



## Biography : Kwame Nkrumah

### Quick Facts

**Full name:** Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

**Birth name:** Francis Nwia Kofi Nkrumah.

**Date of birth:** 18 or 21 September 1909.

**Place of birth:** Nkroful, Ghana (then known as the Gold Coast).

**Date of death:** 27 April, 1972.

**Place of death:** Bucharest, Romania.

**Cause of death:** Cancer.

**Career and achievements:** First black President and Prime Minister of Ghana, founding member of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), laureate of the Lenin Peace Prize, Secretary General of the United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC), lecturer, philosopher, founder of the African Students' Association of America and Canada, teacher.

### Important dates

- **1930:** Obtained a Teacher's Certificate from the Prince of Wales College (later known as the Achimota School).
- **1933:** Taught at a Roman Catholic Seminary in Amissa.
- **October 1935:** Arrived in Pennsylvania (USA) for further studies. Managed to enter Lincoln University.
- **1939:** Obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Sociology.
- **1942:** Earned a Bachelor's degree in Theology.
- **1943:** Obtained his Master of Arts degree in Philosophy and a Master of Science in Education.
- **1945:** Left the USA for the United Kingdom where he enrolled at the London School of Economics as a PhD candidate in anthropology. Met George Padmore and helped him to organise the Fifth Pan-African Congress in Manchester, England.
- **1947:** Published his first book, *Towards Colonial Freedom*.
- **1947:** Returned to Gold Coast (Ghana) upon invitation to work as the General Secretary for the United Gold Coast Convention (**UGCC**).
- **1948:** Imprisoned along with other important members of the UGCC, dubbed the "Big Six", during a period of political unrest.
- **1948:** Established the *Accra Evening News*.
- **1949:** Formed the **Convention People's Party (CPP)** and the Committee on Youth Organization (**CYO**).
- **1949:** The beginning of the **Positive Action** campaign which aimed at demanding independence from colonial rule using non-violent means.
- **1950:** Detained after riots shook the country in the wake of the **Positive Action** campaign.
- **1951:** Became the first black Prime Minister of the Gold Coast (Ghana).
- **1957:** Ghana declared an independent country.

- **1958** : Organised the first All Africa People’s Conference in Accra, Ghana.
- **1958**: Married Helena Ritz Fathia from Egypt. He had three children with her.
- **1960**: Ghana became a Republic.
- **1962**: Assassination attempt (one of many) at Kulungugu, in northern Ghana.
- **1962**: Won the Lenin Peace Prize.
- **1963** : Helped to found The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at a conference in Addis Ababa. The aim of this new organisation was to work for the Unity, Freedom and Prosperity of the people of Africa.
- **1964**: Ghana became a one-party state, drawing heavy criticism from his fellow countrymen.
- **1965**: *Neo-colonialism* published.
- **1966 (February 24th)**: Removed from power by a military coup while he was in Vietnam. He then found refuge in Conakry, Guinea, and was offered to become the Co-President of this country.
- **1972 (April 27th)**: Died of cancer, in Bucharest, Romania.
- **1972 (7 July)**: Buried in Ghana.
- **2000**: Voted “Africa’s Man of the Millenium” by BBC World Service listeners.
- **2009**: “21 September” declared as Founder’s Day by Ghana’s president, John Atta Mills.

## Pan Africanism

**Kwame Nkrumah is known as the father of Pan Africanism.**

- Ideology and movement.
- Encourages the solidarity of Africans across the world.
- Based on the belief that unity is important for economic, social, and political progress.
- Aims to "unify and uplift" people of African origin.
- The ideology asserts that the fate of all African peoples and countries are intertwined or linked:
 

*“All African peoples, both on the continent and in the diaspora, share not merely a common history, but a common destiny”.*
- Led to the establishment of The [Organisation of African Unity](#) (now the [African Union](#)) in 1963.
- The OAU aims at safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its Member States.
- The OAU also strives to promote global relations within the framework of the [United Nations](#).

## Other Advocates of Pan Africanism

- **Haile Selassie**: Former Emperor of Ethiopia from 1930 to 1974.
- **Julius Nyerere**: Former President of Tanzania from 1964 to 1985.
- **Ahmed Sekou Toure**: First president of Guinea from 1958 to 1984.
- **Muammar Gaddafi**: Libyan leader from 1961 to 2011.
- **Marcus Garvey**: A Jamaican political leader who advocated for the return of the African diaspora to their ancestral lands.
- **Malcolm X**: An African American human rights activist.
- **W.E.B. Dubois**: An influential African American academician and civil rights activist.

