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British Decolonization of the Gold Coast 1939-1945

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Dedication

For those who have always wished me
well.

Abstract

During the nineteenth century Britain constructed a second world wide empire based on conquered territories, that kings and queens of England tried to gather to supply their colonies during the middle ages such as in India, Africa, Canada .As the sixth largest economy and the fifth largest military power it did not reach such a position overnight, it went through a process based on a system of dependencies and foreign policies. Before 1957Ghana was called the Gold Coast after the medieval Ghana Empire of West Africa, the title referred to the king of Wagadugu Empire. At the arrival of Britain the Gold Coast as a small African kingdom, historians claimed that the main reason behind settlement was the significance of the geographical region. From the ancient time the Gold Coast was characterized by abundance of natural resources which Britain needed. The present study is an attempt to treat in a concise and objective manner the dominant historical, economic, political aspects of contemporary Ghana. After the WWII the decolonization movement emerged over the British Empire however the world witnessed the decline of worldwide empire which remained steadfast of a long period. The way for independence began in earnest under the patronage of several constitutions worked under the supervision of nationalists. The movement for independence rise from the political and economic impact of the Second World War. It took a restricted road focusing on political and economic welfare of the country by the United Gold Coast Convention and the Convention People's Party. The Anti-colonial nationalism invested greatly in shaping the years of decolonization that dominated the politics of British imperialism. Although Nationalism remained a critical factor in explaining Decolonization occurrence, many other issues played an equally prominent role. The decolonization as political phenomena reordered the world and broke all phases of imperialism. Most former British colonies have become members of the Commonwealth, which remains a significant international organization.

Keywords

British Empire, Ghana, independence, decolonization, world war two.

List of abbreviation

U.N.O the United Nation Organization

U.G.C.C the United Gold Coast Convention

C.P.P the Convention People Party

G.B Great Britain

U.K United Kingdom

U.N United Nation

WWII World War

Two

GCARPS the Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society

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General Introduction

From its rise to its decline, Britain had influenced a lots of countries and Ghana is included. The kingdom witnessed important development in all fields in a way that the world never attended before, that is why it has been said "the sun never sets on the British Empire" literally, there was always some part of the empire on which the sun was shining, and, figuratively, that the empire would never end¹. The British Empire was once a dominant colonial power in the world. England, Scotland and Wales united as one kingdom in 1707 to become the largest empire that the world had ever known. Over two centuries the empire dominated the world through colonization .As a pretext it aimed to create changes to uplift its colonies while it settled to spread its dominance all over the world to tight the global trade market. The Gold Coast is an attractive and wealthy territory with gold specially and other goods that Britain needed. The idea of Great Britain focuses on an important debate through the potential union of the United Kingdom with its so called settler colonies, the intended land we know now as Ghana.

The republic of Ghana named after the medieval West Africa Ghana Empire and by the late of ninetieth century it became a British crown colony. The Gold Coast gained independence in 1957 which was the first country in sub-Saharan to do so, Led by Kwame Nkrumah who transformed the country into a republic and became a member of the Commonwealth of Nations

.It made up of a number of independent kingdoms, including Gonja and Dagomba in the north, Ashanti in the interior, and the Fanti states along the coast. The flag of the republic of Ghana was designed by Theodosia Salome Okoh. The black star is the symbol of the people and of African emancipation, the red signified those who died for independence, the gold is the mineral wealth with the green representing the rich grasslands of the area. In addition to gold the region was the world's greatest producer of cocoa.

This dissertation aims at analyzing the expansion of the British Empire in the nineteen century, raising the issue behind the rise of the British Empire starting from the period of its emergence to its decline. Throughout this research I will shed light on the power of this empire to control and exercise its influence on Ghana and making it a colony.

Discussing the case of Ghana before the British settlement in 1867, this research paper

¹ <https://access-socialstudies.com>

focuses on analyzing how the Ghanaians were able to liberate themselves from the restrictions of colonialism and obtain independence. The thesis question is as follows: what was behind the retreat of the British from the Gold Coast? The reasons were in the colony or Britain itself.

The objective of the research is to highlight the facts leading the Gold Coast to become a British crown colony.

Continue to discuss the factors leading to lay the issue of autonomy, all of this did not come easily it was about fighting and using everything was available. The difference between the colonizer and the colony make the decolonization process elusive that was the point the research put it up for discussion. The main issue of the academic work is to provide an objective insight for the Gold Coast decolonization, what was behind the retreat of the British from the Gold Coast did the British Empire fall or the Gold Coast took its independence?

This work is divided into three chapters ,the first chapter aims to explain the birth of Britain (1707-1788) starting from discussing its origins to how it became as the world's greatest imperialist power precluding for the upcoming chapters as an entry for them. Then, the second chapter brings up the topic to the focal point besides narrowing the perspective to detail the search focusing on political and economic dimensions. Finally the third chapter facilitates thesis research with a logical and objective solution to the thesis question using findings and results of both chapters and tackles the effect of the British Empire on Ghana.

I.1 Introduction

The British Empire took the quarter of the world earth surface. Through the WWI it witnessed the height of its hegemony economically and politically. The history of Britain was conditioned by its geographic setting, an abundance of geographical and political factors of Britain reflect the flow of power over centuries when it included twenty five percent of the world's area. It has been divided into three political and cultural units: England in the south, peninsula Wales in western England, and Scotland in the north. The term British Empire was ordinarily used after 1685. It transmit an idea of an infinite power, territory and mastery, composed of various peoples, whereas it includes one more surrounded and relatives the unity of that nation. For a long period Britain was focused only on having several outposts in West Africa to tightening control of the slave, in the sixteenth century the Empire started to establish overseas colonies to obtain more resources for its attainment that enable to control the global markets.

The British Empire took the quarter of the earth surface, during decades it became an important power from its birth until its decline. Throughout the Process of Decolonization in Africa at the end of World War II, pan-Afrikaners obtain absolute political power with the flourished of self-dominion. Europeans claimed that their reasons behind the colonialism were to raise Africans from their primitive state. The global war helped to construct a strong Africans nationalism fighting for their freedom. It caused the African decolonization by effecting militarily, economically and politically of almost territories. It created significant changes that assisted Africans to assert their necessity of freedom, and it exchange Africans perspectives from how do they see themselves and how do they do the same with the Europeans. The Gold Coast known by its vibrant mineral resources and cocoa, which was regarded as an important position in the western Africa that Britain greed for its fortune. After over 100 years of foreign rule the gold coast or Ghana was the first Africa independent colony on March 6, 1957. Britain differ from France system of governance were indirect ruled the British West Africa. India achieved its independence in 1947 as a result of Britain economic weakness, although it sought initially needs to compensate its damage from Asian and African colonies .African colonies was sought that they are able to rule themselves in the coming years , meanwhile Britain committed to decolonization its colonies.

