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REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE, UNIVERSITY
OF NAIROBI.

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ABSTRACT

This is a study in the destruction of natural economy. It is a study of the ways in which the Nandi were colonized and the impact this colonization had on them economically. An attempt has been made to answer questions like how were their lives affected economically in the first three and half decades of colonial rule?

Two questions have also been discussed: Did the capitalist penetration interfere with the Nandi pre-capitalist social formations? What were the consequences of this penetration and the and continuity and this has been analysed within the parameters of the consequent interaction between the pre-capitalist and capitalist modes? This is basically a question of the articulation of the modes of production and answers to it form the basis of chapter four. Chapter five is a conclusion to the discussion. In what ways did they do things differently and in what ways did their lives remain unchanged? This is a wider sense implies change and formations? What were the consequences of this penetration and the and continuity and this has been analysed within the parameters of the consequent interaction between the pre-capitalist and capitalist modes? This is basically a question of the articulation of the modes of production and answers to it form the basis of chapter four. Chapter five is a conclusion to the discussion. Economic transformation in this context is therefore seen as the destruction of natural economy as a result of the penetration of commodity relations in a more or less systematic fashion.

This work is five chapters. Chapter one is essentially a statement of the problem. Here identification has been done of the problems experienced in any attempt to analyse colonial change. The conceptual and theoretical frame-work for the study has been given. A discussion of three aspects of change: the structure and size of economic production, the nature of the distribution of the

What is needed for the history of Nandi - and most urgently - social product and the location of control over social processes is a comprehensive survey of the area not only in the colonial period has been made in chapters two and three for both the pre-colonial but also in the pre- and post-colonial periods. This work, unfortunately and sadly so, falls far short of this as it deals only with a slice of

Two questions have also been discussed: Did the capitalist the colonial period. It is quite a sad affair to realise that while penetration interfere with the Nandi pre-capitalist social other communities have had their past dealt with and almost properly formations? What were the consequences of this penetration and the documented the Nandi seem to have been relegated into a socially consequent interaction between the pre-capitalist and capitalist permanent cold storage of negligence.

modes? This is basically a question of the articulation of the

When I picked on the title of this work, I did not have the modes of production and answers to it form the basis of chapter slightest idea of the problems I was to encounter. As it eventually four.

came to dawn on me I found that I was trying to climb a ladder from

Chapter five is a conclusion to the discussion. the middle, a ladder that had neither base nor end. As Van Zeebergen points out in the introduction to his book 'colonial capitalism and Labour in Kenya 1839-1933', 'the problem of perspective in historical studies is crucial because as historians we provide the intellectual base from which future generations will view their present and future from a knowledge of their past'. The Nandi have fallen victim of the lack of a knowledge of their past.

This lack of a knowledge of the past raises a very serious question in the mind of anyone who is trying to venture into writing the most recent history of these people. This is the question of sources. It is quite clear in my mind that one of the easy criticisms that will be levelled against this work is my over-dependence on