This was definitely one of the lectures where an observer would recognize my eyes glazing over about one quarter into the presentation that could have been handed out – one of the disadvantages of making a presentation with the aid of Microsoft’s Power Point technology. To be fair to Dr. Njoroge, he had a lot of statistics to share and the media that he chose to use is usually the vehicle. To be fair to me, I must acknowledge my inability to navigate political muddle.

In Kenya, the Kikuyu were the closest to the British simply because of where they decided to locate in the country; therefore, they experienced many more of the benefits (or curses) that came with that turf. They acquired more money, more education, and when they had the opportunity, they had political clout. Sadly, President Kenyatta did not empower the Kenyan people with total withdrawal from British custom or British occupancy. He may have maintained some allegiances with the oppressive influences or may have just been a victim of what I have been calling post-colonialism stress. To expand on that point, it may be probable that many Kenyans suffered (or may presently be suffering) with this condition. It will take years for this inertia to subside.

I did; however have an opportunity to experience a Harambee gathering in Nairobi. I thought it to be quite a concept that should have trickled into our ailing Black communities here in America. I perked up in this conversation and anticipated listening to my recording at a later date with zeal. It didn’t happen.

Interesting points that I gleaned from Dr. Njoroge’s presentation: Harambee’s concept of self help, those imprisoned and beaten in their struggle, and the different political frames (Unitary v. Federal, Ethnicity v. Ideology, meritocracy v. cronyism, authoritarian v. democracy, etc.) – of the latter, I am interested but may not engage.