

## ***CHAPTER II***

### ***REPUBLIC OF KENYA: THE SETTING***

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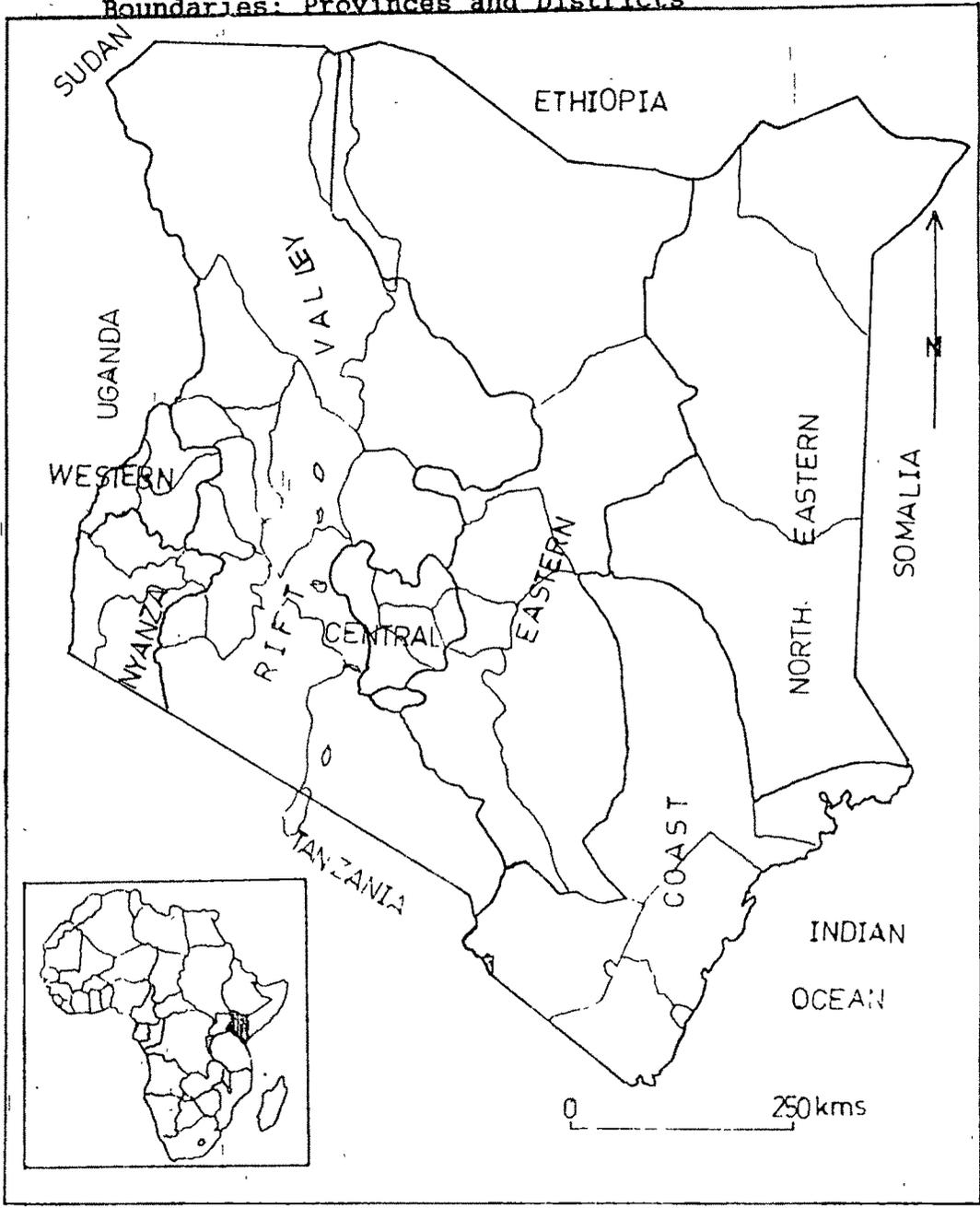
This chapter gives a panoramic view of the Kenyan society in a historical perspective. It asserts that the contemporary Kenyan society is the product of historical forces that have evolved from pre-colonial through colonial to post-colonial stages of development. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the relationship between society and education as it evolved over these historical stages. However, before doing so, it is essential to have a bird's eye-view of contemporary Kenya.

### The Location

Kenya is a sovereign state bordered by Uganda to the West, Somalia to the North-East, Sudan and Ethiopia to the North, Tanzania to the South and the Indian ocean to the East as shown on map no. 2.1. Its name is derived from Kerenyaga, a Kikuyu word, which means mountain of brightness (Kenyatta 1971:127-8). The nation owes its cultural and geographic identity to the mountain.

Kenya was a British colony from 1920 to 1963 and ever since has remained relatively peaceful and politically stable, but characterized by population growth, economic constraints and, at times, ethnic conflicts.

Map No. 2.1 : KENYA: Political and Administrative  
Boundaries: Provinces and Districts



Source: UNICEF, Situational Analysis of Children and Women in Kenya (1989), Government of Kenya and United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) Publication, Nairobi, p.8.

### The Geography

The country appears as a square shaped piece of land with a total area of about 582,646 square kilometers of which 13,936 is blessed with good soil and fast-flowing rivers. However, the nation lacks geographical uniformity. This is evident from regional contrasts. For instance, Kenya can be divided into five main geographical regions viz. (i) Coastal plain, (ii) Inland, (iii) Highland, (iv) Rift-valley, and (v) Western region.

