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**Kwame Nkrumah: Part I**

**Lead: In 1909 Kwame Nkrumah, the founder and leader of modern Ghana, was born in the Gold Coast, the British Colony on the western coast of Africa.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Kwame Nkrumah demonstrated his ability to communicate and organize at an early age. After completing just elementary school, he became a teacher just outside of the city of Nroful. His intelligence and skills**

were quickly recognized, and he earned a fellowship at the prestigious Prince of Wales College. It was here that he met his mentor, Dr. Kwegyir Aggrey, the school's assistant vice-president and first African staff member. Aggrey was a vigorous opponent of segregated society, which only fueled Nkrumah's nationalism. He became convinced that only independence would make possible equal treatment for black Africans.

Within a short time of their meeting Aggrey died and Nkrumah left for the United States in 1935 where he pursued his goals with study at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania concentrating in economics and sociology. While at the university,

**Kwame emmersed himself in the American political scene, giving special attention to parties on the far left including the Trotskyites. From Trotskyite C.L.R. James, Nkrumah learned the techniques of establishing clandestine operations. Through his contacts with more conventional groups such as the NAACP and the Council on African Affairs he acquired skills in mass political organization.**

**Nkrumah graduated in 1939 with honors and served in a variety of teaching positions in the United States and after 1945 in London. It was his original intention to pursue an academic career, but he was increasingly attracted to political**

**affairs. In 1947 he was chosen as Secretary General of the United Gold Coast Convention, a London-based organization of ex-patriot intellectuals who advocated independence for the Gold Coast. As leader his first task was to transform the elitist UGCC into a mass political movement. Next time: the birth of a nation.**

**At the University of Richmond,  
this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

**Nkrumah, Kwame. *Ghana: The Autobiography of Kwame Nkrumah*. New York, NY: International Publishers, Ltd.**

**Omari, T. Peter. *Kwame Nkrumah: The Anatomy of an African Dictatorship*. London, UK: C Hurst & Co. Publishers Ltd.**

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