

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910484959903321
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Titolo	Labor in Colonial Kenya after the Forced Labor Convention, 1930-1963 // by Opolot Okia
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2019
ISBN	9783030176082 3030176088
Edizione	[1st ed. 2019.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (266 pages)
Disciplina	331.117309676209041 331.11732096762
Soggetti	Africa, Sub-Saharan - History Imperialism Labor History History, Modern History of Sub-Saharan Africa Imperialism and Colonialism Labor History Modern History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1 Introduction: Communal Forced Labor as a Mask of Tradition -- 2 "Skinny Scarecrows": Forced Labor in Kenya before the Forced Labor Convention -- 3 The Tactical Compromise: The 1930 Forced Labor Convention and Kenya Colony -- 4 Interlude: Forced Labor during WWII -- 5 Protecting the Soil (1): Communal Labor and Land Degradation in Central Province -- 6 Protecting the Soil (2): Communal Labor and Land Degradation in Nyanza Province -- 7 Controlling "Spivs": The ILO and Emergency Communal Labor, 1952-1960 -- 8 Conclusion: The Phoenix of Abolition -- .
Sommario/riassunto	This book advances research into the government-forced labor used widely in colonial Kenya from 1930 to 1963 after the passage of the

International Labor Organization's Forced Labour Convention. While the 1930 Convention intended to mark the suppression of forced labor practices, various exemptions meant that many coercive labor practices continued in colonial territories. Focusing on East Africa and the Kenya Colony, this book shows how the colonial administration was able to exploit the exemption clause for communal labor, thus ensuring the mobilization of African labor for infrastructure development. As an exemption, communal labor was not defined as forced labor but instead justified as a continuation of traditional African and community labor practices. Despite this ideological justification, the book shows that communal labor was indeed an intensification of coercive labor practices and one that penalized Africans for non-compliance with fines or imprisonment. The use of forced labor before and after the passage of the Convention is examined, with a focus on its use during World War II as well as in efforts to combat soil erosion in the rural African reserve areas in Kenya. The exploitation of female labor, the Mau Mau war of the 1950s, civilian protests, and the regeneration of communal labor as harambee after independence are also discussed.

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