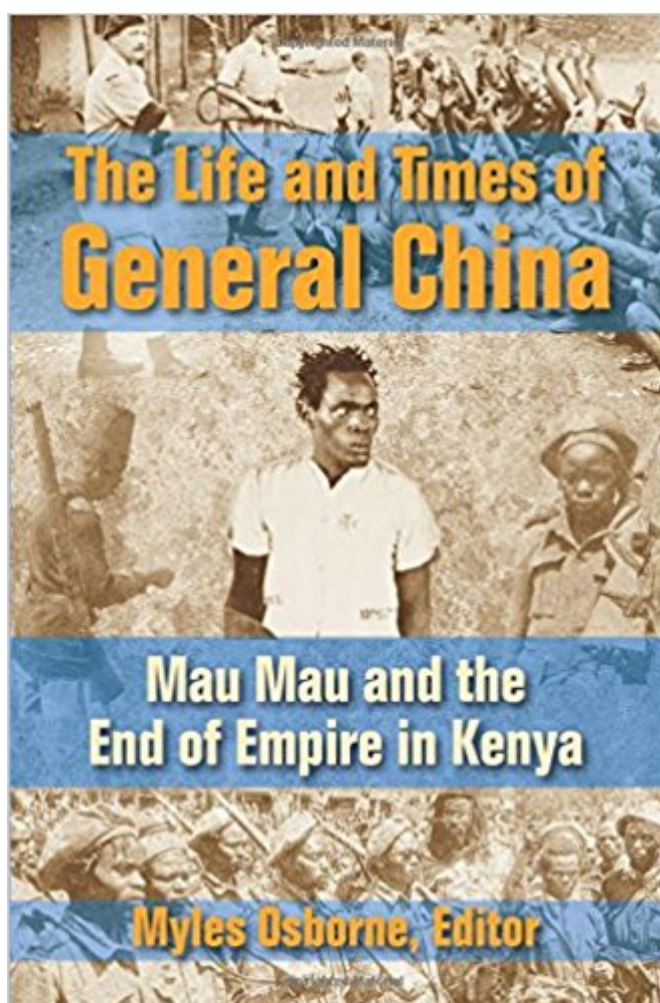


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# The Life And Times Of General China: Mau Mau And The End Of Empire In Kenya



## Synopsis

No episode in African history is more controversial than the Mau Mau war, and within it, no figure more polarizing than Waruhiu Itote, or "General China." China led Mau Mau guerrillas in a daring struggle against the British colonial government and its "loyalist" allies in Kenya during the 1950s, but he was spared the gallows because he turned government informant. China was a "collaborator" to his enemies but a Kenyan "hero" to his supporters, who interpreted his change of heart as motivated by a desire to save African lives, and who venerated China's wholehearted service to the independent nation of Kenya after 1963. *The Life and Times of General China* delves into the mind of this fascinating, complex, and ambiguous character. It brings together a rich collection of sources: an abridged version of China's famous memoir "Mau Mau" General; the typescripts of China's interrogation and trial at British hands; his 1993 eulogy by former district officer John Nottingham; and more. For the first time, readers can analyze the motivations of one of Africa's most enthralling figures--a man who inspired the late Nelson Mandela to say that he was "influenced by the life and example of General China."

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Markus Wiener Publishers; abridged edition edition (October 14, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1558765972

ISBN-13: 978-1558765979

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,395,309 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in [Books > History > Africa > Kenya](#)

## Customer Reviews

"An important addition to the corpus on Mau Mau, this book will be a wonderful asset in the classroom, and will be welcomed by all those interested in Africa's modern history." --David M. Anderson, Professor of African History, University of Warwick *The Life and Times of General China* delves into the mind of this fascinating, complex, and ambiguous character. It brings together a rich collection of sources: an abridged version of China's famous memoir "Mau Mau" General; the typescripts of China's interrogation and trial at British hands; his 1993 eulogy by former district officer John Nottingham; and more. For the first time, readers can analyze the motivations of one of Africa's most enthralling figures--a man who inspired the late Nelson Mandela to say that he was "influenced by the life and example of General China."

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Myles Osborne, Assistant Professor of African History, University of Colorado Boulder, USA

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