

THE HISTORY OF NAIROBI 1900 - 1950s

COLONIAL CAPITAL

1900s Foundation
Nairobi was founded as a depot for the British colonial Uganda railway on half track between Mombasa and Lake Victoria. The word 'nyrobi' originates from the language of the Masaai and means 'place of the cold waters'. Soon, the British colonialists allowed Europeans to settle down in the undulating west of the city center. It was the beginning of European big game hunting in Kenya.

1910s World War I
Asians, mainly qualified workers from India, were allowed to settle down in the north-east of the city. (today: Eastleigh) A road system for the CBD was established. The first newspaper was founded. Karen Blixen came to Nairobi just before WWI broke out. Many country clubs opened.

1920s White Settlers
Kenya became a crown colony with more rights for the white settlers. Nairobi was declared a political community and the City Council was founded. A first city plan was drawn while the borders of the city were expanded twice. The East-African Shilling was introduced as common currency of the colony. The City Square was built, as were first brick buildings. The first radio station began transmission.

1930s Motorisation
The transport system was heavily expanded: All roads in the city center were asphalted. The first public bus service was established. The aerodrome opened. The City Hall, Law Courts and the Library were built.

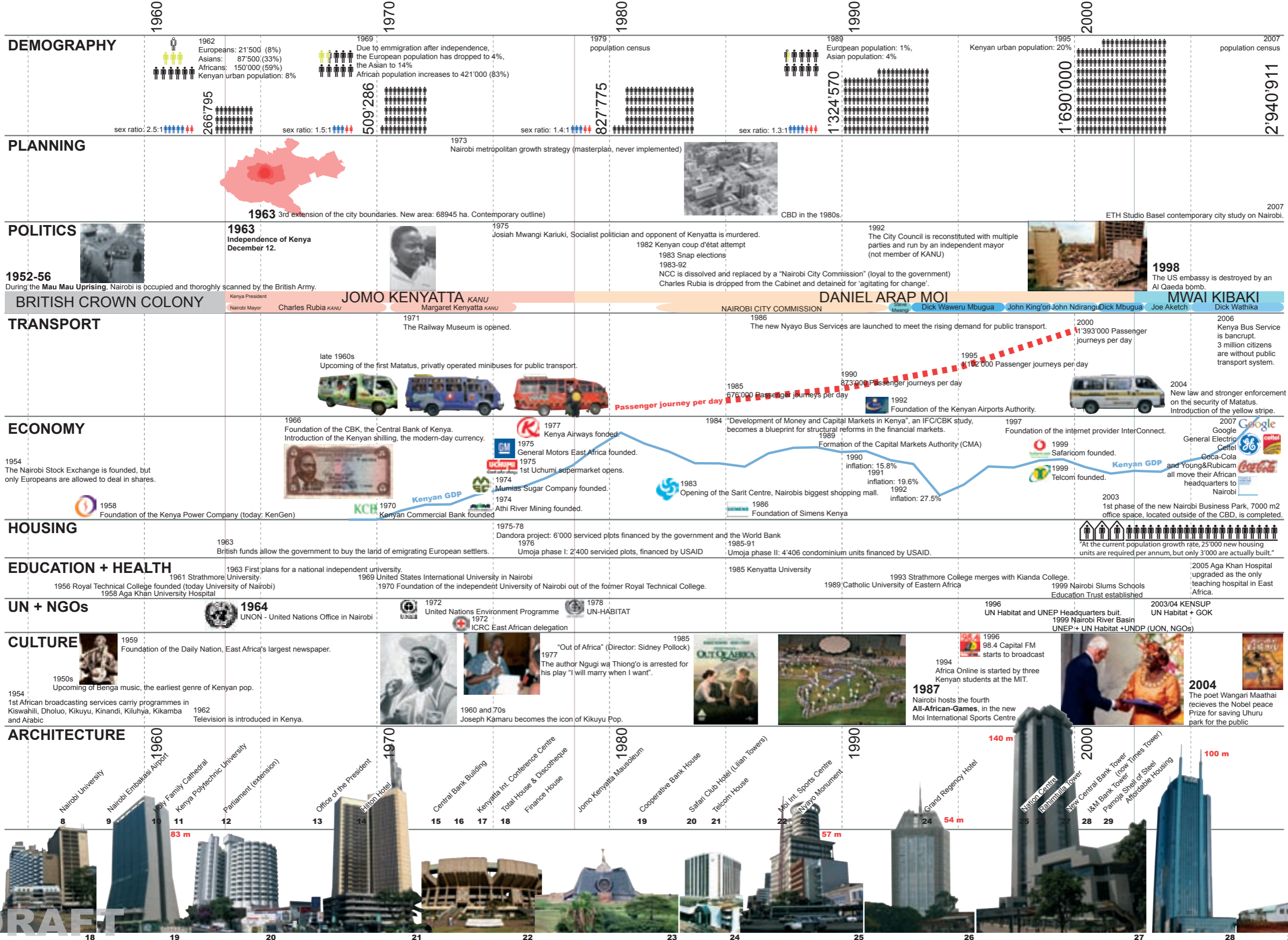
1940s World War II
During WWII, the population more than doubled (the female population even quadrupled, but still, in 1949, there were four men per one woman) The Nairobi National Park was established. The German architect Ernst May worked in Nairobi.