I.2 Origins of the British Empire

From 1768 till now British Empire became an important ruling power. The term Great Britain politically referred to the entire of England, Scotland and Wales as one union; it was used first as a title by James VI of Scotland when he inherited the English throne after the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603. The word Britain originated from Latin name for Britannia or Brittania². The British Empire foundation was laid when England and Scotland were separate nations that share the same monarch. It consisted of the dominion colonies, protectorates, mandates and other ancestor states. It originated from the overseas property and trading posts made by England between the late of the sixteenth century. During the age of discovery between the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries Portugal and Spain pioneered European exploration over the globe in competition with France. Great Britain established settlements overseas, maritime expansion determined by commercial ambitions. The considerable wealth gathered by European powers urged them to institute colonies worldwide. Britain controlled the world for over two centuries. Through its colonization it tried to bring new changes for the peoples, cultures and forces that made the empire such a powerful institution. The attention of Britain turned toward Asia, Africa when the Thirteen Colonies became independent; it contained Africa, parts of south Asia, Australia, and America. It was a worldwide system of dependencies under the sovereignty of the crown of Great Britain.

I.3 The Rise of the Empire

The British Empire spread quickly and vastly to control mainly the entire world. The American Revolution³ lost a lot of its territory after the defeat of the French in the seven years war, meanwhile British interest in India reduced slightly. Owing to the Napoleonic wars that allowed Britain to change naval bases and promote others across the world, this transition point occurred various expansions in the Victorian era. This change affected almost all life aspects, industrialization, economy, medicine, transport and communication systems. In this era expeditionary missions sent to unknown areas were different aims behind the British interest in gaining more lands and broadening their territories. The first and most important reason was economic. Logically more land meant more markets, and good sold raw materials which benefits Britain. The second reason was slave trade. The last reason was religious one, the merchants had to limit the Islam expansion by the Ottomans over the world

² [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britain_\(place_name\)](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Britain_(place_name)).

³ A colonial revolt between 1765 and 1783 in the thirteen colonies defeated Britain with existence of France, resulted the independence of the colonies and establish the USA

which enhanced accessibility to Africa.

I.4 Britain a Vast Empire

Britain was eligible to reach its goal and the quest for more enabled it to deserve the status it occupied. Through its colonies and dominions, it exercised authority over one fifth of the world's entire population. The rapid expansion of the British Empire to Africa, America, Asia, was caused by a variety of new inventions such as technology, mining, improved transport. The global success was by the fact that the British crown already had significant control of the world and enhance the priority concept. The industrial revolutions raise the idea of gaining new territories through the need of new trading posts. "Britain which was guided by a pronounced colonial spirit, increased the level of its export and imports all over the seventeen than eighteenth century"⁴.to drive the industrial revolution Britain relied heavily on its colonies for raw materials"⁵, " the empire grew in fits and starts, Three basic factors made it possible: people, skills, and resource"⁶ this idea is embodied in emigration while it featured by people who required into a series of activities which allow them to get out of Britain explorers, traders ship-owners and sailors. The skills it represented in economic sectors." Sailing skills made it possible to reach places all over the world. Financial skills allowed the City of London to lend money to traders and others. Medical skills reduced the dangers of tropical diseases. Technological skills – notably the production of trains"⁷.Resources as navy and money invested in commercial operations. Historians deny the idea that a single theory can account for the growth of the British Empire. Meanwhile they investigated studies that clarify factors leading to the lift of British Empire.

⁴ (Cain and Hopkins,1993,Morgan ,2000,Harley,2004,Daudin et al ,2010)

⁵ From Leif van Neuss, why did the industrial revolution start in Britain, 12, 7, 2015.

⁶ <https://access-socialstudies.com>, how did Britain manage to acquire an empire

⁷ <https://access-socialstudies.com>, how did Britain manage to acquire anempire

I.5 Conclusion

The British Empire was the biggest and the most successful Empire among the Europeans Empires, this was possible thanks to the kingdom's colonial achievements through history. Over decades English language became an international one and necessarily included in all domains mostly history, financial, economy and foreign studies. The capital of Britain is London which is one the world's leading commercial, financial and cultural centers. "The role of African states in the international world economy as the dominant sources of raw materials and major consumers of manufactured products are the results of long years of colonial dominance, exploitation and imperialism"⁸, at this time Africa was not aware of either economic nor development. This chapter argue the case of British extend over the world .Through colonization it tried to bring different cultures and traditions to others and forces that made the empire a powerful institution imitated by other countries.

⁸ Stephen Ocheni & Basil C. Nwankwo, Analysis of Colonialism and Its Impact in Africa, 1.

Chapter Two: British Settlement in the Gold

II.1 Introduction

Africa civilizations underwent many changes since the arrival of British settlers. As a huge continent it is known by its diversity in natural resources which attracted Britain, for instance ivory was a new commodity for British markets. The British Empire was not on its usual dominance significantly India and other America colonies push the pressure to break free from dependency that weakened its strength. The Gold Coast witnessed a historical transition never seen before which enabled it to achieve the highest development in various fields. The current chapter will discuss the shift from early period to the settlement of ruling powers. For a long period Europeans named the gold coast metaphorically in reference to the abundance of gold resources found in the area. The British, Portuguese, Dutch spread toward the coast and competed for these strategic areas. Through conquest, Britain becomes master in most of coast forts. The case of the Gold Coast was not the same in other colonies and vice versa, some colonized areas had not the strength to fight against military power or political world dominant such as Britain so they fought by destroying the infrastructure or burning farms. The colonial system was based on discrimination and oppression using institutions such as army, police, court, and prison, in order to impose civil obedience.

II.2 Historical Background

In the seventh century the first Europeans which were the Portuguese arrived and settled an outpost on Ghana coast. The ethnic groups tried to preserve their belongings and lived in secure and permanent territories. “The Portuguese position on the Gold Coast remained secure for almost a century. During that time, Lisbon leased the right to establish trading posts to individuals or companies that sought to align themselves with the local chiefs and to exchange trade goods both for rights to conduct commerce and for slaves provided by the chiefs”⁹, consequently cradle to compete for it. The area was known with Gold as a raw material in addition to slave trade that appeared through the need of labor in the Americas. The greed of European powers shined the picture of Africa. The Dutch, Danes, English, and the Swedes joined the Portuguese in what is known as the "Gold Coast". By the 1752 the royal trading

⁹ LaVerle Berry ,Ghana study ,50

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company¹⁰ was established to guide ruling power trade in Africa while it was changed by the African Company of Merchants, whereas the coastal areas were under control by the indigenous Fante people. The coastal tribes acted as intermediaries between indigenous people and merchants, besides Britain steadily expanded its colony by subjugating local kingdoms Ashanti and Fante Confederations.

