

awarded scholarships to go and study abroad. While abroad, the students came into contact with people with different political ideologies like the socialists, communists and liberals who were against colonisation in Africa. The students also saw how democracy worked in European countries and wondered why Africans were being denied their independence. When they returned to African elites like Jomo Kenyatta, Agostirio Neto, Namdi Azikiwe and Nkrumah, they began to demand for democratic governance and Africa's independence.

## Problems faced by Pan-Africanists and nationalists

Some of the problems faced by Pan-Africanists and Nationalists in the struggle for independence were:

- 1. Loss of life of people:** During protests by Africans, the colonial administration used force to disperse the protesters. Where the armed struggle was used, many lives were lost as Africans used poor weapons. An example where many people lost their lives was in the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa in the mid 70s where Africans were killed by the white apartheid government.
- 2. Separation of families:** Families were separated during this time when fighters went into the bush to fight the colonial government or spent several days away from home campaigning against colonial rule.
- 3. Massive arrests and imprisonment:** Many of the freedom fighters were arrested and imprisoned by the colonial governments they fought against. They were arrested and charged with all manner of crimes, just to keep them away from their people. Some of them like Kabaka Mutesa II were exiled from their countries.



Fig 7.14: Mau Mau freedom fighters of Kenya arrested by the British colonial government.



**4. Betrayal of nationalists by traitors:** African nationalists were sometimes betrayed by their fellow Africans who decided to co-operate with the colonial masters. This weakened the course of the struggle as their secrets would be leaked to their enemies.

**5. Reluctance of colonialists to grant Africans independence:** The independence struggle took many years because of unfriendly colonial governments that wanted to continue ruling in Africa and harassing Africans.

**6. Lack of support from some Africans:** The struggle for independence was started by a few people who demanded freedom for everybody. In spite of the good cause, the freedom fighters would not get support from all communities of the nationalist leader, making the other communities not to co-operate. The colonial authorities soon took advantages of such differences to divide the Africans and rule them for longer periods.

**7. Loss of property:** African communities and individuals lost a lot of property during the struggle. In some cases, animals would be taken away by the colonial forces or homes burnt down to silence the protesting population. Crops in the farms were also burnt to force the fighters to surrender. This policy was known as scorch-earth policy.

**8. Limited mobilisation in rural areas:** The associations were usually concentrated in the towns and yet the majority of the population was in the villages. So, they were not very effective.

Despite all the problems encountered, African countries finally won their independence. Fig. 7.15 below shows African countries and the years they attained their independence.