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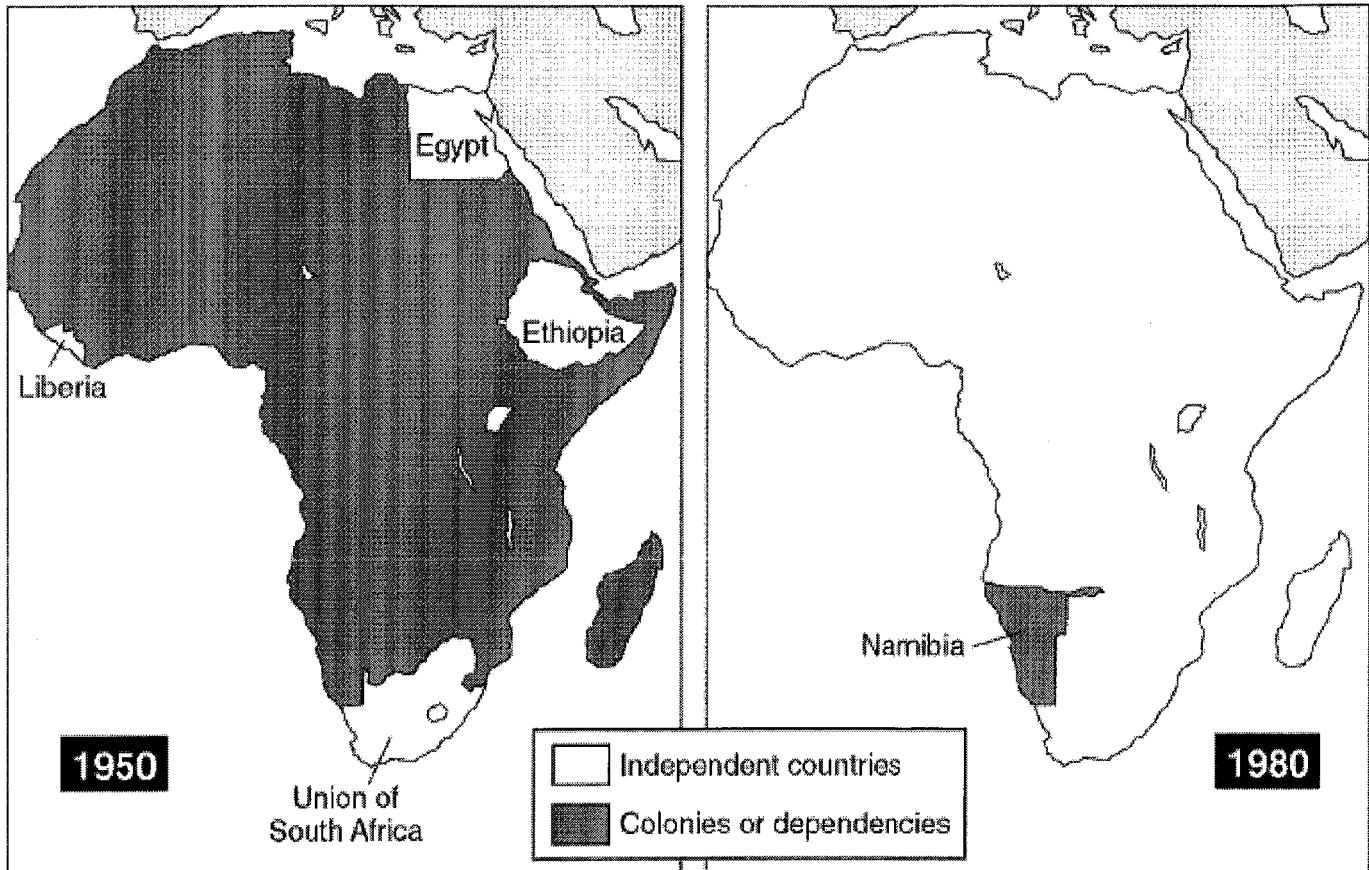
# Why did African states gain independence in the second half of the 20th century?

Objective: Explain why and how Ghana and Kenya gained their independence in the mid-late 1900s.

## Introduction

Directions: Examine the maps below, then answer the questions that follow.