II.3 From Tribal Rule to Colony

Britain as a dominant power in the west of Africa acquired that it is a tricky issue to control wide area from the north to the south of the Ghana gaining the region through treaties with chiefs, as a way to achieve this Britain strengthened paramount chiefs and the institution of chieftaincy where it existed and created it in areas it was nonexistent and. “Chieftaincy is one of the few resilient institutions that have survived all the three phases of Ghana “political history during pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial eras irrespective of the general attitude towards chiefs, and the institution”¹¹. The area for centuries has not been the way it has been since the British came. The local empire weakened either by civil wars or by the activities of Samory and Babatu. To isolate northerners from the rest of the country Native Administrative Authorities established in 1930.

This perspective should be discussed from two points before and during the colonial period. Archaeological remains found in the coastal zone indicate that the area has been inhabited since the early Bronze Age ca 4000 B.C¹². The region was not at that population before or the economic was seen during the colonial period. The standard of living was primitive and all the consumed materials are extracted that manner. Early states in Ghana looking forward changing participate in trade with Europeans, in turn they effected by development with the hidden facts of Europeans evolution this facilitated British control of the region. The colonial powers from their arrival they competed to hold the zone as a source of several goods, mainly early conflict was whereas the Portuguese lost Elmina Castle to the Dutch in 1642, hence the Portuguese left the area for a while. The British formed companies in order to protect their castles and the surrounding regions, The British Africa Company of Merchants 1889 was the successor of earlier company it focused on trade activities and their respective judicial

¹⁰ An English trading company in 1660 by the royal Stuart family and City of London merchants.

¹¹ Isaac O.Mensah, Politics, Chieftaincy and Customary Law in Ghana's Fourth Republic, 2

¹² La verle Berry, Ghana a country study 1, 54

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authorities managed by African committee .

During the colonial era the Gold Coast witnessed military confrontations in between the Asante and the Fante which contributed to the rise of British standing beside the home interest in the colony, It concerned with the Asante activities along the coast which pressured the Fante states to sign the Bond of 1844 that allowed the British with limited judicial powers to pursuit murder and burglary cases. Currently Britain tried to extract more judicial authorities without the approval of kings and chiefs. With Britain's greed for more it considered to established an European courts instead of traditional ones. Britain practice judicial power along the coast to ensure to local people that they were under control. "Two major factors laid the foundations of British rule and the eventual establishment of a colony on the Gold Coast: British reaction to the Asante wars and the resulting instability and disruption of trade, and Britain's increasing preoccupation with the suppression and elimination of the slave trade" during that time the Asante was powerful and they have their own trade. "The first Asante invasion of the coastal regions took place in 1807, the Asante moved south again in 1811 and in 1814. These invasions, though not decisive, disrupted trade in such products as gold, timber, and palm oil, and threatened the security of the European forts"¹³.

II.4 The Ashanti kingdom and Colonialism

The system of governance in the Gold Coast from its emergence was tribal system. The territory testified several kingdoms such as the Asant and Fante .The Asant kingdom in the southern Ghana in the eighteenth and nineteenth extended from the Comoé River in the west to the Togo Mountains in the east. West Africa from the fifteenth century had a long history with Europe starting from trans-Saharan gold trade and increasingly with slave trade. The Ashanti Kingdom from the seventeenth century defined by its plenty of gold and agricultural resources. "Ashanti was militarily powerful and one of the largest polities in West Africa. It reached its peak in the early 19th century, controlling most of modern Ghana. The golden stool and impressive golden regalia symbolized the power of the ruling *Asanthe*"¹⁴.The British traders toward abolition of the slave trade in 1807 as the gold coast referred to Europeans as the source of wealth and economic power they began to negotiate treaties with African authorities , as pretext of protecting trading interests in the coastal states. The Ashanti kingdom seek to

¹³ La verle Berry, Ghana a country study 1,54

¹⁴ Helen Ludlow Ghana, cocoa, colonialism and globalization, 6.

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expand its control southwards consequently the British conquer Ashanti in 1874 this paved to colonialism .The aim of gained new territories was the need of new markets for the products of British industrial Revolution. The trans-Atlantic slave trade in Africa impact the issue of colonialism with the help of African chiefs that they was responsible of slaving their retinue for their own benefits.

“It is important to mention, however, that the supply of slaves to the Gold Coast was entirely in African hands. Although powerful traditional chiefs, such as the rulers of Asante, Fante, and Ahanta, were known to have engaged in the slave trade”¹⁵, as a result its volume increasers dramatically. The coastal state were impacted directly with Europeans mainly the British merchants, the Ashanti kingdom engaged in gold and slave trade in the seventeenth century profited from rich agricultural resources and labor production. Another aspect contributed to this was the British authorities , meantime traders negotiate treaties with African authorities in case of protect their trade as a pretext to control the land while the Ashanti kingdom showed the same intention consequently British protectorate established over the Gold Coast. At that time the slave trade was the major exchange controlled the African economy in addition to other goods.

II.5 Political and Economic Motivation behind British Colonialism

The political and economic aspect was the main and one of the most important reasons behind British colonialism. Africa was mysterious in world history, the area was not portioned into regions but each tribe in its own without a formal administrative division. With the Europeans arrival the Africans tried to fortify their lands but they were not in the power confronted them. Colonialism changed the world division and Africa was a path to achieve that. “The Africans consider the impact of colonization on them to be perhaps the most important factor in understanding the present condition of the African continent and of the African people”¹⁶. During and after the Berlin conference Europeans sent agents to signed treaties of protection with the leaders of states and kingdoms. It does not mean the same for Europeans and Africans, for Britain it is an instrument of bondage and exploitation of Africans while it meant a political, diplomatic and commercial friendship treaties from African part. They established colonial state systems to facilitate control of colonized states. Most of the African societies fought to retain control against Europeans

¹⁵ La verle Berry, Ghana a country study1,53

¹⁶ Colonialism and the African experience,1

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colonialism but unfortunately lost for technological and political reasons. Currently was the period of change in eighteenth century when Britain radically changed by the industrialization, African societies were weak and politically instable. Technologically African forces fought with bows, arrows, old rifles compared to Britain which seen a revolutionary change benefited from industrial development fought with guns and new rifles, in logical perspective the two powers was unequal, neither politically nor economically. “Between the 1870s and 1900, Africa faced European imperialist aggression, diplomatic pressures, military invasions, and eventual conquest and colonization. At the same time, African societies put up various forms of resistance against the attempt to colonize their countries and impose foreign domination. By the early twentieth century, however, much of Africa, except Ethiopia and Liberia, had been colonized by European powers”¹⁷.

