Ghanaian Foreign Policy and Western Influence

Research Simulation Task | Grades 6–12

Nonalignment Development and Sovereignty

Historical focus 1957–1966 with a later constitutional comparison

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

Central Investigation

To what extent could Ghana pursue an independent foreign policy while relying on foreign finance and facing Cold War pressure? Develop a claim using at least three sources, including a Ghanaian perspective and a U.S. record. Explain one limitation of your evidence.

Objective

Analyze Ghanaian foreign policy goals and evaluate how foreign finance, diplomacy, and pressure shaped the choices available to Ghana.

Demonstration of Learning

Answer 15 multiple choice questions and write a RACE argument with evidence from at least three sources and one explained limitation.

Standards and Literacy Connections

NJSLS Social Studies 6.2.12.HistoryCC.5.d examines colonial legacies in national and economic development. 6.2.12.GeoGI.5.a connects geography, economics, and Cold War spheres of influence. Grades 6–8 apply inquiry practices through a supported enrichment case; these content codes are high school expectations.

NJSLS ELA RI.CR.6.1, RI.PP.6.5, RI.AA.6.7, and W.AW.6.1 anchor evidence, perspective, claims, and argument. Apply corresponding grade expectations for Grades 7–12. CCSS / CCLS RH.6–8.1, RH.9–10.1, RH.11–12.1 and WHST.6–8.1, WHST.9–10.1, WHST.11–12.1 connect evidence and disciplinary writing.

Interdisciplinary and Amistad Connections

History and civics examine African agency and sovereignty. Geography traces global relationships. Mathematics analyzes project funding. Science examines river flow and hydroelectric energy. ELA compares Ghanaian and U.S. perspectives. Days 1–4 build evidence; Day 5 is the assessment.

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Day 1 Ghana Defines Its Own Position

Do Now Can accepting investment and protecting independence be compatible? Explain.

Source A Ghana Defines Its Own Position

Nkrumah to President Lyndon Johnson, February 26, 1964. Original instructional summary of a primary source. [1]

In a 1964 letter to U.S. President Lyndon Johnson, Kwame Nkrumah defended Ghana's right to decide its own course. He described nonalignment as maintaining relations across political systems without becoming a tool of great power rivalry. Cooperation did not require Ghana to adopt another government's ideology.

Nkrumah also defended a larger public role in the economy while welcoming foreign investors under negotiated terms. He wanted investment to contribute to health, education, housing, and living standards. These goals connected diplomacy with decisions about who would benefit from economic development.

The letter challenged American conduct as well as explaining Ghanaian aims. Nkrumah accused the CIA of damaging relations through clandestine activity. The letter establishes that he made this accusation and regarded outside interference as a threat. Evaluating particular covert operations requires corroborating records. As a diplomatic appeal, the letter sought to persuade Johnson; it was not an independent audit of Ghana's government.

"Ghana welcomes foreign investors in a spirit of partnership"

Brief primary source excerpt. Read the full record using the reference number.

Quick Write How did Nkrumah connect foreign investment to Ghanaian public needs? Use two details.

Exit Ticket Name one claim the letter establishes and one claim requiring corroboration.

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