### Independent Africa, 1950–1980



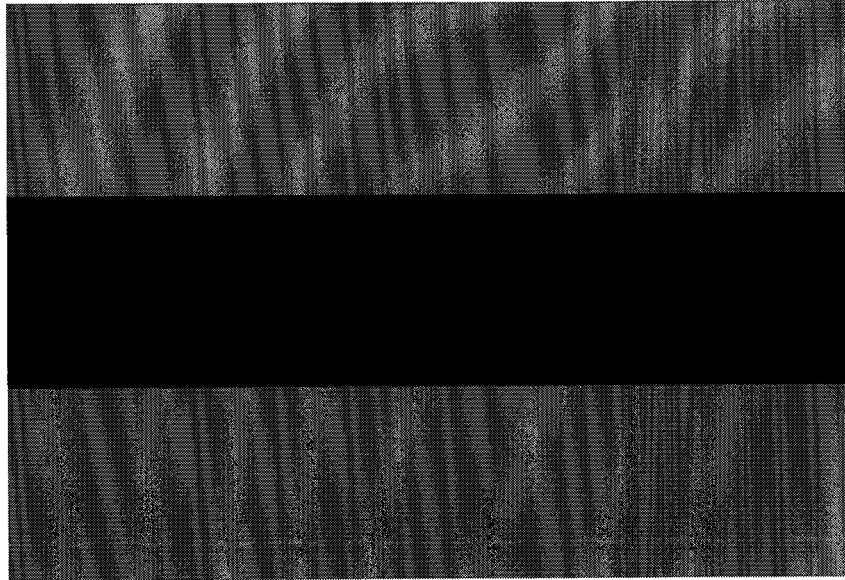
Source: Glenn E. Hughes et al., *Practicing World History Skills*, Scott, Foresman & Co., 1984 (adapted)

See	Think	Wonder
Based on the images above, what happened in Africa between 1950 and 1980?		

## Pan-Africanism

Pan-Africanism is an ideology and movement that encourages the solidarity of Africans worldwide. It is based on the belief that unity is vital to economic, social, and political progress, and aims to "unify and uplift" people of African descent. Those who support Pan-Africanism believe that all African peoples and countries are intertwined. At its core Pan-Africanism is "a belief that African peoples, both on the continent and in the diaspora, share not merely a common history, but a common destiny".

Pan-Africanism was a powerful idea in the mid-1900s that inspired leaders of African Independence Movements.



The Pan-African Flag has served as a unifying symbol since its creation in the 1920s.

Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain

"Kenyatta explained the flag. 'Black is . . . for black people. Red shows . . . [that] the blood of an African is the same colour as the blood of a European, and green shows . . . [that] when we were given this country by God it was green, fertile, and good.' What he . . . must mean . . . [is] that our lands could only be regained by the blood (red) of the African (black)."

- Kwari Njama

Source: From the NYS Global History and Geography Regents

**"If we are to remain free, if we are to enjoy the full benefits of Africa's enormous wealth, we must unite to plan for the full exploitation of our human and material resources in the interest of all our people."**

**— Kwame Nkrumah (1950s), first President of Ghana**

Source: From the NYS Global History and Geography Regents

<b>1. Identify some of Kwame Nkrumah's achievements as the leader of Ghana.</b>	<b>3. Why were there protests in Ghana in 1948? What effect did these protest have on Nkrumah?</b>
<b>2. How did Nkrumah's education outside of Ghana affect him?</b>	<b>4. What was the effect of Nkrumah's decision to make Ghana a one-party state? What actions did he take as ruler?</b>
<b>5. Explain the opposing claims about Kwame Nkrumah's legacy voiced in the video.</b>	<b>6. What ended Nkrumah's rule? How did the people of Ghana react?</b>

## Ghanaian Independence (1957)

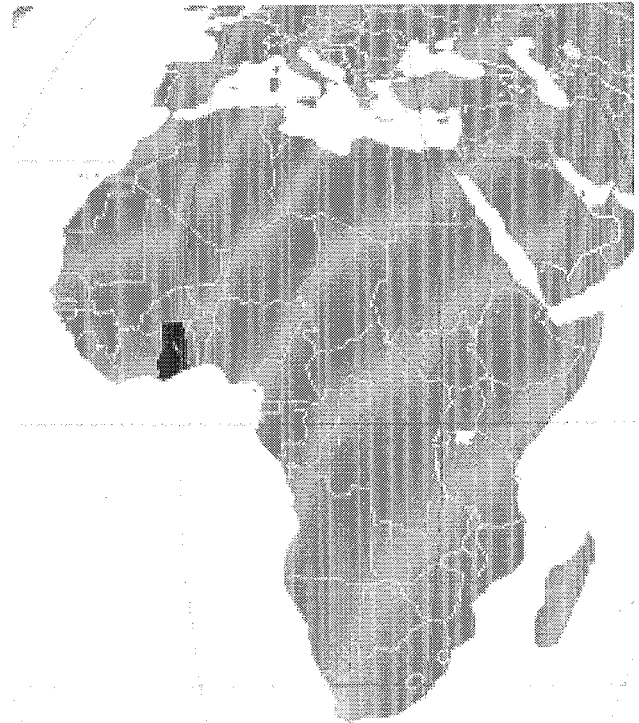


Watch [this CCTV Africa biography of Kwame Nkrumah](#) and read the text and examine the images below, then answer the questions that follow.