British colonies were divided into provinces headed by provincial commissioners then by district officers. Britain established a system of local administration known as indirect rule it operated in alliance with existing political leadership and institutions. An act of extending and improving trade to Africa 1750 was signed to protect Britain’s free trade through managed and maintained a series of businesses on the Africa coast. Palm oil, cocoa and coffee, were effectively produced that dominated Britain’s economy however, most of the materials was taken from outside the country especially from Africa. Ashanti was one of the largest economic investor in West Africa with Britain. “The colonial government was severely disturbed, first by the world war II and then by the nationalist drive for independence”¹⁸, the WWII cost Britain millions of soldiers and civilians in addition to material losses that exhausted its economy and with the participation of Africans in the bloody war they acquired an objective idea about their condition.

II.6 The Establishment of the UNO

The Charter of the UN was signed at San Francisco in June 1945 and its headquarters in New York. It ended the World War II in Europe on 7 May. After a bloody war witnessed the entire world, “its purpose is to maintain the world peace and security development of friendly relations among nation. Achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social or humanitarian character and the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of race, sex, language,

¹⁷ Ngoh Julius, Coloniality and Colonialism are two sides of the coin. Critically examine with concrete example in Africa this statement: A Case Study: Commonwealth of Nations and French Community, 2

¹⁸ Peter C Sederberg, The gold coast under colonial rule, 3.

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religion.”¹⁹ All the peace loving states can join the organization conditioned to accept the obligations set in the charter. Most of the UN functions in political field. After World War II it was charged with resolving most conflicts between countries but it had pressured from its permanent members to protect their interests.

II.7 The Second World War

The war contributed to reshape the whole world and its impact has spread to Africa. Most Africans arrived to British Empire as slaves lived mainly in the Caribbean or islands. “The dominant economic experience of most blacks in the British Empire was work on a sugar plantation”²⁰, African emigrants exploited as workforce in different factories with illegal terms. “The British have always boasted that they went into Africa not to create black Britons, but rather to share their skills, their values, and their culture with a hope that someday African people would be able to run their own Communities using the tools learned and acquired from the British”²¹, since the British arrival they have presented various ideologies, but their intention was the opposite. Africans urged to contribute in the Second World War in their colonial interest for cheap facilities. The Africans in war realized that they were merely a way for Britain to fulfill its demands. Its indirect influence the issue of superiority and weakened it in Africans eyes, in turn it humanized whites in Africans eyes .by the second world war the superpower were guilty of their

forms of imperialism. The war facilitated African political liberation by the rise of Soviet Union and the supremacy of the United States, Britain was pressured resulted to make concessions to African nationalist who demanded independence which encouraged them to claim for their human right. “The Second World War was a catalyst for African political freedom and independence. The war helped build strong African nationalism, which resulted in a common goal for all Africans to fight for their freedom. World War II led to decolonization of Africa by affecting both Europe and Africa militarily, psychologically, politically, and economically”²², despite the decline of most sectors the gold coast has prominent personalities who can push the system forward.

¹⁹ Formation of the United Nations by Mamta Aggarwal

²⁰ Philip D.Morgan & Sean Hawkins, Black Experience and the Empire, 91.

²¹ Colonialism and the African Experience, 117

²² Erin Myrice ,The Impact of the Second World War on the Decolonization of Africa,3

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II.8 Conclusion

Britain's main motivations behind the acquisition of colonies located in the need for raw materials and new markets to enhance industrialization. "In the history of the British Empire, the words, „African“ (or, „black“) and, „British“ meant different things to different people at different times in different places"²³. The Berlin Conference gave each country its share of Africa, on this basis, it divided to colony areas that meant a legacy for every colonial power. Britain ruled the Gold Coast indirectly without military forces or subjugation, this approach was the emergence of what is called "colonialism". The West Africans colonies had a long period contacted with Europeans which brought them an experience earned different skills, that communication with foreigners benefited a lot specially in political and economic. With that experience Africans saw independence as a prerequisite and a condition for get rid of dependency. The UNO was the primary agency for hastening Decolonization processes by providing the moral right of the colonies for the freedom and managing their own political situation without the intervention of the foreign powers.

²³ Philip D. Morgan & Sean Hawkins, *Black Experience and the Empire*, 20.

II.1 Introduction

Africa was a the golden egg to Britain and brought it luck and money, it was controversial for Britain to lose the Gold coast not only economically but also politically as the geographical position that enabled to spread control over the British colonies. Native Africans influenced by British lifestyle such as textile and materials good , economic and judicial matters .The native culture effected by colonialism , this due to the long period of Britain dominance. The years follow the war witnessed extensive discontent in the country even in urban areas due to political causes. The process of decolonization began after WWII while the age of colonialism was over and the British kingdom came to an end. After the WWII British colonial policy came to react perceptibly to the economic and political demands emanated from Africa, this has led to great instability and continual tribal wars. Ghana through freeing its restrictions confronted plenty of obstacles internally and externally. The pan-Africanism shaped drastic changes in the world and precisely Africa, the ideas, organizations and movement resisted the exploitation and oppression of Britain through West African colonies. The independence would be the issue to pursuit of greater autonomy and self-determination was a mission for African nationalists on the continent. Ghana nationalists aimed of ignored all the shapes of individuality and focused precisely on public benefit. This work investigates principally the Gold Coast decolonization highlighting the impact of the ideologies war beside the British Empire decline. Ghana as the first independent state emerged from colonial rule represented the path of African self-rule , the pathway forward independence was not easy. The thesis question treats the historical era from the colonial area to the decolonization movement.

