

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

HISTORY

- called Gold Coast
- Asante Kingdom controlled trade
- 1874 Great Britain colonized - ruler through local chiefs
- Wanted to control economy
- Exporting goods increased
- Africans couldn't supply foods for themselves
- Profits went to Britain
- Britain built schools, brought Christianity,

MOVE TO INDEPENDENCE

- 1947 Nkrumah returned from United States - convinced people to demand independence

INDEPENDENCE ACHIEVED

- 1957 - Britain granted
- Sovereignty (political control of own country)
- Nkrumah removed from office by a military coup d'état (takeover)
He had borrowed lots of money - made big plans - but cocoa prices fell - couldn't pay back loans - economic problems
- Alternated between military and democratically elected governments

TODAY

- 1981 - Jerry Rawlings seized power (Air Force Pilot) tried to reform politics and economy, stressed traditional values of hard work and sacrifice
- Economy dependent on the sale of cocoa
- 2000 - John Kufuor elected president