(i) The coastal plains receive regular rainfall and experience high temperatures supporting a tropical eco-system.

(ii) The inland is a sparsely populated region extending to the North and North-Eastern Kenya. It receives scanty rain sustaining mainly the grass and desert shrubs, which makes it an ideal home of Kenya's flourishing wild life.

(iii) As the altitude rises towards the interior, the Kenya Highlands emerge with their highest point at mount Kenya (5,200 metre above sea level). The region forms both the catchment and watershed of Kenya's main rivers. It has a cool climate due to high altitude.

(iv) The Rift-valley divides the Highlands and forms the Eastern and Western parts of the country. This valley is characterized by faults, escarpments, lava cones, craters, lakes, and fertile porous volcanic soils.

(v) At the Western part of the country, that is, beyond the Highlands, there is lake Victoria which supports abundant flora and fauna.

#### The Demographic Profile

Kenya's population is rapidly growing and has diverse racial origins as shown in table 2.1.

Table 2. 1 : Census Population By Racial Origin (1948-1979)

Origin	1948		1962		1969		1979	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Africans	5251120	97.14	8365942	96.87	10753142	98.3	15161201	99
Asians	97687	1.81	176613	2.04	139033	1.27	78600	0.51
Europeans	29660	0.55	55759	0.65	40597	0.37	39901	0.26
Arabs	24174	0.45	34048	0.40	27886	0.25	39146	0.25
Others	3325	0.06	3901	0.05	1987	0.02	10213	0.07
Total	5405966	100	8636263	100	10942705	100	15327061	100

Source: Munoko, N., Kenya Pays Tribute to President Moi (Revised Edition), Macmillan, Nairobi, 1985, p.157.

Table 2.1 indicates that before 1963, the natural growth rate of all races was positive. But afterwards, the Africans and the Arabs maintained the trend, while the Europeans and the Asians have shown decline in their growth rate. The other foreigners, however, have increased in number. This indicates the impact of political changes following the independence of Kenya. Nevertheless, Kenya maintains an exceptionally high annual population growth rate in comparison to some other developing countries as revealed in table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Average Annual Growth of Population and Projections in Five Developing Countries Including Kenya.

Country	Average growth rate of Population			Populat- ion in Millions	Population Projection in Millions
	1970	1980	1990	1991	2000
Mali	2.1	2.6	3.1	9	11
Burkina Faso	2.1	2.6	3	9	12
Niger	2.9	3.3	3.5	8	11
India	2.3	2.1	1.8	866	1017
Kenya	3.8	3.8	3.5	25	34

Source: World Bank, World Development Report, Investing in Health, Oxford University press, New york, 1993, table 2.6 p.288.

The above table shows that for the last two decades since 1970, Kenya had relatively very high growth rate of population in the world. If this trend continues then by the year 2000, Kenya will have about 34 million people. This is partly because life expectancy in Kenya has been rising very fast: from 35 years in 1948 to 59 years in 1989, due to the impact of modern health care system.

The country's active population is less than half of the total population, and hence, the high degree of dependency ratio 1:2 (54.2 / 45.8). Dependency ratio is defined as population aged 0-14 years plus population aged 65 years and above and the total divided by population aged 15 to 64 years. Thus the dependent population constitutes 54.2 and the active population is 45.8 (see Table 2.3 ).

Agriculture, industry, and services are the main occupations in Kenya.

Table 2.3: Age Analysis And Dependency Ratio.

Population	Age in years	Dependency ratio in 1990
Infants	0-14	49.9
Active	15-64	45.8
Old	65 and above	4.3

Source : The World Economic Fact Book 1993, Euro Monitor, London, p.253.

About 80 percent of the population live along the coastal part, the highlands, and within the suburbs of lake Victoria. Since majority of the people are farmers, their settlement was influenced by relief and available land. This is evident from the provincial population densities (See Table 2.4)