III.1 The Retreat from Empire

The fall of the empire 1946-1997 across the political and economic dimensions is considered as this research focus. Politically and economically the Gold Coast was seen more advanced than the other British West African colonies. “In the late nineteenth century and the first decades of twentieth century there was a new outburst of general European expansion , but it brought with it ideas that destroyed empire . Democracy and nationalism, mixed a varying proportions, built up the determination of people ruled from Europe to run their own affairs and undermined the willingness of the imperial powers to hang on their possessions .Within fifty

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years of the peak of imperial expansion in 1920 the overseas empires had almost completely disappeared.”²⁴ Britain supposed the aftermath of the war has an external influence, therefore it support the international policies to preserve its authority inside the colonies. Meantime the future of the Gold Coast defended and recovered its seriousness of its demands with Britain’s political place in the world from 1939 to 1945. The war toppled Britain’s economy which changed the international outlook , for the crown colony considered as sign encouraged them to move forward. Britain confronted by the evidence of their economic weakness which led to instability that questioned the fundamentals of British policy. The pre-war imperial system trained a profound reality that the South Asia and the Middle East regions threatened Britain beside much damage. Britain did not expect that it would lose that much, Britain had the choice whether to enter with India in a bloody war or to granted its independence. Britain renounced its dominion on the Indian Empire and gave up its position in the Middle East and withdrew from almost bases. The commercial and financial retreat significantly then how would Britain justify the expense of running an imperial system if it was weak to reap the economic benefits and how can it afford the exponentially increasing costs of defending its interests around the world. “With American aid, it was thought in 1945, Britain could recover much of her old position as an industrial and trading power before 1939. But even is such aid were forthcoming, it was in fact far from clear that Britain could ever return to go and resume her old premier place in the international economy”²⁵. As an economic solution it resorted to entered the European Economic Community (EEC), unlike the colonies were economically powerful by the end of the WW II depended on their raw resources. The new birth of educated elites took their experience from the outside world and used it in political struggle by constructing a realistic political force in their home lands. At that time Britain focused on the domestic matters, afterward, it was an opportunity to the colonies for achieve the full freedom.

III.1 Definition of Nationalism

The concept refers to a national movement led by native peoples to evict the colonizer, achieving autonomy and African race cohesion. “Nationalism ideology based on the premise that the individual’s loyalty and the devotion to the nation-state surpass other individual or group

²⁴ Empire a history of the British empire ,Trevor Lloyd,11

²⁵ John Darwin, Britain and Decolonization,70.

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interests".²⁶ Three major elements characterized African nationalists their claim for Unity, Independence and Equality, are interrelated and inseparable contents. Nationalists believed in unity as a common history and purpose. Political consciousness was recently in the Gold Coast nationalism and has a long tradition based in firmly established political institutions.

III.2 The Impact of WW II on African Nationalism

The Gold Coast nationalist leaders and reformers agreed on conserving their top of country's political and social institutions and adjusted them to the necessities of the twentieth century. Their importance in the reformed government system provide a comprehension of a defectively realized idea in order to create more effective democracy.

Inklings of nationalism were evident but they lacked considerable strength at the beginning of their mission. Primarily nationalist's interest during the inter-war years sought accommodation in the colonial system rather than regaining their sovereignty, total independence was not the ultimate goal of intellectual resistance which resulted a complete failure. Additionally the lack of consensus between colonies concern nationalism attribution in the colonial system. Then the early impact of successes was still minimal that effected by elitist nature, the movement was ruled by a small western educated elites limited geographically and the contact between individuals in different areas was minimal. The Pan- Africans and the National Congress of British West Africa did not contribute significantly change from colonial governments, particularly the creation of small legislative bodies inside the colonies which had restricted administrative powers and were led by Africans themselves. Thus significant control of European states manipulated the governance and trade of African colonies, African countries was isolated territories, most of the African trade was with other countries this lack of movement , goods and ideas seriously curbed the development of an international African effort towards independence.

The war helped build strong African nationalists, which resulted in a common goal for all Africans to fight for their freedom. World War II led to decolonization of Africa by affecting both Europe and Africa militarily, psychologically, politically, and economically"²⁷, from the major causes of the war was the nationalism in Italy, Germany and Japan which made people

²⁶ www.britannica.com/topic/nationalism.

²⁷ The Impact of the Second World War on the Decolonization of Africa by Erin Myrice p3

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override individuals to self-interest to regain their countries. The war of 1945 led to greater national awareness and considered as imperial breakdown and increased widely during the twentieth century.

III.3 The Growth of Nationalism and the end of Colonial Rule

The nascent nationalism movement in the colonies across the continent obtained thrust with the appearance of the mother countries of repressive colonial regimes. Out of the war geographical dimension the world has seen, Africans acquired the sense of unity, direction and equality that would prove necessary to their efforts in throwing off the repression of imperialism. “By the dawn of the Second World War, Africa had experienced nearly 70 years of European dominance. The economic importance of the land mass had made its colonization a priority of multiple European powers”²⁸ this was considered as a positive side gained from the war that not taken into account it would be against Britain later. In order to analyze the decolonization process from Africans view it will be clearly by focusing on metropolitan, international and colonial. The Africans were responsible for metropolitan changes which influence British decolonization. They were considered as backward, uncivilized and primitive, and treated as subjects that facilitate their dominion until the bloom of the Second World War that provide an intellectual change to Africans opinion. The international influences determined by the variety of metropolitan influences that should considered the meaning of decolonization process. Not only the war of ideologies was not the influential point but also the Africans themselves. The assimilation of changed British domestic outlook in world economic represented the colonial influence.

The role of Nationalists was crucial in the political struggle by creating dynamic competition to block the colonial existence. It was only after World War that the concept of independence came in the minds of Africans and got popular support. Nationalists had involved greatly in Ghana Decolonization, They lighted the hope of liberty. In return to their resistance to restore independence they represented the awakening of political and economic awareness amid the colonized areas with the demand of self-rule and fought for total political freedom. The desire to achieve complete independence was a uniform sentiment impulse nationalist to confront colonial government without hesitance. Significantly these nationalism movements

²⁸ Jacob L. Money, *The Impact of WW II on African Nationalism and Decolonization*, 3.

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came to form massive pressure on the colonists and censure the occupation of their nations by stand decisively together in front of the colonizers and afterward banish broadly. In some cases Nationalists turned against the imperial forces in form of parties supervised by elite of intellectuals such as The United Gold Coast Convection (UGCC) by kwame Nkrumah established in Ghana. All the forms of resistance had the same ultimate demands as well as revolt against injustice, discrimination of the colonial government and the national independence for their countries. The influences of nationalist leaders were responsible for the independence of their new nation-states. From their involvements in wars Africans got massive losses effected little change on the part of their European rulers. The economic development growth and the government changed from the governor hands to Ghanaians. The nationalist's spirits resulted eventually their independence, African workers and traders emerged to support the wave of independence.

