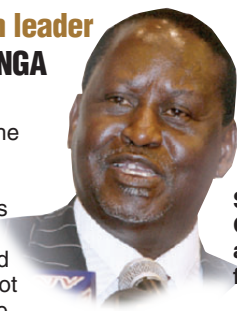


# Kenya: Troubled nation in a troubled region

## Main ethnic groups and leaders

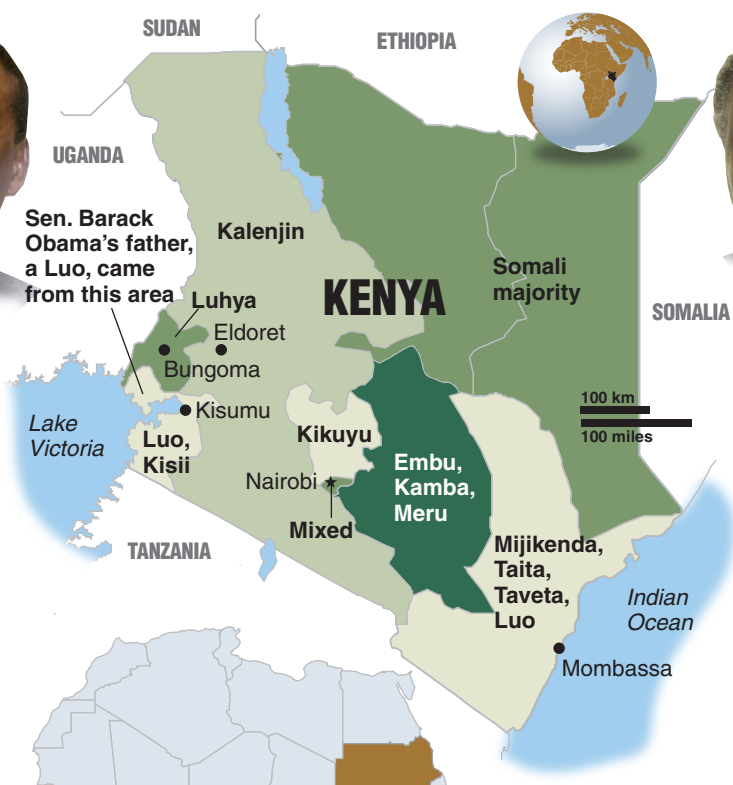
### Opposition leader RAILA ODINGA

**Age:** 62  
**Tribe:** Luo, the third largest of Kenya's 42 tribes, has never had a president and feels it has not gotten its due



### President MWAI KIBAKI

**Age:** 76  
**Tribe:** Kikuyu, Kenya's dominant ethnic group, also controls top cabinet posts: defense, justice, finance and internal security



### About the Luo

Pushed by other tribes toward Lake Victoria and the Indian Ocean, the Luo became farmers and fishermen. Since they did not live in the highlands, they were not displaced by British colonists. They impressed the colonial governors, who forced English "schooling, dress and hygiene" on them. Since independence, Kenya has been ruled by the Kikuyu, and Luos largely have been the opposing group.

### About the Kikuyu

Traditionally farmers in the fertile central highlands, the Kikuyu were driven from their land by the British, and many were confined to a small reserve. They became leaders in the Mau Mau uprising that started Kenya on the road to independence. Many moved to cities where they ran businesses. Today, the corruption that riddles the Kikuyu elite has stirred public anger, and many lost their seats in parliament in the last election.

## Troubled neighbors

### 1 Somalia

The overthrow of the central government in 1991, the rise of warlordism, subsequent lawlessness and famine have led to the deaths of an estimated 1 million Somalis. Many more have become refugees. In December 2006, a weak government, backed by Ethiopian troops, drove out powerful Islamic militias, but it still faces political opposition and insurgency.

### 2 Ethiopia

One of Africa's poorest countries, Ethiopia has been plagued by drought, famine and war. In 1974, long-time Emperor Haile Selassie was tossed out by a Marxist junta, which killed thousands of its opponents. In 1991, the junta was overthrown, followed by low-level armed conflict. Border wars with Eritrea, which gained independence in 1993, an insurgency in the Ogaden region and instability in Somalia also threaten the country.

### 3 Sudan

In 2005, a 21-year civil war between the mainly Muslim north and the Christian south ended after 1.5 million lost their lives. In 2003, fighting between Arab militias and non-Arabs broke out in the western region of Darfur; more than 200,000 have been killed and more than 2 million displaced. Uneasy relations with neighboring Chad have sparked fears of a wider regional conflict.

### 4 Uganda

After decades of abuse under dictators Idi Amin and Milton Obote, Uganda has seen relative stability since 1986 under President Yoweri Museveni. In 2006, the government and the cult-like Lord's Resistance Army signed a truce to end nearly two decades of violence that killed tens of thousands and displaced more than 1.6 million. Uganda has been criticized for its active involvement in DR Congo's civil war.

### 5 Tanzania

While Tanzania has been spared the civil conflict that has blighted many African countries, its elections have been contentious. One of the world's poorest countries, it relies on tourism as an important revenue source. Attractions include Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, and wildlife national parks, such as the Serengeti.