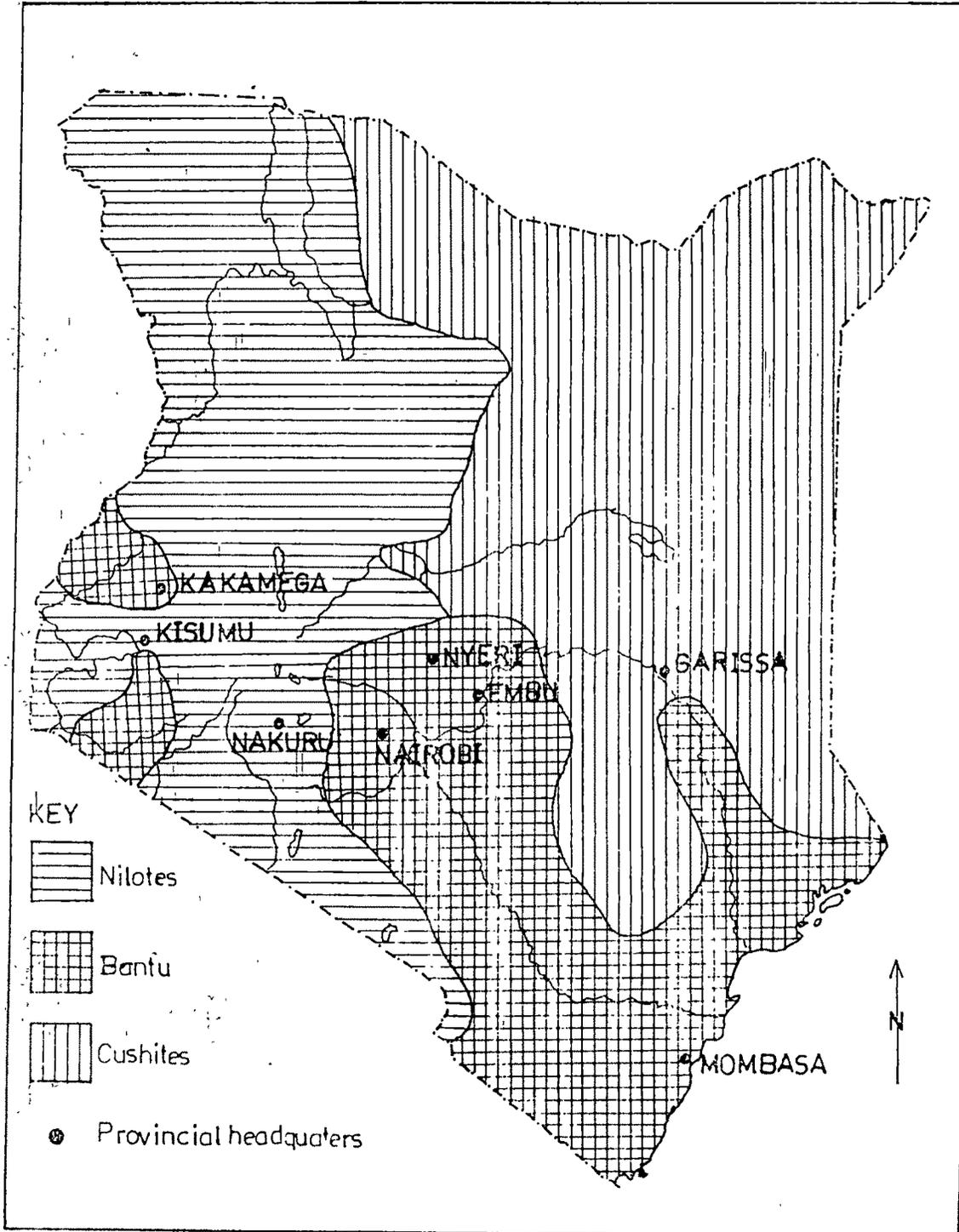
Table 2.4: Population Density By Province (per square Km.)

Province	1969	1979	1989
Nairobi	745	1210	1911
Western	162	223	317
Nyanza	169	221	280
Central	127	178	235
Rift Valley	15	19	27
Eastern	12	17	24
Coast	11	16	22
North east	2	2	3

Source: UNICEF, Children and Women in Kenya: A Situational Analysis, United Nation's International Children's Fund (UNICEF) Publications, Nairobi, 1992, Table 1, p.12.

As indicated in table 2.5, Kenya is a multicultural society. The population of Kenya consists of three major races : Africans, Asians, and Europeans; each has it's own language, culture, and religion. The indigenous

Map No.2.2: Major Ethnic Groups: Linguistic and Cultural Regions.



people of Kenya are linguistically classified into three groups: the Bantu, the Nilotes and the Cushites (see Map No. 2.2). These groups consist of more than sixty constituent tribes, each having numerous clans (Moi, 1986:3). English is an official language and Kiswahili is a national language. Both these languages are widely used. Other languages such as Kikuyu, Luo, Gujarati, Kamba, Punjabi and Kalenjin are also spoken regionally.

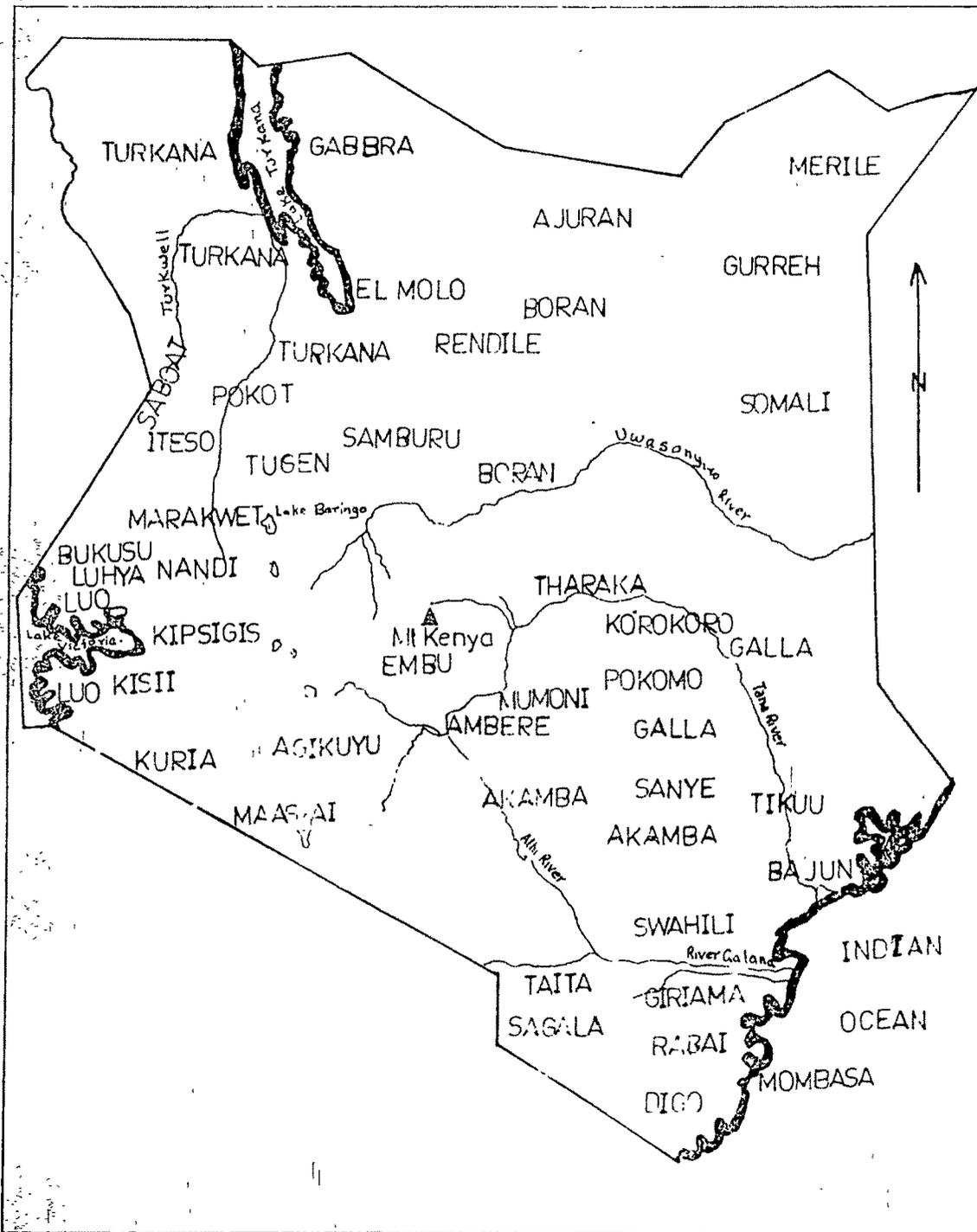
Table 2.5: Multi-cultural Spectrum of Kenya.

