

Abstract

This bachelor thesis *British colonial government in Kenya and the Mau Mau uprising* describes the most important measures taken by the British colonial government during the State of Emergency in Kenya (1952-1960), outlines the British point of view on Kenya and through several examples attempts to analyze the extent of autonomy of the British colonial administration in Kenya. The State of Emergency was declared in 1952 in order to protect the white settlers in Kenya and to quickly crush the uprising of the anti-colonial militant Mau Mau movement, which was formed mainly by the members of the Kikuyu tribe. Although the dispute used to be perceived as a racial struggle of Africans against Europeans, it was in fact an internal fight in the Kikuyu tribe incited by the measures taken by the British colonial government. This thesis looks into the events in Kenya during the 1950s in four main chapters. First chapter presents the colony's development up to 1952 and the historic introduction follows up with the second chapter. Second chapter should answer the question of which measures have been taken against Mau Mau and describes the most important operations and programmes that have influenced the course of the State of Emergency. Third chapter contains a short outline of the British point of view on the Mau Mau movement, one of the uprising's phenomenon and the perspective of the British press and academics on the movement. Fourth chapter answers the research question – if and to what degree was the conduct of the colonial government based on its own initiative.