Kwame Nkrumah was born on September 21, 1909, in Nkroful, Gold Coast (now Ghana). He was born to a poor and humble family but showed an early thirst for knowledge and activism. Nkrumah was educated at the Achimota School in Accra, where he trained as a teacher. He later traveled to the United States for advanced studies, receiving a Bachelor of Arts from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and a Master of Science in education and a Master of Arts in philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania. During his time in America, he was influenced by the Harlem Renaissance and the ideas of Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. Du Bois, and the Pan-African movement, which shaped his political views and commitment to African independence and unity. In 1945, Kwame Nkrumah was a key figure in organizing the Fifth Pan-African Congress in Manchester, England, alongside notable figures such as W.E.B. Du Bois and George Padmore. The congress was instrumental in articulating the demand for African self-government and independence. After this event, Nkrumah returned to the Gold Coast to become the general secretary of the United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC), a political party advocating for self-governance. However, his radical approach eventually led to a split, and he founded the Convention People's Party (CPP) in 1949, which became the driving force behind the Gold Coast's push for independence from British colonial rule. Kwame Nkrumah's political strategy was characterized by his use of mass mobilization. He organized a series of strikes and non-violent protests that were met with heavy-handed responses from the colonial authorities. In 1950, he initiated the 'Positive Action' campaign, which led to his imprisonment by the British authorities for sedition. However, his incarceration only increased his popularity, and the CPP won a significant victory in the 1951 general election. Nkrumah was released from prison to become the Leader of Government Business and, later, the Prime Minister of the Gold Coast, steering the country towards independence. On March 6, 1957, Kwame Nkrumah's efforts culminated in the Gold Coast becoming the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence from colonial rule, and the nation was renamed Ghana. Nkrumah became the first Prime Minister and later the first President of Ghana when it became a republic in 1960. His famous declaration, 'Ghana's independence is meaningless unless it is linked up with the total liberation of the African continent,' highlighted his vision for a united Africa and his leading role in the Pan-African movement. As President, Kwame Nkrumah embarked on an ambitious industrialization program to transform Ghana into a modern, socialist state. He implemented several large-scale projects, including the construction of the Akosombo Dam to provide hydroelectric power, which created Lake Volta, one of the world's largest artificial lakes. Nkrumah's push for industrialization aimed at making Ghana self-sufficient and less dependent on foreign aid and imports. However, these projects were expensive and contributed to the country's growing debt and economic difficulties. Kwame Nkrumah was an ardent advocate of Pan-Africanism and played a pivotal role in the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, which sought to promote unity and solidarity among African states. Nkrumah's vision for the OAU was to create a united Africa with a common defense system, a single currency, and a unified foreign policy. Although the OAU did not fully realize Nkrumah's vision, it was an important step towards cooperation among African nations and a precursor to the modern-day African Union. Nkrumah's tenure was marked by an authoritarian turn, as he sought to consolidate power to implement his vision for Ghana and Africa. He introduced the Preventive Detention Act, which allowed for imprisonment without trial for up to five years, and his government became increasingly intolerant of dissent. In 1964, Ghana was declared a one-party state with Nkrumah as the life president. His growing authoritarianism, along with economic problems, led to disenchantment among the populace and within the military. Kwame Nkrumah's presidency came to an abrupt end on February 24, 1966, when while on a state visit to North Vietnam and China, his government was overthrown in a military coup led by the National Liberation Council. The coup was attributed to a variety of factors, including economic mismanagement, political repression, and Nkrumah's perceived neglect of domestic affairs in favor of his Pan-African agenda. Following the coup, Nkrumah lived in exile in Guinea, where he was welcomed by President Sékou Touré and given the title of honorary co-president. While in exile, Nkrumah continued to write and speak about the African condition, publishing several works that expanded on his Pan-African ideology. His books, such as 'Africa Must Unite', 'Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism', and 'Class Struggle in Africa', are considered essential readings for understanding the post-colonial African political landscape and the challenges of neocolonialism. His writings have left a lasting intellectual legacy and continue to inspire Pan-African thought and movements. Kwame Nkrumah passed away on April 27, 1972, in Bucharest, Romania, while receiving treatment for cancer. His legacy as a visionary leader and a champion for African independence and unity remains influential. In 2000, BBC listeners voted him Africa's man of the millennium, recognizing his impact on African politics and the global perception of Africa. Nkrumah's life and work have been celebrated in Ghana and across Africa, and his birthday is observed as a public holiday in Ghana, known as Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Day.