Race	Main Language	Major Religion
African	Kiswahili	Christianity, Islam, Traditional African Religions
Asians	Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi & Arabic	Hinduism, Sikhism, Budhism, Jainism, Islam, and Zoroastrianism.
Europeans	English, Afrikaan	Christianity

As shown in table 2.5, a number of religions, such as, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam etc. co-exist in Kenya. All these religions are practiced without favour or fear. About 60% of the population profess Christianity, about 30% are Muslims, and about 10% follow other religions.

For a better understanding of the country and its people, the following ethnic groups are briefly described: The Nilotes (River - lake Nilotes, plain Nilotes, and highland Nilotes), Cushites, Bantus, Asians, Europeans and others. (see Map. No. 2.3)

Map No. 2.3: The People of Kenya.



(i) The River Lake Nilotes :

This group consists of only one tribe ; the Luo. It has many clans living around lake Victoria and along the river valleys draining to it. Traditionally they subsist on fishing. However, since the British period, they are well-known for porter services (one who is hired to carry headloads or to do similar manual labour). Many of them are now good executives and academicians.

(ii) The Plain Nilotes :

These include the Maasai, Turkana, Samburu, Tugen, Elmolo, Pokot and the Marakwet. All of them live in the North-Western part of the country. They subsist mainly on animal husbandry. They are known for their bravery and their relentless resistance to foreign cultures. The Maasai, Pokot and the Samburu are the main tourist attraction as well as the living cultural heritage of Kenya.

(iii) The Highland Nilotes :

These include the Nandi, Kipsigis and the Saboat. They inhabit the Western Highland and are excellent mixed farmers. They have produced world-class athletic champions. The military and police units of the country also enlist their best conscripts from this group.

Carrying goods on one's head is considered a taboo among men in this region.

(iv) The Cushites :

The Boran, Galla, Somali, Gabbra, Ajuran, Merille, Rendile and the Gurreh are classified as the Cushites. They are natives of North and North-Eastern parts of Kenya. Nomadism is their main mode of life. They are still organized along their traditional leadership. Among some of them, particularly the Somalis, clan-feuds and cattle-theft are still quite common.

(v) The Bantu :

They are scattered all over the country and are predominant in the following areas : (a) Coast, (b) Uplands, (c) South Western and Western Kenya.

(a) The coastal groups include : the Mijikenda, Giriama, Digo, Bajun, Rabai, Taita, Sagala, and the Swahili. They are experienced fishermen, hard-working cultivators, and enterprising traders and were the first group in Kenya to embrace Islam and Christianity. However, not much social change is registered among them.

(b) The upland Bantus are : the Kamba, Sanye, Tikuu, Mumoni, A-Embu, A-Meru, A-Mbere, Korokoro, Tharaka

and the Kikuyu. They are all-season, intensive, cultivators, and successful businessmen. However, the Kikuyu tribe in particular is not only the largest tribe in Kenya but also contributes a significant section of indigenous entrepreneurs. Hence they are emerging as the main challenge to the Asian Community in the field of business and industry.

- (c) The South and South-Western Group includes : the Kuria, Bukusu, Teso, Kisii and the Luhya. Like all other Bantus, they are cultivators facing land-shortage due to fragmentation. Apart from the system of land tenure, the population explosion among them also has made quite a big section of these tribes migrant labourers. They widely serve as woodcutters, domestic-servants, industrial, and casual workers. Nevertheless, these tribes have also produced leading elites of the country.

