Ahmed Sékou Touré was the first President of Guinea, serving from 1958 until his death in 1984. He played a significant role in the country's struggle for independence from France and was a key figure in the Pan-African movement. Touré was born on January 9, 1922, in Faranah, French Guinea. He was the son of a prominent Malinke family and received his education in both Guinea and France. In 1958, Touré led Guinea to become the first French African colony to gain independence from France, after rejecting Charles de Gaulle's offer of membership in the French Community. This made him a symbol of anti-colonialism and African nationalism. Touré's presidency was marked by socialist policies and a focus on economic independence. He nationalized many industries and implemented agricultural reforms, seeking to reduce Guinea's dependence on foreign aid and investment. Under Touré's leadership, Guinea became a one-party state with the Democratic Party of Guinea (PDG) as the only legal political party. This led to a repressive regime with limited political freedoms and human rights abuses. Touré was a vocal advocate for Pan-Africanism and played a key role in the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. He also supported liberation movements in other African countries, providing military and financial assistance. In 1970, Touré survived an assassination attempt by Portuguese agents, which led to a crackdown on political opposition and increased repression in Guinea. This further solidified his authoritarian rule. Touré's regime was known for its cult of personality, with his image and ideology being promoted through propaganda and public displays of loyalty. Dissent was met with harsh punishment, including imprisonment and torture. Touré's rule came to an end in 1984 when he died suddenly while undergoing medical treatment in the U.S.S.R. His death led to a military coup and the establishment of a new government in Guinea. Despite his controversial legacy, Touré remains a significant figure in African history, known for his role in Guinea's independence and his influence on Pan-Africanism and anti-colonial movements.