III.4 Defining Decolonization

The term Decolonization refers to distinctive sense from the colonist and the colonizers. The colonist or foreign power occupied one's native country by unlawful justifications regarded for multiple benefits simply exploit the proverb of the strong eats the weak and ignorance of Africans from ancient civilizations beliefs. The colonized as a result of great expansion and mass production of the empire it is necessary to search for new resource to divers the product markets. "As the greatest imperial power before 1939 Britain played a leading role in the great post-war shift in the relationship between the West and the Third World which we call "decolonization"²⁹, "the release of one country or territory from political control by another country", "decolonization was also the political independence received by European colonies ,a country or area controlled politically by a more powerful country in Africa and Asia after World War II".³⁰ The war of 1945 reordered the world politically and economically .one of crucial reasons of colonizing Africans territories is the weakness of unity between Africans whether in society, culture or between the countries.

²⁹ Britain and Decolonization: The Retreat from Empire in the Post-War World by John Darwin

³⁰ Cambridge Dictionary

III.5 Types of Decolonization Process

There were several types of Decolonization operation applied by the conqueror, either armed confrontation, political efforts or amicable way. That Decolonization processes took place during the colonial period by the Nineteenth Century to confront the foreign power and as reaction to the merciless reality of Colonization .Whereas the critical conditions of the endemic peoples during the Imperial era were a catalyst in the revolt that will bring independence to them late through political negotiations or bloodshed. In historical sense the concept of decolonization mean the end of foreign colonial control. The Decolonization Process lasted a radical development in the Great Empire precisely economically and politically, the greatness of public relations faded during this period. The decolonization method or type grouped by economic and political stability within the borders of the state and the extent of its effectiveness to confront a dominant power. There were two major types of decolonization, peaceful in the case of India and armed or by force such as Indo-China and Algeria.

III.6 The Main Impulsions behind Decolonization

The emergence of Decolonization through the British Empire after the last world war, witnessed the decline of Greatest Empire the world has ever seen. Certainly, the level of the decolonization process increased with the pressing need of colonized people in gaining independence and expels the colonist. The worldwide movement caused Britain the loss of its colonial possessions in Asia and Africa by using the international pressures for self determination that translated to the receiving of gradual granting of self-rule to the British colonies. the main impulsions of the British Decolonization referred commonly to the mismanagement of the imperial administrations above the colonial holdings that caused a general discontent that played a considerable rule in the occurrence and the widespread of unrest which took several forms. “British decolonization is usually associated with the period after 1945 but the 1931 Statute of Westminster had already granted independence to the white Dominions of Australia, Canada, Eire (Irish Free State), Newfoundland, New Zealand, and South Africa. After the Second World War, Clement Attlee’s Labor Government gave independence to India, Pakistan, Burma, and Ceylon, terminated Britain’s Mandate in Palestine,

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and prepared for the end of British rule in the West African colonies of the Gold Coast”³¹

III.7 The Impact of the Second World War on the Decolonization of Africa

In 1939, the Germany Nazi began WW II by attacking Poland, Belgium, Holland, and France. It attempted to invade Britain but it failed. Italy united fascism with Germany in 1940, and the imperialist Japan completed the Axis powers by joining in 1941. The Axis powers were successfully overcame their enemies, winning battles left and right. In 1942, the Allied forces successfully fought, which included Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union, and won decisive victories. The two atomic bombs Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the World War but Africa did not go untouched by this bloody war. By the anti-racist nature of the war Hitler aimed to dominate the world from the notion of “master race” which millions of Jews were sent to concentration and death camps, simply for being who they were. The impact of the war can be seen in its spread of political awareness to entire world and Africa in particular.

In both wars Africans from different part of the continent were fighting against German imperialism for freeing their colonizers. “Those who had claimed to be civilizing Africans once more seemed to have failed to civilize themselves.”³² Fortunately they obtained military knowledge and leadership skills that allow increase their capacities which encouraged them to claim for their freedom .the war of 1945 indirectly changed the way Africans think. “Millions of Africans from the entire continent fought and died in bloody battles of WWII”³³, through it Africans learned that unification, communication and the ability to work together empower them to gain their freedom. „It severely damaged Africa's economy as well. Village people were forced into a massive effort to increase production of raw materials for export, and imports were unattainable.”³⁴ In addition to the participation of Africans in the Second World War, they were forced to work to raise the British economy to compensate for the damages caused by the wars which increase the Europeans economy in Africa during this period, while it formed a social crisis neither the Europeans nor Britain can solve it or they have time to do so.

³¹ Carl P. Watts, *British decolonization*, 1.

³² Basil Davidson, “The Second World War, 1939-1945,” *Modern Africa: A Social and Political History*, (1994):61.

³³ Basil Davidson, “The Second World War, 1939-1945,” *Modern Africa: A Social and Political History*, (1994): 61-65

³⁴ *The Impact of the Second World War on the Decolonization of Africa* by Erin Myrice , 7

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The last war was a vital factor pulled the colonial authorities to the boundary, it brought irregularity of colonization to the world, which inspired the self determination between the colonies and increased the obstacle for self-rule, indicate the proximity of world imperial end. It was clear that this immense incident revealed the inability of the colonial authorities in conserving its colonies from split caused from the aftermath of the war to the colonial powers which bring massive crises hit the continuity of dominant foreign holdings, this was discussable the WWII contribution in increasing the rising demands of sovereignty because the participation of the colonized people in war offered them new concepts attached with the colonial power and made them convinced with the idea that they should recover their liberty depending to the critical situation that the major powers were living it during the Post- World War .The colonial powers were cruelly weakened by the decisive results of the war, so, they could not endure the load of the colonies any more they were focusing on the domestic matters of their countries, meanwhile it was an opportunity to the colonies to achieve the full freedom. The two powerful poles had involved in the dissolution of the imperial power after the World War consequently it divided the world into two fronts, one dominated by the United States and other by the Soviet Union

III.8 The Road of Independence

Tendency to stand against the colonial authorities came with Kwame Nkrumah principles that pushed the ideology of self-determination in Africans eyes, later became the national demand. "Nkrumah saw Ghana as the "Star of Black Africa." He believed that Ghana should lead the effort to free Africa from the shackles of Western colonialism and envisioned a union of independent African states that would command respect in the world. Nkrumah also helped found the Non-Aligned Movement, a grouping of world states that attempted to pursue policies independent of East and West. His ideas about African unity proved immensely appealing in the late 1950s and early 1960s, indeed, the Pan-Africanists dream still resonates across Africa in the 1990s."³⁵ He show the need to seek African unity and pursuit the pan- africanism confirm it expensive and eventually unnecessarily. Nkrumah's pursuit of Pan- Africanism proved expensive and it partly account for the economic problems that Ghana encountered significantly focus on domestic policies. He believed that the centralization of political and economic constitutional guarantee against tyranny. Political opposition was suppressed and presently after

³⁵ La verle Berry, Ghana a country study, 32.

