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TITLE: AFRICAN LIBERATION AND UNITY IN NKRUMAH'S GHANA (1957-1966)

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ABSTRACT:

Nkrumah's Ghana had a strong influence on African politics thanks to its radical Pan-African policy. Between 1957 and 1966, Accra supported nationalist parties throughout the continent and it also advocated a project for a continental union government. In Ghana, special institutions were established for implementing its Pan-African policy. The Bureau of African Affairs – an office conceived by Nkrumah and George Padmore – was the most important of these institutions and it worked for years to provide political and military training to freedom fighters and to spread Pan-Africanism in the continent. At the Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institute of Winneba – another "Pan-African" institution of Ghana - African nationalists were also taught in politics, administration and military tactics. This paper presents the result of a four-years long research on Ghana's Pan-African policy with special reference to the history of its institutions. This research project is based on new sources which had become avaible in the last years. Furthermore, it tries also to provide a detached outlook on the history of Nkrumah's foreign policy, a subject which had been strongly influenced by ideological visions, especially in the years of the Cold War.

AUTHOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Matteo Grilli is a Ph.D. Student in History at the University of Pavia and the University of Leiden (Joint Ph.D. Agreement). He studies primarily the history of Ghana. His first research was about the history of the Italian community in Ghana. Now, he is studying the history of the Pan-African policies of Nkrumah's Government.