(vi) The Asians :

The Asians in Kenya have come from India, Pakistan and the Gulf Countries. Though their population is not sizable, compared to that of the Africans, they are economically powerful. They are not only the established whole-sale and retail traders but are

also owners of financial institutions and manufacturing units. However, the fore-fathers of most of these Asian entrepreneurs in contemporary Kenya, started their lives as artisans, labourers, or coolies along the Kenya-Uganda railway.

(vii) The Europeans and Other White Ethnic Groups. :

The White community consists of mainly the British, American, and Dutch people. The British group owes its origin to the British Colonialism. Most of them are descendants of settlers. Hence a majority of them are large-scale farmers. A number of them are engaged in non-governmental organizations and missionary activities. In short, the Kenyan society is like a kaleidoscope of diverse ethnic groups.

In view of such diversities it is not surprising that Kenya is one of the most heterogeneous countries in the world (see Appendix VII).

#### The Social History

In order to understand the evolution of Kenya as a multi-cultural society it is necessary to examine its social history, which can be periodized into five broad stages: (i) Pre-historic era, (ii) Portuguese and Arabic era, (iii) British era, and (iv) Post-independence era.

(i) The Pre-Historic Era :

The archaeologists have undertaken an extensive research in Kenya and ascertained that early man evolved from within the present boundaries of Kenya (Encyclopedia Americana, 1984 vol 6:400). This is evident from abundant tools made of stones and iron, and human skeletons dating as far back as two million years ago are found in Kenya. However, until the advent of the Arabs, little is known about the hinter-land of Kenya apart from the idea that it was predominantly occupied by loosely organized and stateless tribes.

(ii) The Portuguese and Arabic Era :

Recorded history indicates that by the 8<sup>th</sup> century, A.D., the Arabs and Portuguese, who invaded Kenya through the coast, had settled on the coastal region. By the 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D. they had successfully established themselves along with African natives in such cities and towns like Mombasa, Malindi, and Pate.

These new inhabitants became actively involved in commercial activities in the East African Coast. And Arabic as well as Portuguese culture and traditions started spreading. However, this trend suffered a setback with the advent of the British era. The Portuguese era is known for the religious, political, and commercial

tensions that led to a cultural destruction of the city-states. It was Islamic zeal and strategic interests that brought to an end the Portuguese era in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (World Mark Encyclopedia of Nations, 1971, Vol.11:124-125). From then onwards, Arab dynasties ruled and monopolized the Ivory as well as the slave trade in the city-states. Though trade was organised through caravans, it was checked in the hinterland by the hostile Masai warriors (Encyclopedia Britanica, 1985, Vol.6:807). Thus, slave-capturing did not affect most of the Kenyan tribes especially those sheltered in the Maasai grazing region. However, the Arabic legacy is evident from the spread of Islam and the rise of the Afro-Arabic off-spring whose language, Swahili, is widely spoken in Kenya (Europa, 1978:77). Nevertheless, the Arabic excesses in slavery and slave-trade ended with the dawn of the British era in Kenya by the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

(iii) The British Era :

The British arrival in the 1880's marked the downfall of both the Arabs and Portuguese dynasties including their trade in the region. In 1885 slavery was abolished and a need to uplift the Africans, socially and economically, was felt. This was followed in 1886 with the partition of Africa, whereby one part of the coastal hinterland became Uganda, and the rest became what is

largely the present Kenya. Both the countries, namely Uganda and Kenya, were a part of British East Africa.

The region was administered by Imperial British East African Company from 1888 to 1895. In 1895 it was taken over by the British government as a protectorate. During the British era railway-lines were laid from the port of Mombasa to Kisumu, near lake Victoria. Its aim was to facilitate the economic exploitation and effective administration of the hinterland by the British. However, to construct the railways in Africa, the British brought workers from India, many of whom settled down in Africa later on.

The immigrants found virtually uninhabited fertile land. However, they took advantage of ignorance and hospitality of the natives from whom they grabbed much land without resistance. This act disturbed the African pattern of land usage, especially those based on shifting cultivation or nomadism. Further, communal or collective ownership gave way to individual holdings and, thereby, disrupting the traditional family and kinship ties of the native Africans. However, when the protectorate was declared as a crown colony in 1920, the activities of these settlers were brought under control.

### Independence Movement (1923-1963)

By the year 1923, the supremacy of the African interests in the colony over the settlers was recognized and pursued. It was a triumph to the African nationalist movement. However, it was the Kikuyu cultural protest of 1929 (Corfield 1960:265) that accelerated the pressure against the British rule. At the same time, the economic recession of the 1930s helped to arouse political consciousness among the Africans. Hence, at the beginning of the second world war (1939-45), the independence movement had gathered momentum under Kenya African Union (KAU), the only sustained political party at that time. (Mondevideo 1990:374-76). Therefore, in order to stop KAU, the British nominated the first African to the legislative council in 1944. Meanwhile, Mr. Jomo Kenyatta steered KAU towards total independence. At first, non-violent means were adopted, such as organized strikes, farmer's rallies, and peaceful demonstrations. But, when all these methods failed, a politico-religious movement known as "Mau Mau" was launched (Third World Guide (T.W.G.), 1990: 374-376).

The Mau Mau movement was violent. It directed its offensive tactics to the settlers' lives and property. At the same time it propagated the need of self-government, restitution of lost land, reasonable pay, and

a rejection of imposed religion (TWG-1990:374). However, this movement was effectively put down by the emergency laws which lasted for over seven years. (1952-1960)

The emergency period saw the development of trade-unions and their involvement in politics due to the absence of political parties. But when the emergency was lifted, in 1960, the trade-unions were reduced to associations affiliated to political parties. In the post-emergency period two political parties emerged: (i) Kenya African Democratic Union (KADU), and (ii) Kenya African National Union (KANU).

