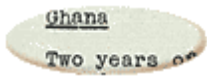
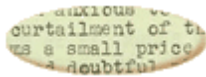


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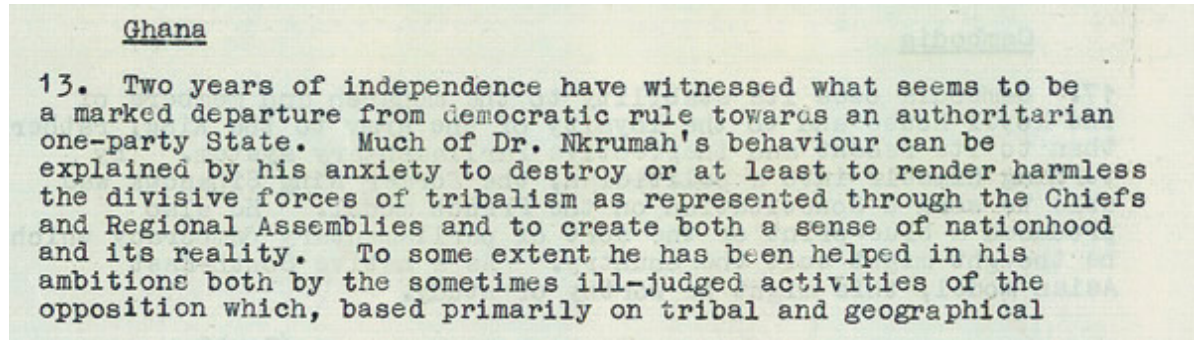
SOURCE FIVE

[Transcript](#) | [Useful notes](#)Extract from a report on democracy in Ghana in 1959
(PRO ref: CAB 21/4571)

5a



5b



How to use this source

1 Study this source carefully. Ask yourself whether the source supports or contradicts the view that:

- The British left as soon as the people wanted them to
- The British left because of the actions of important individuals
- The British were forced out by peaceful political protests
- The British were forced out by armed resistance
- The British wanted to leave because the area was causing them problems
- The British left because they felt the country was ready to rule itself democratically

2 If you were an **admirer** of the British empire, explain whether you would be able to use this source to support your viewpoint.3 If you were a **critic** of the British empire, explain whether you would be able to use this source to support your viewpoint.[Background](#) | [Worksheet](#)[Feedback](#) | [Credits](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Help](#)[Glossary](#) | [World Maps](#)



Source 5a

Extract from a report on democracy in Ghana in 1959
(PRO ref: CAB 21/4571)

Ghana

13. Two years of independence have witnessed what seems to be a marked departure from democratic rule towards an authoritarian one-party State. Much of Dr. Nkrumah's behaviour can be explained by his anxiety to destroy or at least to render harmless the divisive forces of tribalism as represented through the Chiefs and Regional Assemblies and to create both a sense of nationhood and its reality. To some extent he has been helped in his ambitions both by the sometimes ill-judged activities of the opposition which, based primarily on tribal and geographical



Source 5b

Extract from a report on democracy in Ghana in 1959
(PRO ref: CAB 21/4571)

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differences, has unrealistically sought federal safeguards to protect its interests; and again by certain entrenched clauses in the constitution bequeathed to him, which, however laudable their object of safeguarding the rights of minorities, have appeared to be an obstacle to the unitary state and thus expendable. Dr. Nkrumah is passionately anxious to build himself up as the voice of Africa before he is overshadowed by a newly independent Nigeria. By turning Ghanaian eyes outwards towards the goal of Pan-Africanism, he has been anxious to enhance his reputation as a father-figure; the curtailment of the personal liberties of those opposing him, seems a small price to pay for putting Ghana on the map. It is indeed doubtful whether any future election would be allowed to go against Dr. Nkrumah. This does not necessarily mean that the cause of democracy in Ghana is lost for good: or indeed that it was the best type of government for Ghana in its early years of independence.