

I'm not a bot





The Watson Commission was set up in March 1948 to investigate the disturbances that occurred in the Gold Coast in February and March 1948. The commission's purpose was to enquire into the recent disturbances, their underlying causes, and make recommendations on any matter arising from the enquiry. The Accra riots of 1948, which erupted against the backdrop of rising commodity prices and economic hardship, saw widespread anger among colonials across major towns like Accra and Kumasi. Nii Kobina Bonney III, the chief of Osu Alata, had been organizing a boycott of European goods to protest these issues. However, tensions escalated further after a police shooting at Christiansborg crossroads, resulting in the deaths of three ex-servicemen. This event sparked outrage among locals, who took to the streets to express their frustration with the colonial government. The Watson Commission's findings highlighted several key causes of the riots: economic hardships, including shortages and high prices; dissatisfaction with foreign domination of the economy; destruction of cocoa trees affected by disease without farmer consultation or compensation; inadequate educational and healthcare facilities; unemployment and housing problems; poor treatment of ex-servicemen; racial discrimination in the civil service; limited African representation in government; and disappointment over the 1946 constitutional reforms. The Accra riots had significant effects on Ghana's political landscape. The 'Big Six' - Kwame Nkrumah, J.B. Danquah, Obetsebi Lamptey, Ako Adjei, Edward Akuffo Addo, and William Ofori Atta - were arrested but turned into national heroes, boosting their political fortunes. The riots also increased political awareness among Ghanaians and prompted the colonial government to speed up constitutional reforms. Following the Watson Commission, another committee, the Coussey Committee, quickly took over, resulting in the adoption of the 1950 Coussey Constitution, also known as the Arden Clarke constitution, which came into effect on January 1st, 1951. The 1948 Accra riots played a significant role in accelerating Ghana's journey towards self-rule. These riots paved the way for the February 1951 general elections, where Nkrumah and his CPP, despite being imprisoned, swept 34 out of 38 popularly elected seats in the Legislative Assembly. This led to Nkrumah forming the first Ghanaian government as Leader of Government Business and later becoming Prime Minister in 1952. The Accra riots marked a turning point in Ghana's political history. Just under a decade after these events, Ghana gained independence in March 1957, becoming the first African nation south of the Sahara to do so.

Why was the Watson Commission established? Why was the Watson Commission formed? What is the Watson Commission? History of the Watson Commission. Discuss why the Watson Commission was set up. What were the findings of the Watson Commission? Was the setting up of the Watson Commission even important?