1950s Mau Mau
Nairobi gained official city status. During the Mau Mau uprising, the British army occupied Nairobi and virtually scanned every African resident (Operation Anvil) First radio for Africans. Building of the parliament, the university, the international airport and the Aga Khan hospital.

	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950
DEMOGRAPHY	1906 First population count in the small railway settlement. Europeans: 579 (6%) Asians: 3'582 (34%) Africans: 6'351 (60%) 10'512 = 10'000 inhabitants	1926 population census: 29'864	1931 European population reaches its highest percentage (11% of the total population) 1936 European population reaches its highest percentage (11% of the total population) 1926 first plan of Nairobi 1927 2nd extension of the city boundaries.	1939-48 During WW II Nairobi's population rises from 50'000 to 120'000. sex ratio (m/f): 3.9 : 1	1948 population census: 118'900 sex ratio (m/f): 3.9 : 1
PLANNING	1902 Reservation of areas for European settlers, mainly in the western part of Nairobi. 1911-14 Asians are allowed to control land to the east of the city centre, including Eastleigh. 1900 The area of the urban centre is defined as a circle with a radius of 1.5 miles around the administrative headquarters. area = 1831 ha	1920 Adjustment of the city boundaries: 2537 ha	1927 The new border marks the line between the government's land and the new private estates.	1948 Nairobi masterplan 'for a colonial capital'	
POLITICS	1900 Nairobi Municipal Community (NMC) are published. 1905 Nairobi replaces Mombasa as capital of the British Protectorate.	1914-18 During WW I Nairobi serves as a pedestrian military base for the Kariakor (Carrier Corps) 1919 Nairobi is declared a community. The Nairobi City Council (NCC) replaces the Nairobi Municipal Community.		1939-45 During WW II Nairobi serves as a motorised air and military base	1950 Nairobi is declared a city.
BRITISH PROTECTORATE (1900-1920) BRITISH CROWN COLONY (1920-1950)					
TRANSPORT	1899 A major depot for the Uganda railway is built on a spot known to the Masaai as Nyrobi, 'cold waters'. 1906 Uganda Railway is complete, connecting Mombasa and Lake Victoria via Nairobi.	1909 A Road system in the CBD is established. 1914-18 During WW I Nairobi serves as a pedestrian military base for the Kariakor (Carrier Corps)	1928 In terms of cars to population ratio, Nairobi is the most motorized urban center in the world (but only in terms of non-African population) 1929 The government decides to asphalt all roads in the CBD.	1933 Nairobi Aerodrome (today: Wilson Airport) is opened. 1934 Foundation of the Kenya Bus Service, Nairobi's oldest public transport system	
ECONOMY		1914 Asians start running shops in the center and the east of the city. Most famous example: Achmed Brothers.	1920s Europeans begin dealing in shares and stocks, however without the rules and regulations of a formal market but rather on the basis of 'gentlemen's agreements'. 1921 Introduction of the East African shilling as common currency in British controlled areas in East Africa. 1922 Foundation of Kenya Breweries, producer of Kenya's most famous beer: 'Tusker'	1935 Foundation of E.A. Portland Cement 1951 Foundation of Bamburi Cement by Felix Mandl, director of Cementia Holding A.G. Zurich	