Out of these two parties, KANU found more electoral support among the urban masses, and from the two biggest tribes of Kenya, namely, the Kikuyu and the Luo. The party advocated for a strong Central Government and national integration. It was able to defeat KADU on a mere simple majority vote. KADU lost the election because its electorate were not only rural-oriented but also consisted mainly of minority tribes seeking for regional autonomy.

In spite of the above ideological differences, which also reflect ethnic differences, the independence movement culminated into Kenya's independence in 1963. One year later, the new nation attained the republican status.

The first cabinet was set up by the late president Jomo Kenyatta in 1963. However, according to table 2.7, out of the 19 cabinet positions, which included the post of secretary to the cabinet and head of the civil service, seven top ministers were drawn from Kenyatta's Kikuyu tribe, while four came from the Luo tribe. The rest of the tribes were accorded eight cabinet positions.

Table 2.6. Ethnicity and Political Posts In The First Cabinet of Independent Kenya (1963).

Ethnic origin	Cabinet Members
Kikuyu	7
Luo	4
Others	8
Total	19

Computed from: The Weekly Review (Kenya) August 12, 1994, P.9.

During Kenyatta's administration, the country also witnessed the rise of ethnic organizations. The largest of them, the Gikuyu Embu and Meru Association (GEMA) was a powerful pressure group, serving tribal leaders with foreign partners. By 1978, when the president died, GEMA lobbied for an ethnic successor, but luck was not on

their side. Mr. Daniel Arap Moi emerged as the constitutionally selected successor of Jomo Kenyatta in October 1978. Since then the nation has emerged politically, economically, and socially stronger, especially with the dissolution of ethnic organisations (Third World Guide, 1990:375)

(iv) Post-Independence Era:

In pre-colonial era, the tribes that occupied Kenya, were micro nations ; loosely organized, and largely stateless in the modern sense. However, at the advent of foreign powers, namely the Portuguese, Arabs, and the British, law, order, and state-craft gradually emerged in the country.

During the colonial era, Kenya was administered as a colony and not as a nation. Thus, in the struggle for nation-hood, Kenya evolved its own polity, sustained by an ideology, constitution, and a system of governance.

As an independent state, Kenya adopted its own constitution. This helped to divide the country into eight provinces. This was intended to enhance administrative convenience, and to ensure a balanced economic as well as social development.

KANU has been in power for most of the time since independence. Thus, Kenya has been virtually a one-party state during this period. Moreover, the president of the party has been simultaneously the president of Kenya also. Hence, since independence, there have been only two presidents ; Jomo Kenyatta (1963-78) and Daniel Arap Moi (1978 onwards).

As a result, Kenya's constitution and political organization is highly infused with KANU policies. These include unitary state, racial harmony, indegenization of the economy, industrialization, free enterprise, and a positive non-alignment in foreign affairs. (Delury 1983:582). However, since 1983, KANU has gradually adopted a decentralized system of governance because of the limitations of bureaucratic control and financial constraints. Nevertheless, since 1992, the nation has adopted a multiparty system with a view to develop a federal system of government. The intended ideal is a clear separation of powers between the legislative, executive, and judiciary. This is believed to be a prerequisite for the evolution of an efficient administrative structure.

The executive arm of the state is presided over by the President and Vice-President. The President is directly elected by the people on simple majority criterion. The

constitution empowers the President to appoint a Vice-President, who is also an elected or nominated member of parliament.

The government of Kenya consists of the cabinet, the civil service and the judiciary. All these are directly constituted through Presidential appointments, especially the top officials. However, below this, the system of governance is organized within eight provinces. These are conveniently divided into districts, divisions, locations, and sub-locations.

A Provincial Commissioner (PC) heads each province, the districts are headed by District Commissioners (DC), and the divisions are presided over by District Officer (DO). Whereas the locations and sub-locations are taken care of by the Chiefs and their assistants respectively.

The local government's affairs are monitored by the minister for local government in accordance with the local government act. Thus, public administration in Kenya is not only centralized but also its structure revolves around the office of the President. Therefore, it is subject to Presidential philosophy and ideological control.

Kenya's national philosophy and ideology was outlined by parliament in 1965 (MOI 1986:21-30). It focuses on

African socialism : collective responsibility and welfarism enshrined in the nation's constitution. This aspect is translated into action by the national motto "Harambee", which means "let us pull together". Thus Harambee mobilizations not only effect voluntary redistribution of wealth, dissemination of policies, patriotism, and communal harmony, but also involves the civil socialization, necessary for positive leadership. Thus, Harambee has formed an institutional approach to development. *This*  is a living legacy of President Kenyatta.

In addition to Harambee, is the "NYAYO" philosophy derived from a Swahili word meaning foot-steps. It was propounded by President Daniel Arap Moi in 1978 with an intention of perpetuating the pragmatic elements of Harambee. Nyayo philosophy is essentially derived from Christian values, such as, love, unity, peace, honesty, and commitment. Thus, Nyayo philosophy seeks for an adaptable process of socialization that leads to national as well as personal satisfaction through : achievements, mature patriotism, and practical nationalism.

Nevertheless, though much has been accomplished under the two philosophies, it is interesting to observe that with the advent of political pluralism, the collective

responsibility is giving way to individualism as favoured by a free market economy.

