How Ghana Gained its independence

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When Did Ghana Gain Independence?

- Ghana became an independent state on March 6, 1957.
- That made it the first country to gain independence from Britain.
Ghana’s Past

- Formally was known as “The Golden Coast.”
- In 1821 Britain took control of the trading forts in Ghana.
- In 1844, Fanti chiefs in Ghana were manipulated into signing an agreement which led to the British government establishing it as a colony.
- In 1902, the British established control over the Ashanti region, making the northern territories a protectorate, meaning a state that is protected and controlled by another.
Britain's Perspective

- Ghana had gold, ivory, as well as palm oil, which the British wanted.
- They also wanted to take over Ghana because of its location, making them able to protect their exports from other countries.
What were the aims of British indirect rule?

- They would give traditional African leaders new titles and roles.
- Needed because of the large amount of land and goods
- Less resistance from Africans
- English officials worked more in the background and were the real people in charge, but gave the Ghanaians a sense of being in charge.
Who was Kwame Nkrumah?

- Kwame Nkrumah was a Ghanaian politician born on September 21, 1909 and died on April 27, 1972.
- He founded the CCP along with other activists that fought for independence.
- He was the first Prime Minister of Ghana.
The CCP and UGCC

- The UGCC was an organization created to oppose colonial rule at the Golden Coast, and called for self-government when possible.
- The UGCC was more popular with the upper class.
- The CCP called for self-government immediately. The group was made up of Nkrumah, Kojo Botsio, Komla A. Gbedemah, as well as a political group called the Verandah Boys.
- This group was more popular with the working people than the UGCC.
Who Was He Before Politics?

- Kwame Nkrumah, was born in Nkroful, a village in Ghana, and was educated in a Catholic school.
- He went to the United States for school at Lincoln university as well as the university of Pennsylvania.
Why did he matter?

- Along with being the first Prime Minister of Ghana, he issued a white paper that proposed the independence of Ghana.
- When the UGCC was created he was invited to become the movement's secretary general.
- In May 1956, Kwame Nkrumah’s government issued a white paper that proposed the independence of Ghana.
- In 1951 when the first elections were being held for the legislative assembly under the new constitution, Nkrumah won a seat while in jail for protesting.
Ghana Currently

- As of 2018 the population of Ghana was 30 million people
- Its capital is Accra
- It borders Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Togo
- The government is fighting against corruption and is dealing with extremist views
- The government is encouraging violence-free elections
Our Political Cartoon
Sources

- “Ghana demands independence from Britain.” South Africa History Online. South Africa History Online. N.d. web. March 5, 2021. [Link]