HOUSING	1902 European settlement starts in the west of the city, spreading westwards from Nairobi Hill across Lavington Estate to Dagoretti. 1911-14 Asians are allowed to control land to the east of the city centre, including Eastleigh.	1920 Origins of Kibera: Nubian soldiers' settle on a hill outside Nairobi, with plots allotted to soldiers as a reward for service in the First World War.		1939 As female population quadruples, African households transform from bachelors to family.	
EDUCATION + HEALTH	1900/1902/1904 The plague decimates the population of the railroad camp 1901 Foundation of the Native Civil hospital (today Kenyatta National Hospital)	1914-18 Foundation of some small hospitals for Europeans during WW I.			
UN + NGOs					
CULTURE	1910 The Eastafrican Standart newspaper moves to Nairobi. 1910 East African Natural History Society establishes a first museum at the present-day Nyayo House. 1905 Beginning of big game hunting and the foundation of numerous country clubs. 1913 Muthaiga Country Club opened	1928 1st English radio broadcasting targeting white settlers with news from home. 1930 Opening of the new Coryndon Museum (now NMK National Museum) 1914-31 Karen Blixen lives in Nairobi 1937 Karen Blixen: "Out of Africa" 1938 Jomo Kenyatta: "Facing Mount Kenya"	1945 As a result of WW II, population increases so rapidly that Nairobi's cinemas use 4x more energy than in 1932.	1946 The Nairobi National Park is officially opened. It is the first national park in East Africa	
ARCHITECTURE	1910 Railway Station	1920 City Square, Jamakhana (mosque), Stanbic Bank (1st brick building)	1930 Nairobi National Museum, McMillan Memorial Library	1940 Ernst May House and Studio, Bank of India building (today Kenya National Archives)	1950 Parliament Buildings

THE HISTORY OF NAIROBI 1960 - TODAY

CAPITAL OF KENYA



1960s Independence
Television was introduced in Kenya. After independence, many non-Africans left the country. The city area was extended to its current size. The Central Bank and the new Kenyan Shilling were established. The UNON - United Nations Office in Nairobi was founded. The first matatus began their transport service.

1970s One-Party-System
Under the president's daughter, mayor Margaret Kenyatta, a masterplan was developed, but never implemented. Many major companies were founded as economy prospered. The CBD saw a wave of avant-garde brutalist architecture. UNEP and UN-HABITAT were founded and the ICRC settled down in Nairobi. First low-income housing projects were established with the help of foreign investments.

1980s Nyayo
After a failed coup d'état by the parts of the air force, the new president Daniel arap Moi dissolved the City Council and exchanged it by a new loyal City Commission. Until 1992, Nairobi did not have a mayor and was de facto ruled by the Central Government. In 1987 the city hosted the All-African Games in the new Moi International Sports Center.

1990s Democratization
The City Council was re-established with multiple parties. The population went well over one million. After a period of economic crisis and the end of over 30 years of KANU rule, new sky scrapers went up, not only in the CBD. Telecommunication and internet grew massively. Nairobi also became the center of a new urban culture with its own style of Hip-Hop, called 'genge'.

2000s New Boom
With the current economical boom holding on, Nairobi still faces one major challenge: growth. Social housing, waste disposal and the infamously high crime rate (although it dropped 20% already under the new government) and corruption pose big unsolved problems.

DRAFT

DRAFT