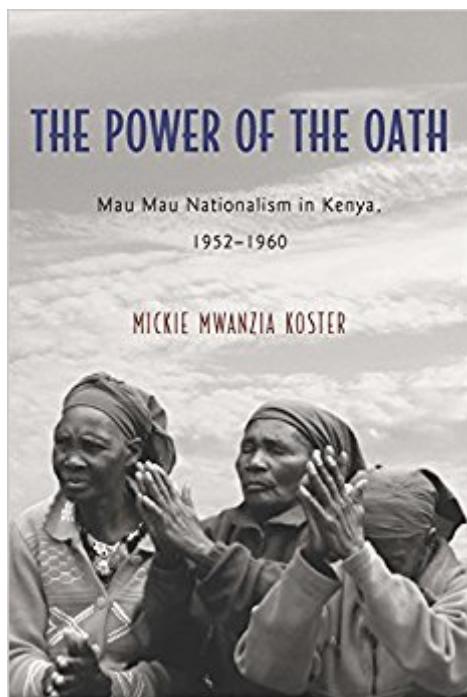


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The Power Of The Oath (Rochester Studies In African History And The Diaspora)



Synopsis

Through a critical examination of the Mau Mau oath used to initiate and unite fighters, *The Power of the Oath* opens a fresh conversation on the study of Mau Mau and Kenyan history. It argues for a historiographical shift in the framing of the Mau Mau rebellion as a Kikuyu war. Instead, Mickie Mwanzia Koster suggests that Mau Mau was a nationalist movement, embraced by non-Kikuyu communities like the Kamba ethnic group. Incorporating a creative blend of primary sources, including testimonies from ex-Mau Mau participants, survey analysis, archival data, Mau Mau court cases, ceremonial reenactments, and folklore, *The Power of the Oath* demonstrates how and why the movement was spread, embraced, and internalized. Koster traces the evolution and structure of the Mau Mau oath, examining the British criminalization of the oath, its gendered use, and the purification associated with it, in order to reveal how Mau Mau unfolded in Kenya.

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