This little lady brought the noise and the funk! I was totally impressed with Dr. Elkins and understood why Dr. Lonsdale commented on her the way that he did. She came to tell it all. Colonialism was pretty bad in itself, but hearing the stories of “the emergency” can give you chills. Britain, Kenya, and the world must come to terms with the mentality of those who colonized Kenya and the Kenyans’ movement towards freedom (known as the Mau Mau). Her work and presentation definitely helps lifts this veil hiding such an atrocity, President Kenyatta banned talk of it.

The British had no intentions on going home! They were fighting to keep what they had taken, and until the “emergency” they had loyalists in place helping them do it. This is the part of situations like this that I am intrigued with. What is deemed enough of a perk to side with the obvious adversary? Would this be an example of the ultimate end result of colonialism, or is this merely survival – swinging wildly in the dark? Frantz Fanon (1963) speaks on the question of the colonized (impaired), “who am I in reality?” He goes on to discuss other cases of mental disorders as a result of colonialism some of whom were Europeans. I am of the school of thought that there was something with this group from the onset, and I am not quite willing to accept any hint of commercialistic rationalization. I am more inclined to agree with Aimé Césaire (1972) – specifically, with his idea that “no one colonizes innocently….that a civilization which justifies colonization – and therefore force – is already a sick civilization, a civilization which is morally diseased…..”

Elkin’s figures on the death toll are significantly higher than most statistics indicating an attempt by some researchers to minimize this theatre of maximum inhumaness. There is no way to sugarcoat this history, and she definitely is not trying
to. I received quite a bit of hard facts about what happened in Kenya, and gleaned from it more of a bond with Africans in Africa, Americans of African descent and more of an understanding about the groups not mentioned.

Works Cited
