki as president, Odinga continued to be Prime minister for all years and no source indicates a change in the ethnic balance which has been considered to be balanced at the outset. Therefore, the previous period was extended to 2013.

2012-2013: In late 2011, Kenya led a Military attack against Al-Shabaab in Somalia causing terrorist reprisals in Kenya. In the following, Kenyan security forces engaged in ethnic profiling against its ethnic Somali population suspected to support Al-Shabaab. Human Rights Watch (²⁷⁸⁰) reports: "The abuses by members of the security forces that Human Rights Watch documented included rape and attempted sexual assault, beatings, arbitrary detention, extortion, looting and destruction of property, and various forms of physical mistreatment. Human Rights Watch also found cases of degrading and inhumane treatment, such as forcing victims to sit in water or roll on the ground. The government has promised to investigate the abuses, but no police or soldiers have been charged, disciplined, or otherwise held accountable."

This status has not been changed in 2013 and amounts to the regime identifying "specific groups generally as subversive" and targeted state violence (EPR Codebook). Thus, from 2012 onward, the Somali are coded as being discriminated (instead of irrelevant).

²⁷⁷⁷ [Kimenyi & Shughart, 2005]

²⁷⁷⁸ [Chege, 2008]

²⁷⁷⁹ [BBC, 2008]

²⁷⁸⁰ [Human Rights Watch, 2012]

2014-2017: Elections were held in March 2013, pitting Uhuru Kenyatta (Kibaki’s successor) against Raila Odinga. Kenyatta won in the first round with over 50% of the votes, and thus the cusp of the executive power remained similar to the previous period. The main difference, however, is that the Grand Coalition that characterized the period between 2008 and 2013 was no longer in place. The Prime Minister position that Raila Odinga had held was abolished by the 2010 Constitution.

The new executive, in place until 2017 elections, includes again members of all ethnicities (²⁷⁸¹). However, the Kikuyu and the Kalenjin —headed by Kenyatta’s Vice President, William Ruto— have a clear dominant position in the cabinet. As Opalo (²⁷⁸²) says, “if the ethnic composition of the cabinet is anything to go by, it shows the extent to which deputy president William Ruto is more of an equal than deputy to President Kenyatta.” Indeed, Ruto and Kenyatta had a 50/50 agreement in terms of filling positions with people from their own (ethnic) constituencies when the Jubilee Alliance was formed. Therefore, all the groups coded as included in the government during the previous period are continued to be coded as included, but all of them are coded as junior partners except for the Kikuyu and the Kalenjin, that are coded as senior partners. No evidence could be found that further cabinet reshuffles significantly changed the ethnic composition of the executive.

²⁷⁸¹ [Opalo, 2013]

²⁷⁸² [Opalo, 2013]

The coding of the Somali as discriminated is also extended through 2017, given that the situation that motivated the previous coding was still ongoing, and even deteriorated, between 2013 and 2017. As late as 2016, the US State Department (²⁷⁸³) and Human Rights Watch (²⁷⁸⁴) still document the collective targeting of Somali in the context of counterterrorism operations, particularly in Northeastern Kenya.

²⁷⁸³ [U.S. State Department, 2016]

²⁷⁸⁴ [Human Rights Watch, 2016]

2018-2021: Ethnicity continues to be highly politicized in Kenya, and political polarization along ethnic lines has been at the forefront during the last general presidential elections that were held in 2017. In the 2017 elections, the incumbent president Uhuru Kenyatta (Kikuyu) and his vice-president Ruto (Kalenjin) of the Jubilee Party run against the opposition leader Raila Odinga (Luo) with his running mate Kalonzo Musyoka (Kamba) of the National Super Alliance (NASA). Already during the election campaign starting in March 2017 tensions were running high but accelerated after the elections were held on 8 August. Kenyatta was declared the winner by the election commission. The opposition, led by Odinga, however, rejected the results based on irregularities that marked the voting process. On 1st September 2017, the Supreme Court made a historical decision by annulling the vote, based on widespread irregularities and illegalities in the tallying, tabulation, and transmission of the results. Renewed elections were held on 26 October, but were boycotted by Odinga owing to insufficient reform of the electoral process. The re-run elections were won by Kenyatta with 98

percent of the vote, although turnout was extremely low with only 39 percent. The re-run failed to be as transparent and inclusive as necessary (2785; 2786; 2787; 2788; 2789; 2790; 2791; 2792).

