

**Book Review**

***Policing in Eastern Africa: A Focus on the National Police Service in Kenya* by Jospeter Mbuba. Nairobi: LawAfrica, 2017. 205 Pages.**

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Professor Mbuba does an outstanding job of writing *Policing in Eastern Africa: A Focus on the National Police Service in Kenya* for multiple audiences. Professor Mbuba, a Kenyan native, wrote this book while he was a visiting Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow at the University of Embu in Kenya. Tired of donating Criminal Justice text books authored by Westerners to Kenyan universities, Mbuba undertook the noble task of filling a void by producing the first complete account of a law enforcement system in the region. This book is much needed in Africa, particularly with the rapid evolution of the justice system within the continent. Importantly, the book provides a great resource for comparative scholarship.

The book is organized into eight chapters that begin with a brief introduction and end with a summary. Mbuba also offers the reader a bird's eye view of the book by providing a very detailed overview of the chapters at the beginning of the book. He also shares the events that culminated in his writing of the book as well as what motivated him to write it.

Overall, I enjoyed reading *Policing in Eastern Africa: A Focus on the National Police Service in Kenya* and found it to be well researched. One of the values of this book is that it can be used to teach multiple courses, not just policing and security studies. For example, the book provides an extensive historical backdrop on the development of African police forces and may therefore serve as a good history text for scholars and students interested in looking at African policing through the lens of history. Equally important, comparative scholars will find this book to be particularly useful as Mbuba compares the police structure of several countries—for instance, Western and African. Perhaps one of Mbuba's strength is his vast knowledge and ability to provide context, which is extremely valuable for comparative work.

A case in point, in chapter one, Mbuba outlines the structure of Rwanda National Police (RNP), Uganda Police Force (UPF) and Tanzania Police Force (TPF)—all examples of centralized police structures—before delving into the National Police Service of Kenya (NPSK). As illustrated in the discussion of the RNP, UPF, TPF, there are slight differences between the police structures in these countries, however they all have a centralized structure. Likewise, Prof Mbuba showcases his versatile understanding of Western police structures and uses his insight to springboard meaningful discussions of African policing. Another notable strength

## ***Review of Mbuba's Policing in Eastern Africa by Chenane***

of the book is that each chapter ends with a summary to remind the reader of what the chapter discussed.

I also found the "The Book at a Glance" section, at the beginning of the book to be extremely valuable because it provides the reader a very concise synopsis of the book and gets the reader interested in reading the rest of the book while also providing a cheat sheet for those who are only interested in specific content in the book. Finally, the book is written in a clear language, which makes it intelligible to vast audiences. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in learning about the history, structure, organization, and jurisdiction of Kenyan policing. To an outsider, Kenyan (and African) policing may seem to be an amorphous organization, however, Prof Mbuba does a good job explaining the intricacies of policing and law enforcement in Kenya in a very clear and concise manner.