

KWAME NKRUMAH (1909 OR 1912* - 1972) WAS BORN IN THE BRITISH GOLD COAST COLONY, A SUBJECT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. HE LED THAT COLONY TO INDEPENDENCE AS THE MODERN NATION-STATE OF GHANA, BUT WAS REMOVED FROM POWER IN 1966 AND DIED IN EXILE.

*NKRUMAH'S BIRTH DATE IS NOT KNOWN FOR SURE. HIS MOTHER SAID HE WAS BORN IN 1912. THE PRIEST WHO BAPTIZED HIM SAID IT HAPPENED IN 1909.

AUGUST, 1965

KWAME NKRUMAH, THE PRESIDENT OF GHANA, SENDS A MESSAGE TO US PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON, URGING HIM TO CEASE BOMBING VIETNAM.

WHO WAS THIS AFRICAN LEADER, AND WHY WAS HE INVOLVED IN THE US WAR AGAINST COMMUNISM IN VIETNAM?

KWAME NKRUMAH

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NKRUMAH WAS EDUCATED IN A BRITISH COLONIAL SCHOOL, ONE OF A SMALL GROUP OF AFRICANS WHO COULD RECEIVE AN EDUCATION UNDER COLONIAL RULE.

HE MOVED TO THE US IN 1935 TO STUDY AT LINCOLN COLLEGE IN PENNSYLVANIA. THERE, HE MET AMERICAN ANTI-RACISTS AND PARTICIPATED IN GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACISM AND COLONIALISM.

RETURNING TO GHANA IN 1947, HE BECAME INVOLVED IN POLITICS. IN 1949, HE FOUNDED THE CONVENTION PEOPLE'S PARTY. BY 1957, HE HAD LED GHANA TO INDEPENDENCE.

AT LONG LAST, THE BATTLE HAS ENDED! AND THUS, GHANA, YOUR BELOVED COUNTRY IS FREE FOREVER!

BUT OUR INDEPENDENCE IS MEANINGLESS UNLESS IT IS LINKED UP WITH THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF AFRICA.

ELECTED IN A LANDSLIDE, HE BECAME ITS FIRST PRESIDENT.

NKRUMAH COMMITTED HIMSELF TO ANTI-COLONIALISM EVERYWHERE. IN 1958, HE BROUGHT TOGETHER AFRICAN ANTI-COLONIAL LEADERS IN A HUGE CONFERENCE.

BY THE 1960S, HE WAS SEEKING TO ASSIST ANTI-COLONIAL MOVEMENTS IN ASIA AS WELL - LIKE IN VIETNAM.

AFRICA MUST BE FREE!

THIS MAY HAVE LED TO THE COUP THAT OVERTHREW HIM IN 1966. NKRUMAH HAD SOME POLITICAL TROUBLES AT HOME, BUT HIS OPPONENTS ALSO GOT SUPPORT FROM EUROPEAN AND US AGENCIES WHO SAW HIM AS A FRIEND OF COMMUNISTS IN VIETNAM AND ELSEWHERE.



WORLD HISTORY PROJECT
BIOGRAPHIES

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