Kwame Nkrumah

[Image](#) is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain



Ghana

[Image](#) is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is in the public domain

## Kenyan Independence (1963)



Watch this CCTV Africa biography of Jomo Kenyatta and read the text and examine the images below, then answer the questions that follow.



Jomo Kenyatta, August 22, 1978

Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons and is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Netherlands](#) license

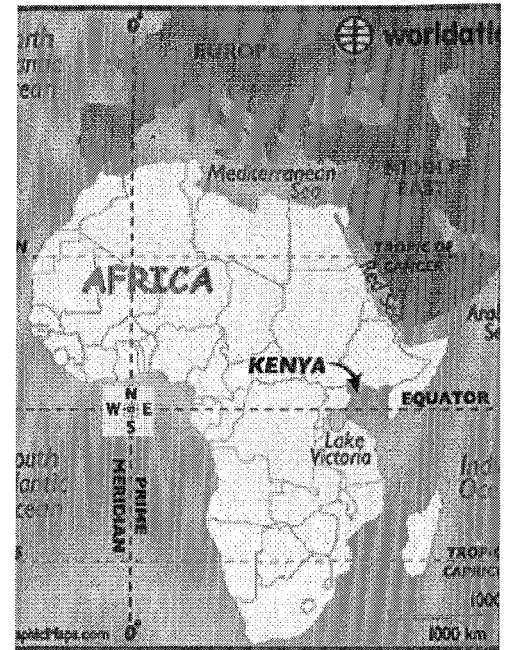


Image is courtesy of worldatlas.com

**1. Which European country imperialized Kenya?**

**3. How did Jomo Kenyatta change as a ruler after Kenya's independence?**

**2. Who was Jomo Kenyatta? Why is he important to Kenyan history?**

**4. How did Jomo Kenyatta consolidate and maintain his power in Kenya?**

**5. According to the commentators in the video, what is Jomo Kenyatta's legacy in Kenya?**



## Regents Multiple Choice Check for Understanding

1. Which statement best expresses a major idea of Pan-Africanism?

- (1) African doctors should be trained in Western schools.
- (2) European nations should reestablish economic relationships with their former African colonies.
- (3) African nations should work together to solve their problems.
- (4) African nations should send peacekeeping forces to settle disputes in other areas of the world.

5. The most significant occurrence in Africa since 1950 has been the

- (1) decrease in the birthrate in most nations
- (2) decline of European colonialism
- (3) unification of East African nations
- (4) establishment of communist regimes in most nations

2. The actions of Jomo Kenyatta, Kwame Nkrumah, Léopold Senghor, and Julius Nyerere were most closely associated with

- (1) a rise in nationalism in several African countries
- (2) the end of apartheid in South Africa
- (3) a resurgence of colonialism in east Africa
- (4) the revival of Islam in northern Africa

"Rhodesia Becomes Zimbabwe"  
"Gold Coast Becomes Ghana"

6. These headlines suggest that African governments sometimes rename their nations to

- (1) avoid military overthrow
- (2) reflect traditional cultures
- (3) reinforce colonial influences
- (4) increase foreign investments

3. A major factor in the development of 20th-century nationalist movements throughout Africa was a common

- (1) language throughout most of Africa
- (2) goal to end European rule in Africa
- (3) ethnic bond among the people of sub-Saharan Africa
- (4) religion throughout most of Africa

7. In the early days of independence, a major problem for many African nations was a

- (1) shortage of skilled technical workers
- (2) scarcity of natural resources
- (3) lack of water for hydroelectric power
- (4) reluctance to accept economic aid from the United Nations

4. The current political boundaries of African nations have been most influenced by

- (1) the topographic features of the continent
- (2) the patterns of European colonialism
- (3) traditional African language groups
- (4) the location of ancient African tribal kingdoms

8. Some African nations have maintained close relationships with their former colonial rulers primarily because

- (1) economic and cultural ties remain strong
- (2) African leaders are unwilling to tackle problems on their own
- (3) outside nations do not provide assistance to African nations
- (4) most Africans want to keep their dual citizenship