

CANADA AND GHANA FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE

Name

Course

Instructor

Location

Date

Canada and Ghana were both given independence by Great Britain. Canada had a rough past fighting for independence like every country that was controlled by the British. In 1860, Canada wanted to have full independence like any other British Colony. On the other hand, Ghana also had a rough patch as it fought for freedom from the hands of the British before being full independence in 1957. For that reason, both nations embraced different ways with an aim to gain independence from Britain. Both Canada and Ghana used collaboration as a way of gaining independence from the British. For the case of Canada, the leaders urged the public to collaborate as a way of protesting the exploitation of the economy from the British. On the other hand, Ghana used leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah to unite people to discourage the activities of the British in their land.¹

Another comparison between the two nation's ways to fight for independence is their leaders. Canada had leaders such as John McDonald and George Cartier who triggered the nation's efforts to fight for independence through uniting provinces and confederations. For the case of Ghana, leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah and J.B Danquah encouraged the public to form unions and join with an aim to regain back their land, freedom and resources back. Based on the contrast, Canada did not use violence, weapons and demonstrations while Ghana heavily depended on them. This was the main difference between the two nations. As such, Ghana registered many deaths through demonstrations while Canada used peaceful methods to fight for their independence.

One leading cause of giving Canada its independence was the passage of the British North American Act. After two years, Canada was in a position to acquire many vast

¹ Boadu, Gideon. "Change and continuity in Ghana's intellectual history: From late 19th century to the eras of decolonisation and independence." *African Studies* (2018): 1-20.

possessions, especially around the Hudson Bay Company. After a decade, Canada had fully earned provinces such as the Prince Edward Island and Manitoba hence nearing to gain its full independence. On the other hand, the leading cause that led to the British giving Ghana full independence were the efforts of Kwame Nkrumah to issue the British a white paper that had the nation's proposals of governance. As a result, the British promised to grant them full independence as long as they would hold a general election and form a stable government.²

The type of government that was established in Canada was a constitutional monarchy. It was governed by branches such as the judiciary, executive and legislative. Ghana was ruled by the British using a democratic type of government in which the public was allowed to exercise their rights and freedom freely. Again, the former colonies are successful in terms of the economic and political aspects. Ghana enjoys stable leadership that has allowed it to expand its economy hence eliminating poverty. Canada is also stable being one of the largest nations in the globe since it enjoys good governance and a vast market share.³

For the case of Ghana, there was violence during the move towards independence since massacres and demonstrations were the order of the day. This was not the case for Canada since they did not consider violence and demonstrations. As such, they used methods such as confederations and influential leaders to fight for their independence. One consequence of giving Canada its independence is economic freedom. Canada had a lot of goods that were formerly exploited by the British hence destabilizing the economy. Full independence ensured that Canada was able to export products and introduce local markets.

² Mackesy, Piers. "British Strategy in the War of American Independence." In *Revolutions in the Western World 1775–1825*, pp. 87-105. Routledge, 2017.

³ Joyal, Serge, and Judith Seidman, eds. *Reflecting on Our Past and Embracing Our Future: A Senate Initiative for Canada*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019.

Ghana gained political freedom, suggesting that it was responsible for all its government actions in the economic and social sectors.

One problem that Canada faced after it was given independence is lack of flexibility. It took a lot of time for Canada to be able to efficiently run government independently because it lacked political know-how. Ghana was faced with challenges such as lack of infrastructure and social amenities since the British withdrew its services and help. Also, Britain supported Canada by allowing fur and timber as a way of allowing people to make their lives easy. Although the British controlled most of the trade, people were allowed to trade to get basic needs. The British supported Ghana by providing them with social amenities such as health, food, clothing as well as infrastructure.⁴

Despite both Canada and Ghana having full independence and freedom, they still experience some problems up to date. Ghana is heavily faced with corruption and fraud scandals in many of its sectors. This has affected the development of the economy hence subjecting the public to more problems. For the case of Canada, one problem that is common is racial discrimination. This is a common issue that has distracted and discouraged investors and tourists from visiting the country. For that reason, economic, social and political developments are stagnated hence affecting the entire nation.

⁴ Mensah, Eric Opoku. "Pan Africanism and civil religious performance: Kwame Nkrumah and the independence of Ghana." *Journal of Pan African Studies* 9, no. 4 (2016): 47-65.

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