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the 1960 elections Nkrumah was declared president for life. Ghana had become partially-state under a powerful president trusted in rapid transformation of the state economy along socialist lines. He radical changes in various sectors convey investment in new industrial enterprises and agricultural projects, roads and schools were built besides health services that expanded. He attempts to strike a balance in infrastructure and social services between North and South, the northernmost third territories which had been abandoned by the British received special attention. However, satisfactory resources to finance the public-sector projects which Nkrumah envisioned. The foreign currency exhausted the government resorted to insufficiency financing and foreign borrowed to pay essential imports.

Skilled manpower allocates resources and new state enterprises equaled shortly provide internal financial controls needed to implement development led ultimately to corruption. although obvious proceeds from investment in roads, schools, health services, and import replacing industries Ghana was a nation intent in debt, increasing inflation, and economic misconduct as a result of Nkrumah's ill conception of development policies. An overrated currency discouraged exports, corruption was increased, and the political system was unbearable to dissent and authoritarian in practice. His failure of leadership through the international community obliged him to look for other range, the political situation that was radicalized by the anti-colonial movement to the political left but more prominently shattered the international politics of the C.W in post-colonial periods worldwide. Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper claimed that the WWII disrupted the “world of empires”³⁶ with a new international order for instance other colonies like India assert for their self-government, upon a few years later numerous colonies gained their independence. Meanwhile the government adopted the system of indirect rule policy.

There was several factors affected political status starting from the pre-independence period. It contributed greatly to raise the country economic and political level consumed all what is available to fulfill its demand. The Bandung Conference 1955 ³⁷ declared the 10 – points led the newly independent states to move forward in their case with optimistically. West African journalists Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria and Mr. Wallace Johnson of Sierra Leone as the pioneers of pan-Africanism were prosecuted to criticize the British Government had to leave the Gold Coast because of the oppressive conditions prevailed in the Colony. The West African

³⁶ Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010), 413.

³⁷ Indonesia, Burma, Srilanka, India and Pakistan organized a meeting of Asian and African states in 18.24.1955 to promote Afro-Asia economic.

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National Congress³⁸ formed to provide a medium of economic, political and social aspirations of the increasing urban middle classes in the Gold Coast and British West African colonies that expressed the sense of united colonies. Later the West African National Congress worked for target the Crown Colony system of administration. The Accra conference took a number of resolutions that that lightened the way for political control including self-government in African hands, elective franchise besides other elements. Meanwhile the executive committee of Congress selected a delegation made of prominent political personalities in the four British territories representing the Gold Coast Chief Ormodu Tijani Oluwa it seek to secure reforms along constitutional lines .The United Gold Coast Convention as a political organization include the elite of Gold Coast society claimed for a constitutional reform precisely for self-government. It reformed by Danquah invited Nkrumah as general secretary but through the leadership party he differ with him due to his radical orientation toward nationalism, consequently Nakrumah proceed to organize the most revolutionary organized People's Congress Party . The winds of changes that followed the war accelerated the pace of nationalist's demands under the leadership of Nakrumah with his Conventional People Party (CPP) take quick steps toward independence. Colonial policies led to conflicts notably the control of land, to create an association to protect the rights of indigenous people. The Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society (GCARPS) sent a delegation to London to complaint colonial land policies which incorporate the traditional chiefs in the administrative colony, succeed in changing colonial land policies. With the establishment of the National Congress of British West African nationalist thought that they could symbolize their interests, this brought competition in colonies but the leaders refused to join the attempt to create a comprehensive group of British West Africa political pressure.

III.9 The Decolonization Process

The decolonization of colonialism was a significant claim for self-rule to Britain's colonies. At the end of last world war the major Europeans colonial power were left weakened, the first wave of decolonization synchronized with the Cold War. The decolonization process as a social rather than political process was meaningful by people themselves rather by governance

The emergence of decolonization movements within the British Colonies (1939- 1973) the world history witnessed the decline of the Greatest Empire the world has ever seen however, the level of these processes of decolonization increased with the desire of colonies in achieving independence. After the WWII it involved several changes in different perspectives, this was

³⁸ Established in March 1920 to supporter of the aborigines rights protection society

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embodied in infrastructure changes of African colonies. Decolonization pushed the British Empire to the loss of its colonial possessions in Africa Asia, this due to the economic and political degeneration. Ethnic and religious unities had the significant role in the independence movements, All the organizations that had political influence and adopted with the political struggle to claim for their self-rule they were armed by patriotism spirit that mostly derived from the stark ethnic background and they had enormous support of the general opinion because people trusted in them to achieve total independence. “British decolonization is usually associated with the period after 1945 but the 1931 Statute of Westminster had already granted independence to the white Dominions of Australia, Canada, Eire, Newfoundland, New Zealand, and South Africa. After the Second World War, Clement Attlee’s labor Government gave independence to India, Pakistan, Burma, and Ceylon, terminated Britain’s Mandate in Palestine, and prepared for the end of British rule in the West African colonies of the Gold Coast and Nigeria. The Conservative Governments of Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden were less enthusiastic about liquidating the British Empire. Between 1951 and 1957, Britain created unsuccessful federations of British colonial territories in Central Africa and the West Indies, but also granted independence to Sudan, Ghana, and Malaya”.³⁹It was clear that the independence of Ghana would not happen without the nationalist combat for their national case with more effective mode. “It is not difficult to see the 1950s as a period in which the gradual disintegration of British imperial power accelerated sharply in the face of challenges of Afro-Asian nationalism. In West Africa, the British conceded full independence to the Gold Coast (Ghana) in 1957”⁴⁰ . The first conference of independent African states was held in Accra to discuss about common interests, an exchange relationship aimed to accelerate mutual perceptive besides other principles that made the conference marked rediscovery of Africa by Africans themselves said Nkrumah “The conference was attended by some five hundred delegates from political parties, trade unions, and organizations involved in the great awakening that was African nationalism. Patrice Lumumba and Roberto Holden were there, so was Dr. Kamuzu Banda. The Nationalist upsurge in the post-war period in Africa was a great moment for a people that had been denied humanity by centuries of slavery and colonialism. Ideologies centered on Kwame Nkrumah’s “African Personality” or Leopold Senghor’s “Negritude” or Kenne Kaunda’s “Humanism” or even

³⁹ Carl P. Watts *British Decolonization*“

⁴⁰ John Darwin, *Britain and Decolonization* , 168.

