

Penguin Dictionary of  
Politics.  
by Florence Elliott.  
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forces in 1945, and the unconditional surrender of all German forces was accepted on 8 May 1945. Under the Berlin Declaration of June 1945 and the Potsdam Agreement, *q.v.*, of August 1945, the country was divided into four Zones and occupied by the forces of France, the U.K., the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R., respectively. Special arrangements were made for Berlin, *q.v.* The four powers were unable to agree upon common policies for Germany as a whole, and there were differing political and economic developments in the Russian Zone, or Eastern Germany, *q.v.*, on the one hand, and in the British, French, and U.S. Zones, or Western Germany, *q.v.*, on the other hand. As power was gradually transferred to the Germans by the occupying forces, two rival governments emerged. In 1949 the German Democratic Republic in the east and the German Federal Republic in the west were established. In 1955 the two Republics became sovereign and independent.

**Gerrymandering.** A reorganization of electoral districts to gain some advantage in a forthcoming election. When Elbridge Gerry was Governor of Massachusetts in 1812, the state legislature divided Essex County into two districts with borders so drawn as to give the maximum advantage to the Republican Party. On a map one of the districts, with pencilled additions, looked like a salamander, and the expression 'to gerrymander' was coined. It should be distinguished from the reorganization of electoral districts which is sometimes essential to ensure that every parliamentary representative speaks for approximately the same number of voters, and which is known as redistribution, *q.v.*

**Gestapo.** The Geheime Staatspolizei, or German secret police, which became an official body immediately after Adolf Hitler and the Nazis came to power in 1933. Its task was to discover and punish the opponents of Nazism; its agents became members of many illegal anti-Nazi organizations which were subsequently dissolved. Although the Gestapo came to an end with the collapse of the Nazi régime in 1945, the term is often used to describe secret police forces or methods characteristic of the Gestapo.

**Ghana.** A republic and member of the British Commonwealth; area 92,100 sq. m.; population (1967) 8,143,000, living in the Central Region, the Eastern and Western Regions (formerly the Gold Coast Colony), the Northern Region (formerly the Northern Territories), the Ashanti Region (formerly Ashanti), the Volta Region, the former British-administered Trusteeship Territory of Togoland, *q.v.*, the Upper and Brong-Ahafo Regions and the Greater Accra District; capital Accra.

Ghana was a West African empire which existed from the third to the thirteenth century, though it never included the area now known by that name. The U.K. eventually assumed control of the trading settlement in the region from the Danes and the Dutch in 1820, and the coastal strip was constituted as a colony in 1874. Ashanti and the Northern Territories were brought into the administrative area of the Governor of the Colony in 1901. As a result of a plebiscite in May 1956 authorized by the United Nations, the British-administered part of the Trusteeship Territory of Togoland was integrated into the Gold Coast Colony which became an independent state on 6 March 1957. A republic was declared on 1 July 1960. For a few months in 1961 Ghana was party to a Union of African States with Guinea and Mali.

The Constitution of 1960 provided for an elected legislative assembly of 104 members, chosen for five years, and 10 specially elected women members. The Regions each had a House of Chiefs which selected its own President, except in Ashanti where the Asantahene was to be the Head. Executive authority was vested in the President of the Republic. Kwame Nkrumah, *q.v.*, leader of the Convention People's Party (C.P.P.) which came to power as a non-Communist left-wing group in 1950, retaining its political dominance at the elections in 1956 in which it won 71 seats, became first President of Ghana. A referendum in January 1964 approved the creation of a one-party state, the C.P.P. being the one party, and authorized Dr Nkrumah to dismiss Supreme Court and High Court judges at his discretion.

During 1965 a serious economic crisis developed. The former favourable dollar and sterling balances, built up from the export of cocoa, gold, manganese, timber and diamonds, had been absorbed by uncompleted capital projects and heavy investment in schools, hospitals and public services. Nearly £250 million was owed to overseas creditors, including the World Bank, the U.K. and the U.S.A. which had financed development schemes such as the Volta river aluminium and power project. There was a large budget deficit and the world price of cocoa, which is Ghana's most important export, fell, and did not begin to recover until 1967. Dr Nkrumah abandoned his previous policy of non-alignment, established close associations with the Communist powers, and accepted substantial economic and financial aid from the U.S.S.R. in particular. He meanwhile consolidated his personal position by appointing C.P.P. members to high office in the army and police force.

On 24 February 1966 a *coup d'état* by disaffected elements in the