After Kenyatta was declared president, political tensions in Kenya remained high for months. Multiple protests turned violent with the police applying excessive force, and at least 100 people reportedly have been killed during this time. Both, Kenyatta and Odinga took their part in deepening the political crisis. Kenyatta lashed out at the judges by curtailing the role of courts in future elections, led a crackdown on civil society, curtailing public space through threats and intimidation tactics, and refused a national dialogue. Odinga, on his part, declared himself the “people’s president” in a staged mock inauguration end of January 2018, further deepening the political tension (2793; 2794; 2795; 2796; 2797).

The unrest only ended after the surprising initiation of cooperation between President Kenyatta and opposition leader Odinga in the beginning of March 2018. After their meeting on 9 March 2018, the two men promised to address the “deterioration of relationships between communities” and resolve the antagonism and competition that dominated the last election. According to a joined statement from Odinga and Kenyatta, the all-or-nothing contests in elections due to the narrow structure of the executive with only a president and vice-president position is source of the recurrent electoral violence. They aim for more inclusion and a wider representation in the executive (2798; 2799; 2800). Although Kenyatta and Odinga have initiated cooperation again, Kenyatta has already named his full cabinet on 26 January. Kenyatta only appointed ruling party supporters to the cabinet, thus closing the door for any form of power-sharing until the next elections in 2022 (2801). In Kenyatta’s executive, none of the cabinet secretaries is affiliated to the NASA party, nor belongs to the ethnic communities of the Luo, Luhya, or Kamba (see 2802 for the list of current cabinet secretaries, and 2803, 661-662, for the list of the cabinet secretaries as of 11 June 2018, as well as 2804 for many of the ethnic affiliations of the politicians). For the period between 2018 and 2021, this three ethnic groups are thus coded as powerless. The Kisii and Mijikenda both have representatives in the cabinet, which is why they are coded as junior partners, as in the previous period. The president and vice-president stay in power, which is why the Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu and the Kikuyu-Meru-Embu ethnic groups are coded, like before, as senior partners. As the elections were held in October 2017, the new period is coded from 2018 onwards.

Some ethnic groups in Kenya remain marginalized. The Muslim community, particularly the Somali, are still being discriminated in the political, social, and economic sphere. Members of the Somali ethnic group are still subject of targeted state violence and have, for example, often difficulties in acquiring Kenyan citizenship (2805). Thus, although the Somali are represented in the cabinet (see list of cabinet secretaries), the ethnic group is still coded as being discrimi-

2785 [BBC, 2017]

2786 [BTI, 2020]

2787 [Ensor, 2017]

2788 [Gathara, 2017]

2789 [Human Rights Watch, 2018]

2790 [International Crisis Group, 2018a]

2791 [International Crisis Group, 2018b]

2792 [Minority Rights Group International, 2018]

2793 [BBC, 2017]

2794 [BTI, 2020]

2795 [Human Rights Watch, 2018]

2796 [International Crisis Group, 2018b]

2797 [Minority Rights Group International, 2018]

2798 [BTI, 2020]

2799 [Human Rights Watch, 2020]

2800 [International Crisis Group, 2018a]

2801 [International Crisis Group, 2018b]

2802 [Cabinet Affairs Office]

2803 [Lansford, 2019]

2804 [Makozewe, 2015]

2805 [BTI, 2020]

nated for the period 2018-2021.

The population numbers were slightly adjusted for this period according to the latest population census of 2019 (²⁸⁰⁶).

