Chapter Description

This chapter examines the role of the police in the struggle for democracy in Kenya. It proceeds from the premise that the role played by the police institution in the Kenyan political system has its roots in the colonial state. Colonial rule in Kenya, as elsewhere in Africa, was illegitimate, and being so, it relied on oppression, repression and brutal force to sustain itself. It is the police force that was used in this regard acquiring, in the process, an oppressive modus operandi that has characterised its operations to this day.