The ruling party in Kenya, Kenya African National Union (KANU) was born at a time of immense political change. Since then, it has successfully presided over the most far-reaching social and economic changes that Kenyans have ever experienced.

A close look at Kenya's economy reveals that KANU has achieved most of its objectives such as : training the manpower to run the country, building the infrastructure for a modern economy, and expanding production in agriculture and industry, including tourism and horticulture. (KANU 1992:11).

As a result, enormous progress has been possible since independence in the sphere of education, health, social services, and food self-sufficiency. Life expectancy has increased from 40 in 1963 to 60 years in 1992 (KANU 1992:49). Infant mortality has dropped from 126 in 1963 to 59 per 1000 in 1992. Moreover, primary school enrollment has increased from 900,000 in 1963 to nearly 6,000,000 in 1992, secondary school enrollment from 60,000 in 1963 to 600,000 in 1992 respectively (KANU, 1992:11). In the four public universities there were at

least 41,000 students in 1992 compared to 565 attending one university college in 1963 (KANU, 1992:11).

Agriculture, industry, and tourism have expanded considerably. As a result, personal income of an average Kenyan has doubled since 1963 (KANU 1992:11).

The first decade of independence was spent mainly on solving the problems created by the British and other earlier settlers. But from the second decade onwards Kenya's economic progress started to yield its projectionable results.

Kenya is essentially an agricultural country. Hence its economy leans much on agricultural produce. (see table 2.7) This sector not only earns substantial income but also employs over 80 per cent of the active population. (See table 2.8) Even the figures regarding Kenya's export reflect the agricultural base (See table 2.9)

Table 2.7: The Structure of Economic Production ; Kenya  
Among Five Developing Countries (in  
percentages) 1970-91.

Country	Agricul- ture		Industry *		Manufact- uring*		Services	
	1970	1991	1970	1991	1970	1991	1970	1991
Mali	61	44	11	12	7	11	28	43
Burkina Faso	42	44	11	20	14	12	37	37
Niger	65	38	7	19	5	8	28	47
India	54	31	22	27	15	18	33	41
Kenya	33	27	20	22	12	17	47	51

Source: World Bank, World Development Report: Investing in Health, Oxford University Press, Newyork, 1993, table 3, p.242

\* Industry and manufacturing are not mutually exclusive, but are reported separately in technical terms given on page 308 of the report.

Table 2.8 : Economically Active Population in Kenya(1980)  
( '000 persons)

Economic Sector	Male	Female	Total
Agriculture	3,174	2,555	5,729
Industry	403	81	484
Services	534	324	859
Total	4,111	2,961	7,072

Source: Europa World Year Book, Europa Publications Limited, London, 1992 table 2.7, p.1606

Table 2.9: Kenya's Major Exports (in percentages)

Exports	Percentage
Coffee	27
Tea	25
Petroleum Products	15
Preserved Fruits	5
Crude vegetable materials	3
Other items	25
Total	100

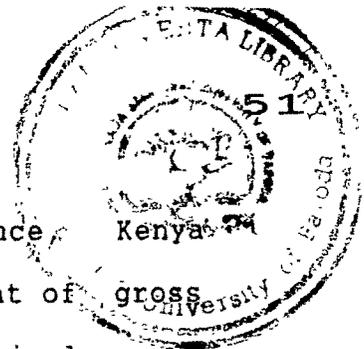
Compiled from Third World Guide 91/92, Modevideo:  
Institute del Tercer Mundo 1990, p.375.

Table 2.10: Gross National Product : Kenya Among Five Developing Countries. (1970-91).

Country	Gross National Product in %	
	1970-1980	1980-1991
Mali	4.9	2.5
Burkina Faso	4.4	4.0
Niger	1.7	-1.0
India	3.4	5.4
Kenya	6.4	4.2

Source: World Bank, World Development Report: Investing in Health, Oxford University Press, New York, 1993, table 2, p.240.

\* (GNP measures the total domestic and foreign value added by residents, see World Development Report, 1993, p.307).



In the second decade after independence, Kenya registered an impressive growth of 6.4 percent of gross domestic product. Hence, it appears relatively much better among the low-income countries as revealed by the figures given in table 2.10. This trend is attributed to Kenya's Coffee boom in 1977-78 which alleviated its economy from the world oil-crisis (1973-79). However, since then, global economic recession, political uncertainties, and unpredictable weather have adversely affected Kenya's economic development. Therefore, in recent years, industrialization and tourism have been paid substantial attention by the Kenyan government.

#### The Quality of Life and Education

Considering Kenya's position as a developing country, it is necessary to have a glance at the cost of living, medical care, communication, and education. These indicators not only deal with the issues that affect national development but also the future hopes and aspirations of the people of Kenya. Thus, taking the 1980 as a stable economic phase in Kenya, it is evident that consumer price index has not been favorable. (See table 2.11)

Table 2.11: Cost Of Living In Kenya : (Consumer Price Index for Middle Income Group in Nairobi City 1987-89, Annual Average Base 1980=100)

Items	1987	1988	1989
Food	196.4	214.4	236.8
Fuel & Light	278.8	327.7	369.7
Clothing	200.6	207.0	244.9
Rent	233.1	261.0	289.5
All items including others	233.0	260.9	289.5

Source: Europa World Year Book Vol. II, Europa Publications Limited, London, 1992, p.1608.