²⁸⁰⁶ [KNBS, 2020]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya

From 1963 until 1966

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.27	SENIOR PARTNER
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.15	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luo	0.12	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kamba	0.11	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kisii	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Mijikenda	0.05	POWERLESS
Somali	0.02	DISCRIMINATED

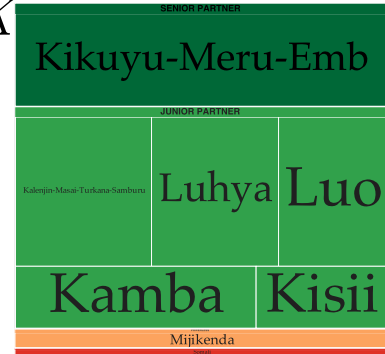


Figure 560: Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya during 1963-1966.

From 1967 until 1978

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.27	SENIOR PARTNER
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.15	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luo	0.12	DISCRIMINATED
Kamba	0.11	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kisii	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Mijikenda	0.05	POWERLESS
Somali	0.02	DISCRIMINATED

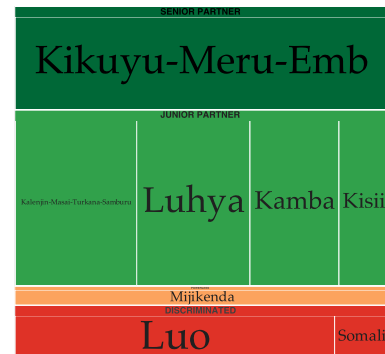


Figure 561: Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya during 1967-1978.

From 1979 until 2002

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.27	DISCRIMINATED
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.15	SENIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luo	0.12	DISCRIMINATED
Kamba	0.11	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kisii	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Mijikenda	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Somali	0.02	DISCRIMINATED



Figure 562: Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya during 1979-2002.

From 2003 until 2005

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.27	DISCRIMINATED
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.15	SENIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luo	0.12	DISCRIMINATED
Kamba	0.11	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kisii	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Mijikenda	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Somali	0.02	DISCRIMINATED

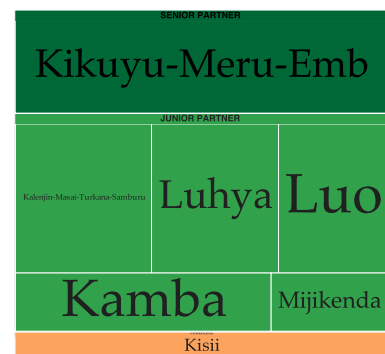


Figure 563: Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2003-2005.

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.27	SENIOR PARTNER
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.15	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luo	0.12	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kamba	0.11	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kisii	0.06	POWERLESS
Mijikenda	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Somali	0.02	IRRELEVANT

From 2006 until 2007

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.27	SENIOR PARTNER
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.15	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luo	0.12	DISCRIMINATED
Kamba	0.11	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kisii	0.06	POWERLESS
Mijikenda	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Somali	0.02	IRRELEVANT

From 2008 until 2011

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.27	SENIOR PARTNER
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.15	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luo	0.12	SENIOR PARTNER
Kamba	0.11	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kisii	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Mijikenda	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Somali	0.02	IRRELEVANT

From 2012 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.27	SENIOR PARTNER
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.15	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luo	0.12	SENIOR PARTNER
Kamba	0.11	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kisii	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Mijikenda	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Somali	0.02	DISCRIMINATED

From 2014 until 2017

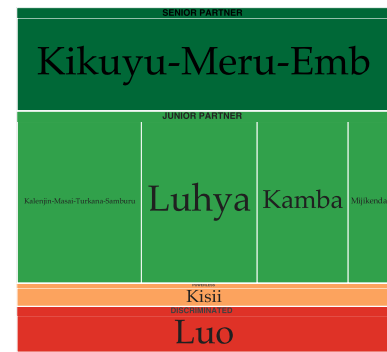


Figure 564: Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2006-2007.

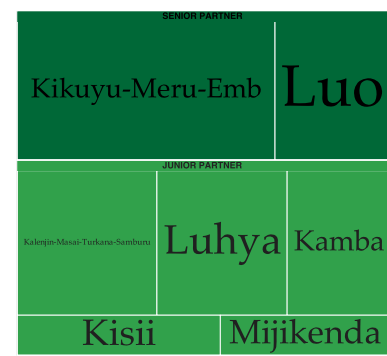


Figure 565: Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2008-2011.

