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Kwame Nkrumah: Part II

Lead: After a 12-year absence for study and training in the United States and Europe, in 1947 Kwame Nkrumah returned to the Gold Coast. It was a land demanding independence.

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

Content: Until 1925, the African Gold Coast had been a British possession ruled by a Governor sent by London and a legislative council which contained only a token few black African representatives. As

time century matured more Africans joined the council until 1946 when they held a majority of the seats. Despite this increased influence, many intellectuals and professionals remained at fundamental odds with the colonial system. The English language and Western culture were still pervasive and Britain exercised colonial domination.

Beginning in 1947, African leaders of the Gold Coast's legislative council began to rally for self-government. After numerous protests, the British government decided to allow an all-African committee to draft a new constitution and form a legislative assembly. This gave the locals more control, but still denied them

responsibility for foreign affairs, justice, finance and defense.

Kwame Nkrumah, general secretary of the United Gold Coast Convention, a London-based independence lobby, decided it was time to effect serious political change. On June 12, 1949, he announced the formation of the Convention People's Party (CCP) which quickly became the most influential party in the Gold Coast. In the 1951, a legislative majority was won by the CCP. Nkrumah was invited by the British governor to take the helm of the first all-African government. Almost immediately he and his Party began to press for full independence. He pursued a policy that required a

peaceful and quick transition to self-government. Confirmed in this course by a series of popular elections, in 1956 he requested that Britain release the colony to independence. At midnight, March 6, 1957, Ghana entered the Commonwealth of Nations.

**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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