



African Independence




GHANA: In 1957, Ghana became one of the first African nations to gain independence from European colonialism. Agitation for independence began early in the 19th century, when much of Africa was under colonial rule. In the western Africa colony then called The Gold Coast, the Ashanti people began challenging British rule. The Ashantis traced their heritage back to the ancient kingdom of Ghana, the first large sub-Saharan African state. The kingdom, which had an Iron Age culture dating to 250 B.C., once stretched from Timbuktu to the Atlantic Ocean. The Ashantis under British rule chose Ghana as the name to replace The Gold Coast. The drive for independence accelerated after World War II. In January 1957, the British Parliament passed the Ghana Independence Act. The National Assembly of Ghana proclaimed independence on March 6. Ghana joined the United Nations two days later.

Uganda: Uganda was made a British Protectorate in 1894. The British administration proceeded to install their own kings in Buganda, Bunyoro, Toro and Ankole. The Baganda (an ethnic group in Buganda) were used as agents in effecting British rule, a policy of convenience that was to have far reaching consequences for the future peace and stability of Uganda. The British kept the Baganda out of the military and police forces with the excuse that they were too short. Hints of proletariat discontent came to a head in 1945 and 1949 with riots in Buganda. The riots were directed against the ruling oligarchy as well as the Asian and European monopoly in crop marketing and processing. The colonial structure of government was to remain in place with very little modification until Sir Andrew Cohen instigated a form of central government in 1953. In the same year, King Kabaka Mutesa II was deported to England for refusing to have any part in an East African Federation. This event along with the formation of the Uganda National Congress (UNC), the Democratic Party (DP) and the Progressive Party, served to split the Bagandan Hierarchy and further divide the country along religious lines.



A traditionalist Bagandan party, Kabaka Yekka (KY) was formed as a direct result of Bagandan loyalty to the Kabaka. The first party to be formed lead by a non-Bagandan was the Uganda Peoples Union (UPC); Apollo Milton Obote was its leader and became, on October 9th 1962, the first Prime Minister of an Independent Uganda. Because of loyal support in Buganda, when Obote formed his government, the KY was well represented. The Kabaka was elected Constitutional Head of State, while Obote ruled the country through his cabinet. Obote had inherited a promising country. The British had laid down all the necessary infrastructure for success. Makerere University and Mulago Hospital were well regarded institutions throughout the world, and industry, agriculture and trade were flourishing. On the other hand the melting pot of tribal, religious and political differences made the task of government very complex.

Mozambique : Mozambique's future as a colony is sealed in 1926 when Antonio Salazar comes to power in Portugal through a fascist coup. European population of the colony rises steadily. It is 27,000 by 1940 and 97,000 in 1960 . By the late 1950 there seems to be no escape from a state of virtual slavery. The Mozambicans are forbidden by law to trade or to run their own business. On June 16 1960, there is a large protest against the forced labor, at the provincial Governor. He orders soldiers to fire on the crowd and 600 people are killed. It was clear that Mozambique would not have a peaceful transition to independence. So Mozambicans in exile set up liberation movements - including Frelimo (the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique) which was founded in Dar as Salaam in 1962, with Dr. Eduardo Mondlane as leader. Its first shots are fired in 1965 Frelimo's system of organizing communal villages, with collective farms and primary health care, lays the practical foundation for its socialism. The Portuguese responded by reinforcing the secret police (PIDE) and sending 35,000 troops. In 1969 the PIDE murder Mondlane. But support for Frelimo was widespread by 1972 and the colonizers were left with only small islands of control. The Portuguese government fell in April 1974 as a direct result of the expense (\$6,000 million) and human loss (5,000 colonial soldiers) of Portugal's war in Mozambique and Angola. Independence came on July 25, 1975 after which 90 per cent of the Portuguese settlers fled.



Name _____ Date _____

Answer the following questions based on the "African Independence" reading on the opposite side.

1. Of the three countries in the reading, which had the easiest transition to Independence, and which had the hardest?
2. How did the British keep the Baganda royal family out of the Uganda military and police forces?
3. Why did Uganda have riots against the British before its independence?
4. What position did King Kabaka have after Uganda created its own government?
5. How had the British helped Uganda in creating a stable country?
6. How did the Portugese treat the people of Mozambique?
7. Why did the Mozambique people protest in 1960?
8. What type of government did Frelimo group propose to set up in Mozambique?
9. When did Mozambique gain their independence and how did they gain their freedom?