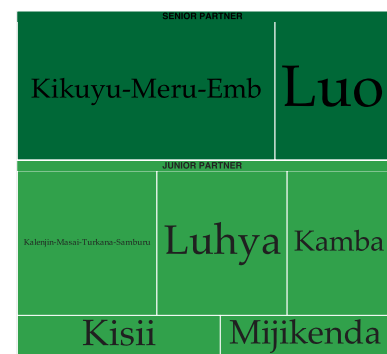


Figure 566: Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2012-2013.



Figure 567: Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2014-2017.

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.27	SENIOR PARTNER
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.15	SENIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	JUNIOR PARTNER
Luo	0.12	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kamba	0.11	JUNIOR PARTNER
Kisii	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Mijikenda	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER
Somali	0.02	DISCRIMINATED

From 2018 until 2021

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	0.24	SENIOR PARTNER
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	0.19	SENIOR PARTNER
Luhya	0.14	POWERLESS
Luo	0.11	POWERLESS
Kamba	0.1	POWERLESS
Kisii	0.06	JUNIOR PARTNER
Somali	0.06	DISCRIMINATED
Mijikenda	0.05	JUNIOR PARTNER

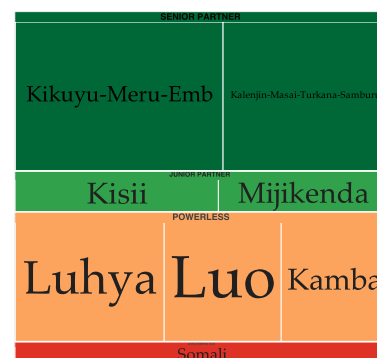


Figure 568: Political status of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2018-2021.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Kenya

From 1963 until 1963

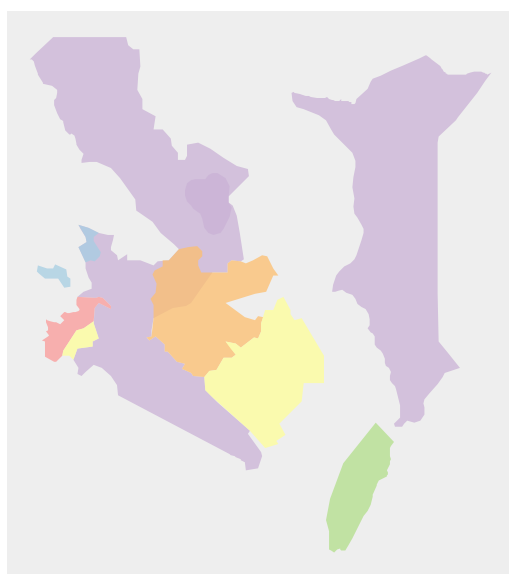


Figure 569: Map of ethnic groups in Kenya during 1963-1963.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	148 564	Regionally based
■ Somali	119 691	Regionally based
■ Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	38 412	Regionally based
■ Kamba	35 850	Regionally based
■ Mijikenda	16 434	Regionally based
■ Luo	6 200	Regionally based
■ Luhya	3 308	Regionally based
■ Kisii	2 369	Regionally based

Table 206: List of ethnic groups in Kenya during 1963-1963.

