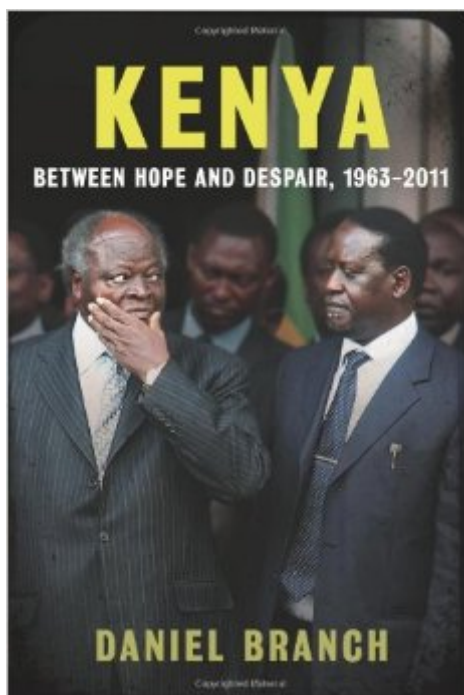


The book was found

Kenya: Between Hope And Despair, 1963-2011



Synopsis

On December 12, 1963, people across Kenya joyfully celebrated independence from British colonial rule, anticipating a bright future of prosperity and social justice. As the nation approaches the fiftieth anniversary of its independence, however, the people's dream remains elusive. During its first five decades Kenya has experienced assassinations, riots, coup attempts, ethnic violence, and political corruption. The ranks of the disaffected, the unemployed, and the poor have multiplied. In this authoritative and insightful account of Kenya's history from 1963 to the present day, Daniel Branch sheds new light on the nation's struggles and the complicated causes behind them. Branch describes how Kenya constructed itself as a state and how ethnicity has proved a powerful force in national politics from the start, as have disorder and violence. He explores such divisive political issues as the needs of the landless poor, international relations with Britain and with the Cold War superpowers, and the direction of economic development. Tracing an escalation of government corruption over time, the author brings his discussion to the present, paying particular attention to the rigged election of 2007, the subsequent compromise government, and Kenya's prospects as a still-evolving independent state.

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; 1st edition (November 15, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300148763

ISBN-13: 978-0300148763

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 1.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #886,005 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Â Books > History > Africa > Kenya #33284 in Â Books > History > World

Customer Reviews

Kenyans experienced independence in 1963, but not all enjoyed the rights and benefits of citizenship; they have witnessed economic growth, but have not necessarily been able to find work; they have participated in development projects that have not necessarily delivered improved standards of living; and they have voted in elections without experiencing democracy, according to Daniel Branch in this book. The book explores Kenyan politics from the time of the first president

Kenyatta, through the time of the second president Moi, up to the present time of the third president Kibaki. In the early days the struggle was between the political elite and those like Oginga Odinga who wanted to redistribute the wealth. After a while the struggle was simply between different factions in the political elite who wanted to seize power and feather their own nests. Remarkably, the author does not hesitate to detail instances of corruption and criminal conduct and name names, given the propensity of the Kenyan elite to sue for defamation. Former National Security Minister Chris Murungaru is currently suing KTN for defamation over the allegation that he was a drug kingpin. Former Minister of Trade and Industry Nicholas Biwott was awarded \$750,000 for defamation over the allegation that he murdered Robert Ouko. President Kibaki has publicly threatened defamation proceedings against anyone who claims he is a polygamist. All of these allegations and many more appear in the book. Perhaps the author has greater confidence in the independence of the current judiciary. Although the book's title suggests that Kenya fluctuates between hope and despair, the abiding impression gained by the reader is more on the side of despair.

'Kenya: Between Hope and Despair, 1963-2011' is a 300-page romp through 48 years of Kenya's post-independence history. As a book it is not without merit: the story moves along at pace and the historical meal Daniel Branch serves up is easily digestible. In these respects it is a popular history for the general reader, or someone new to the subject of Kenyan history. Unfortunately, however, for those with a knowledge of the country's history, Branch's multiple errors and unjustified assumptions will prove a problem. Take for example the book's section on the murder of Kenya's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Robert Ouko, in February 1991 ('Who Killed Bob', pages 190 - 193). Branch writes: 'To maintain cohesion of the ruling elite, the government nevertheless turned to another well-rehearsed method of asserting its authority', i.e., had Ouko murdered. There is little or no evidence for this assumption and virtually all of the evidence that has come to light since about 1991 suggest that it is wrong. A couple of lines later Branch states; 'On 15 February 1990, the partially burnt body of the foreign minister, Robert Oukjo, was found, close to his home near Kisumu'. In fact, Ouko's body was first found on 13 February that year by a local herdsboy (who did not report it to the authorities) and officially found following a police search on the morning of 16 February. Branch goes on to state that Ouko's relationship with some of his cabinet colleagues in the months prior to his death had 'soured' in the months leading up to his death. There is little or no evidence for this statement (and much that contradicts it) and Branch does not provide evidence in its support.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Kenya: Between Hope and Despair, 1963-2011 Guardian of the Golden Gate: Protecting the Line Between Hope and Despair IRON MAN, VOL. 1: 1963-1980: Every Marvel IRON MAN Comic Book Cover From 1963 (Tales Of Suspense #39) And The 1968 Series (IRON MAN COMIC BOOK COVERS) Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual 2011-2012: With Statutory Amendments Through the 82nd Legislative First Called Session, 2011 (Gould's Texas Traffic Laws) Ford Ranger Pick-ups 1993 thru 2011: 1993 thru 2011 all models - Also includes 1994 thru 2009 Mazda B2300, B2500, B3000, B4000 (Haynes Repair Manual) Vocabulary Workshop Æ Æ©2011 Level Orange (Grade 4) Student Edition Paperback - 2011 Rising UP!: My Recovery from Multiple Sclerosis, Disability and Despair, including Western and Chinese Medicine, Tai Chi, Qigong, diet, neurological exercise, meditation--and much more! Encouragement in the Wilderness: A Daily Devotional for Days of Discouragement, Depression, and Despair Inconceivable: A Woman's Triumph over Despair and Statistics Depression-Free, Naturally: 7 Weeks to Eliminating Anxiety, Despair, Fatigue, and Anger from Your Life Healing Through the Dark Emotions: The Wisdom of Grief, Fear, and Despair Nobel Literature Laureate Works ---Twenty Love Poems and the Song of Despair: Love is so short, forgetting is so long Arab Nationalism in the Twentieth Century: From Triumph to Despair The Beat Hotel: Ginsberg, Burroughs and Corso in Paris, 1957-1963 Pioneers of European Integration and Peace, 1945-1963: A Brief History with Documents (Bedford Series in History & Culture) Envy and Gratitude & Other Works: 1946-1963 Collectors Guide to Tonka Trucks, 1947-1963 THE BEATLES ALBUM COVERS 1963 - 1970: A Collector's Guide To Over 55 Album Covers Produced While The Beatles Were Still A Group (Collector's Guide To Beatles Album Covers) 0307090329 Franklin Half Dollar Folder 1948-1963 1963 in Saint Lucia

[Dmca](#)