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Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's *Ujamaa* expressed one central theme, nationalism."⁴¹ The meeting enhanced political relationship between the Africans newly commonwealth members.

Conclusion

African colonies were huge producers of raw materials which were expropriated by the colonialists. Britain, in addition to be attracted by the area because of its geographical position wanted also to exploit the region's unlimited natural resources. Before being explored and then settled, Africa was titled "the dark continent" which facilitated Britain's dominance. It was clear that Britain as the greatest imperial power for a long period took a significant position during the post-war to reallocate the relation between the West and the third world this so-called decolonization. Despite the concessions gained toward its political Circumventions, the colonial office was clearly visualized a slow and deliberate process of independence that would extend for a long time. The investments in British colonies increased during the post-war-period which effected African population, that political factor enhanced the Gold coast discontent. Meanwhile the opposition to the colonial administrative controlled by foreign trade, had not yet developed to a coherent call for independence

The issue of the Gold Coast Decolonization resulted in an influential elements such as both world wars and nationalism. The international movements within the British colonies 1939-1973 as a radical development in the Great Empire resumed an era of political and economic pressure that analyzed the impact of decolonization in the degradation of the Empire. Furthermore, this work pushed light on the economic and political impact of the Second World War as attempt to illustrate and provide the thesis with historical events and facts to what enabled the British Decolonization to happen. How the Empire was retreated due Ghana Decolonization, the main conclusion for this Academic research is despite the differences of the historical views of Ghana Decolonization , the Second World War had effected Africa and Britain economically and politically which reordered the world, and it has the major part in the dissolution of the empire with its imperial plots. By looking across dominion status and commonwealth membership the decolonization clearly would be understood

⁴¹ Issa G. Shivji *The rise, the fall, and the insurrection of nationalism in Africa*, 2.

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The colonial and international causes of British decolonization exacerbated by several factors, in addition to the impact of the First and Second world wars. By the emergence of newly independent countries in the world, Decolonization process reclassified the global map, influenced by Nationalist Movement, the last war, the Cold War and the United Nations Organization. The war changed Africa profoundly and the most destructive conflict in history drove the continent along the pathway to self-determination. The twentieth century witnessed a national consciousness developed basically in response to the colonial policies, the necessity of becoming free from the colonizer's restrictions rose to the ceiling of demands from the experience gained in the last World War. The post-war Ghana saw very rapid growth in the statistics of urban residents this caused by the expansion of services

Decolonization movement which was the main factor of British Empire dissolution that concluded in the post-colonial era that depicts the decline of the British imperial system. It had also discussed the relation between the British Empire and its crown colony and how Britain intervened in the former colony. This chapter explores the disadvantages of the colonial legacy within the independent state which then appeared as violent conflicts.

General conclusion

The British Empire reached its height after the First World War which enabled it to dominate numerous lands over the world, the so-called principle of entitlement put it forward. Britain imperial efforts succeeded in collecting various states ruled by the colonial office till the outbreak of the Second World War 1939 which was recognized as the historical shift in the history of the empire.

Colonialism made African colonies dependent by introducing a monoculture economy for the territories and also dehumanized African labor by forcing Africans to work in colonial plantations at very low wages as an obstacle to industrialization. For Britain's benefits the issue of colonialism in Africa encouraged and intensified class struggle beside tribalism and ethnicity within the colonies. As strategy it formed both economic and political structure of African colonies by creating barriers to disrupt the course to development. The United Nations organization is a tremendous part of the global history, it personified the principle of the complete independence for the whole countries of the world and backed those weak territories in the achievement of self-rule at the outflow of the superpowers. The main goal was failing the imperial authorities and making the world empty from the frictions by critical any sort of colonization and showed a kind of resentment against the imperialism. Moreover it pushed the world to believe that they can defeat the magnificence of the colonizer just by focusing on their legitimate right peacefully in their own countries without foreign forces ruling them. The terms dominion status, crown colony, colonial administrative authorities vanished through the decolonization period. British Empire granted independence to most of its colonies unlike other empires in history.

Through in-depth and detailed research on the topic the Gold Coast Decolonization, the issue of the topic has a logical dimension. All virtue to the First and Second World War from the intellectual, economic and political awareness provided. As far as I know without it there was no possibility of increasingly world movement. Fundamentally the Gold Coast decolonization rely on two major factors the world war aftermath and the nationalist movement. The aftermath of the war evidentially led to speedy events and undoubtedly the Emergence of the independence movements through the British West African colonies.

General conclusion

The first Ghana government was by native Ghanaians before independence. Afterward it has both democratically elected government and also military one. The election system based on one-party state between 1964 and 1966 while the military governments were civilian participated as the national defense council. The first Ghana government since independence was by Nkrumah (CPP). Ghana was transformed and the variation was visible. The rise of call for self-rule spread widely due to the (CPP) as social political party decided to enter the presidential elections that held on 17 July 1956 won 71 of the 104 seats resulted a victory to Nkrumah which soon became the first Ghana president. Later a constitution approved in April 1954, created a cabinet collecting African ministers from all African legislature chosen by direct election. "In 1957 when the leaders of the former British colony of the Gold Coast sought an appropriate name for their newly independent state-the first black African nation to gain its independence from colonial rule-they named their new country after ancient Ghana. The choice was more than merely symbolic because modern Ghana, like its namesake, was equally famed for its wealth and trade in gold"⁴². Initially the country was constitutional monarch with Elizabeth II until the 1960 referendum Ghana became a republic with presidential form of government, successively in 1964 the election system become a one-party state. The years followed was politically and economically intricate for Nkrumah for his high standing and the influential role of most state sectors which threatened others.

The armed forces moved to ends its use as political tool to drop Nkrumah. The officer corps offends from Nkrumah significant power which became a time bomb, a coup launched against him as a result a new institution appeared known as The National Liberation Council in 1966. As validation for the coup the (NLC) focusing on Nkrumah abuse of power and political repression which caused economic decline. The Act of 1958, granted authority to the head of state to detain without trial those who threatened Ghana meaningly, Nkrumah and with his party frightened leading members of the opposition. With his organization of National Democratic Congress (NDC) he enhanced greatly in achieving high level of political development. As an important political party in Ghana it improved five key capabilities such as organizational, extractive, distributive, responsive and symbolic. In case of organizational capabilities Rowling's⁴³ militaristic learning helped to control the individual and the group

⁴² La verle Berry, Ghana a country study 1,46

⁴³ Jerry Rowling a military and political Ghana leader.

General conclusion

where expedient which later construct a form of discipline and social order in Ghana. By the late 1980s Ghana's economy begun to improve and prepared for underway to return it to more democratic government.

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