From 1964 until 2002

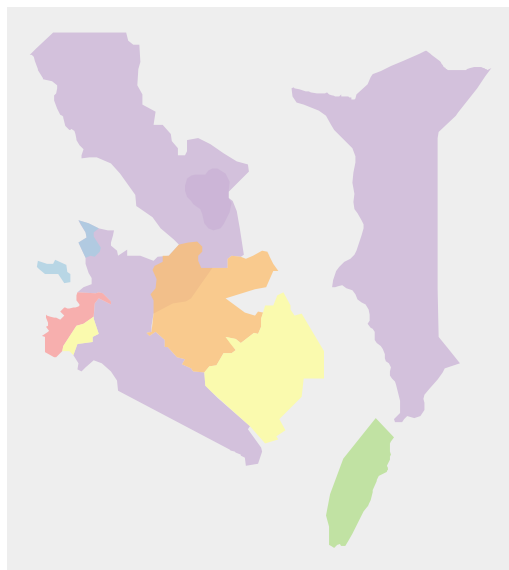


Figure 570: Map of ethnic groups in Kenya during 1964-2002.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	148 564	Regionally based
Somali	119 691	Regionally based
Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	38 412	Regionally based
Kamba	35 850	Regionally based
Mijikenda	16 434	Regionally based
Luo	6 200	Regionally based
Luhya	3 308	Regionally based
Kisii	2 369	Regionally based

Table 207: List of ethnic groups in Kenya during 1964-2002.

From 2003 until 2011

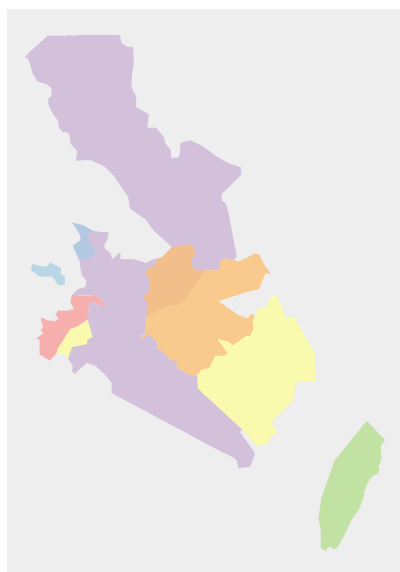


Figure 571: Map of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2003-2011.








Group name	Area in km ²	Type
 Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	148 564	Regionally based
 Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	38 412	Regionally based
 Kamba	35 850	Regionally based
 Mijikenda	16 434	Regionally based
 Luo	6 200	Regionally based
 Luhya	3 308	Regionally based
 Kisii	2 369	Regionally based

Table 208: List of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2003-2011.

From 2012 until 2021

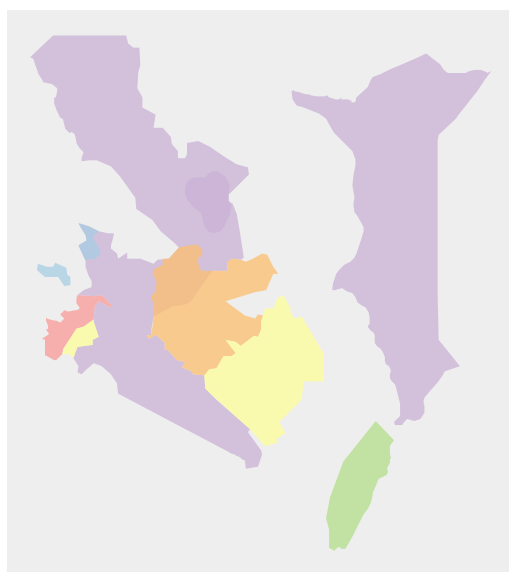


Figure 572: Map of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2012-2021.









Group name	Area in km ²	Type
 Kalenjin-Masai-Turkana-Samburu	148 564	Regionally based
 Somali	119 691	Regionally based
 Kikuyu-Meru-Emb	38 412	Regionally based
 Kamba	35 850	Regionally based
 Mijikenda	16 434	Regionally based
 Luo	6 200	Regionally based
 Luhya	3 308	Regionally based
 Kisii	2 369	Regionally based

Table 209: List of ethnic groups in Kenya during 2012-2021.

Conflicts in Kenya

Starting on 1952-10-21

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of United Kingdom	Mau Mau		1952-10-21			

Starting on 1982-07-31

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Kenya	Military faction (forces of Hezekiah Ochuka)	Luo	1982-07-31	No	Yes	No

Starting on 2015-03-12

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Kenya	Al-Shabaab		2015-03-12			