***1482***- Portuguese set up trading settlement.

[**Continue reading the main story**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13434226#story_continues_1)

**Kwame Nkrumah**

Independence leader was an advocate of Pan-Africanism

**1874**- British proclaim coastal area a crown colony.

**1925**- First legislative council elections take place.

**1957**March - Ghana becomes independent with Kwame Nkrumah as prime minister.

**1960**- Ghana proclaimed a republic; Nkrumah elected president.

**1964**- Ghana becomes a one-party state.

**1966**- Nkrumah overthrown in military coup; Russian and Chinese technicians expelled.

**1969**- New constitution facilitates transfer of power to civilian government led by Kofi Busia.

**1972**- Busia ousted in military coup led by Colonel Ignatius Acheampong.

[**Continue reading the main story**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13434226#story_continues_2)

**Fallen hero**

Kwame Nkrumah's toppled statue symbolised his leadership of Ghana

[**Leader's vision for Africa**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/highlights/000914_nkrumah.shtml)

**1978**- Acheampong forced to resign; General Frederick Akuffo takes over.

**Rawlings era**

**1979**- Akuffo deposed in coup led by Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings. Acheampong and Akuffo executed.

**1979**September - Rawlings hands over power to an elected president, Hilla Limann.

**1981**- Limann ousted in military coup led by Rawlings after two years of weak government and economic stagnation.

**1983**- Rawlings adopts conservative economic policies, abolishing subsidies and price controls, privatising many state enterprises and devaluing the currency.

**1992**- Referendum approves new constitution introducing a multiparty system. Rawlings elected president.

**1994**- One thousand people are killed and a further 150,000 are displaced in the Northern Region following ethnic clashes between the Konkomba and the Nanumba over land ownership.

Jerry Rawlings, r, seen with US President Bill Clinton, came to power in a coup but won subsequent elections

**1994**June - Seven ethnic groups involved in violence in Northern Region sign peace agreement.

**1995**- Government imposes curfew in Northern Region as renewed ethnic violence results in a further 100 deaths.

**1996**- Jerry Rawlings re-elected president.

**Kufuor elected**

**2000**- December - John Kufuor beats Vice-President John Atta Mills in the presidential election.

**2001**February - Petrol prices rise by 60% following the government's decision to remove fuel subsidies.

**2001**April - Ghana accepts debt relief under a scheme designed by the World Bank and the IMF.

**2001**May - National day of mourning after football stadium stampede leaves 126 dead. Inquiry blames police for overreacting to crowd trouble.

**2001**June - Government scraps public holiday celebrating Rawling's military coup in an effort to wipe out the legacy of his rule.

**2001**June - Floods hit Accra, causing 10 deaths and forcing 100,000 to flee their homes.

**2002**April - State of emergency is declared in the north after a tribal chief and more than 30 others are killed in clan violence. State of emergency is lifted in August 2004.

**2002**May - President Kufuor inaugurates reconciliation commission to look into human rights violations during military rule.

**2003**October - Government approves merger of two gold-mining firms, creating new gold-mining giant.

**2004**February - Former President Jerry Rawlings testifies at commission investigating human rights offences during the early years of his rule.

**2004**October - Group of current and former military personnel detained on suspicion of planning to destabilise government ahead of elections.

**2004**December - Presidential poll: Incumbent John Kufuor wins a second term.

**2005**April-May - Thousands of Togolese refugees arrive, fleeing political violence in their home country.

**2006**April - A boat capsizes on Lake Volta reservoir; more than 100 passengers are feared drowned.

**2006**June - Visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao promises to lend Ghana about $66m to fund development projects. He is on an African tour aimed at opening new export markets for China's booming economy and at securing energy and mineral supplies.

**2007**March - Ghana celebrates 50 years of independence from Britain.

**Oil discovered**

**2007**June - Major off-shore oil discovery announced. President Kufuor says oil will turn Ghana into an "African tiger".

**2007**September - The worst floods for more than 30 years cause widespread devastation, destroying much of the annual harvest.

**2007**December - President Kufuor says off-shore oil reserves total 3 billion barrels.

**2008**December - John Atta Mills elected president.

**2009**July - US President Barack Obama visits.

Ghana secures a $600m three-year loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

President Mills ceremonially launches Ghana's oil production

**2009**October - Controversy over sale of national communications network Ghana Telecom, allegedly for less that it was worth.

**2010**December - Offshore oil production begins.

**2011**July - President John Atta Mills chosen as ruling National Democratic Congress party's candidate for the 2012 presidential election, defeating Nana Konadu Agyemang-Rawlings, wife of former President Jerry Rawlings.

**2011**August - UK-based oil exploration company Tullow Oil, says it will spend at least $4bn to develop oil fields off the coast of Ghana.

**2012**June - Thousands are displaced by communal violence in the east, sparked by the exhumation of the body of a Muslim cleric.

**2012**July - President Mills dies. John Mahama becomes interim head of state.