Further probe into Kenyan life reveals that the essential services like medical care, communication, and education are also inadequate. For instance, with a population of over 24 million in 1989, it is a matter of concern that there is only one physician for every ten thousand Kenyans. One hospital bed is available for every six hundred people. Infant mortality rate is seventy-one per every thousand (Third World Guide 1990:375). Calorie consumption is lower by two percent of the required intake. And only 28 percent of the population has access to safe drinking water.

Table 2.12: Communication Media in Third Decade of Independent Kenya. (1982-83)

Consumer items	'000	No. per 1000 people	Year
Radio Sets	640	34	1983
Televisions	75	4.4	1983
Passanger cars	122	6.6	1984
News Papers	220	12	1982
Telephones	2,48,110	12	1984

Source: The World in Figures: The Economist Publication, London, 1987, p.77.

According to the KANU government, (KANU 1992:23) Radios are now found in most Kenyan houses, and public telephone booths are widely available at affordable charges even in the most remote areas. This is attested by the fact that in 1978 there were 474 public call boxes. By 1990 there were 4,615. Hence, compared to table 2.11, communication media in the third decade have tremendously developed in Kenya.

It is also necessary to have a look at inflation, population, and balance of payment. Agriculture is the main income-earner in Kenya, followed by tourism. However, it is interesting to note that on the one hand agriculture not only depends on the weather but also the attitude of foreign buyers of the produce.

Tourism, on the other hand, not only depends on both political stability and infrastructure but also on a meticulous conservation of wildlife. Thus given that these are unreliable income-earners for a developing country, it can be safely asserted that Kenya's economic base is still fragile as shown in Table 2.13.

Table 2.13: Kenya's Economy (1989-91)

Trend Indicators	1989	1990	1991
Inflation (% change)	9.8	11.7	14.8
Population ('000)	24,872.0	25,861.0	27,884.2
Total Exports (U.S. Million)	970.30	1,031.20	1,107.50
Total Import (U.S. Million)	2,147.70	2,315.20	2,228.80

Source : The World Economic Fact Book, Euromonitor, London, 1993, p.253.

According to table 2.13, the Kenyan economy is characterized by high inflation, rapid population growth, and unfavorable balance of payment. Hence, the economy is highly fragile.

However, if education is taken as an essential service and investment, Kenya has made considerable progress in the field of education since independence. By 1992, 35 percent of government annual expenditure was on education, compared to agriculture, health, transport and

communication (Transcom) which got only 6 percent respectively. The government also allocated 30 percent of the budget to development expenses (Olembo, 1992: 99). Therefore, other sectors got 27 percent of the budget. Educational expenditure is not a recent practice. Immediately after independence, the country started paying attention to the vital necessity of training, as quickly as possible, the men and women, who would take over the management and leadership of the new nation.

Due to the above reasons, the government has periodically reviewed the direction and content of educational system. For instance, in 1985, it introduced one of the most radical and innovative changes ever seen in a developing country. The new system is designed to: (a) respond effectively to challenges and needs of the people, (b) cope with population growth and, (c) replace eliticism with employable knowledge (Moi 1986:42). Through these objectives education is expected to prepare the country to keep pace with global advancements in science and technology. However, it is subject to continuous review and assessment to ensure that it fulfills national expectations and objectives.

The above trend in the education system is reflected in the institutional expansions, growth in enrollment,

teachers, and teacher-pupil ratio as well as in recurrent expenditure presented in tables 2.14, 2.15 and 2.16.

Table 2.14: Primary Schools: Growth in Schools, Enrollment, and Teachers.

Year	Schools	Pupils	Teachers	Teacher-Pupil Ratio *
1963	06,058	891,553	22,727	1.39
1972	06,657	1,675,919	53,536	1.31
1981	11,127	3,980,763	110,921	1.40
1986	13,392	4,843,423	142,807	1.34
1991	15,196	5,455,966	173,370	1.32

Source KANU Manifesto 1992, p.42.

\* Computed for the present study.

Table 2.15: Secondary Schools : Growth in Schools, Enrollment, and Teachers

Year	Schools	Pupils	Teachers	Teacher-Pupil Ratio *
1963	151	30,121	1,602	1.19
1972	949	162,910	7,106	1.23
1981	1,904	409,850	17,025	1.24
1986	2,485	458,712	22,246	1.21
1991	2,647	614,161	30,120	1.20

Source : KANU Manifesto 1992, p. 42.

\* Computed for the present study.

Table 2.16: Education Finance : Growth in Recurrent Expenditure.

Year	Ksh	% of National Recurrent Budget
1963-64	135,670,000	22.5
1972-73	650,998,000	32.4
1981-82	3298,184,000	29.9
1986-87	6,760,184,000	36.4

Source : KANU Manifesto 1992, p. 43.

From the above facts and figures, it is evident that education is an investment intended to fulfill national aspirations of Kenya.

### Summary

The chapter traces Kenya's contemporary society back to history. Kenya's physical and socio-cultural setting has immediately been attributed to geographical factors. A contrast of flora, fauna and diversity of human settlements comprise the country's terrain.

Historically, society has evolved from pre-history through loosely organised, migrant and stateless tribes to an integrate of ethnic groups and of their members. Law, order, and state-craft sustain this entity which is one of the most heterogeneous countries in the world. Ethnic differences affected political decisions at independence, but the constitution and able Presidential leadership facilitated political stability and governance. Despite a fragile economic base, pragmatic philosophies and ideologies have accelerated national development. Education emerges as a crucial social service, a source of trained personnel, an investment to catalyse the national development, modernization and standard of living. Therefore, in the next three chapters the relationship between education and Kenyan society is examined as it evolved historically.