

Asante Kingdom

According to the historian, Dr. J.B. Dankwa, the Asante Kingdom, located in Central Republic of Ghana, was established by the Akan People as a unified confederation, in the 17th century. However, the history of the Akan People predates thousands of years, when the Akan People migrated from Mesopotamia, across the Sahara Desert, to the Western Sudan (West Africa). Prior to departing Mesopotamia, the Akan shared the same boundaries and stock as the Israelites. As the migration advanced, the Akan formed the Ancient Ghana Empire (present day Mauritania); then, centuries later, continued a southward migration to present day location, in search for more suitable agricultural land, religious freedom, and to escape wars. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Asante Empire was renowned for fiercely resisting European domination, which culminated in seven wars against the British Empire. The Asikadwa, or Gold Stool is believed to embody the soul of the Asante nation, living, dead, and yet to be born,

Since the establishment of the Asante Kingdom, there have been 16 Asantehene (Kings) and 14 Ahemaa (Queen Mothers). The present day occupant of the Asikadwa (Gold Stool) is Otumfuo Osei Tutu II (top photo). The present day Queen Mother is Nana Amma Konadu Yiadom III. Historically, a Queen Mother is a close blood relative of the Asantehene (mother, sister, etc). Ascension of an Asantehene to the Asikadwa is by the matrilineal bloodline, meaning by the Queen Mother's descendent (i.e., son, grandson, nephew).



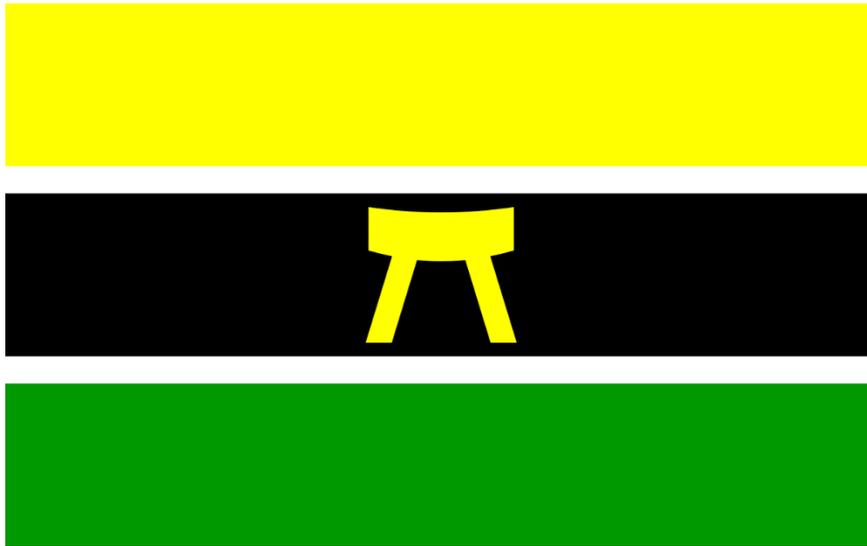
Otumfuo Osei Tutu II



The Golden Stool



Nana Amma Konadu Yiadom III



Asante flag is comprised of a gold bar, symbolizing gold wealth, a black stripe, symbolizing unity, a green stripe symbolizing mineral wealth, and at the center, the Asikadwa (Gold Stool), symbolizing the absolute monarchy and inherent (soul of the people) (Second photo). The primary language spoken across the Asante Empire is Twi/Fanta. Today, the Akan People form 25% of the total present day population of Ghana. The Kingdom consists of five clans (Okoyo/Adako, Ekoona, Asenie, Aduana, Asakyire, Asona, Agona and Bretuo), 70 paramountcy, and is spread across the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Volta, and Eastern Regions. Each paramountcy comprises 30 to 80,000 people.



Map Source: Edenbergh Geographical Institute, circa 1806

The Manhyia Palace

The Manhyia Palace (Ahanafie) (shown in photo gallery) is located in the city of Kumasi, Ghana, and was built in 1925, after the return of Asantehene (King) Agyema Prempeh I from exile to the Seychelle Islands (1894-1924 AD). Prempeh I was exiled by the British, due to the fierce resistance to colonization. The palace includes a Palace Museum that is available to the visiting public. The palace museum was dedicated in 1995 by Asantehene Otumfuo Okpoko Ware II to commemorate Asante History and culture. The Museum contains open verandas, fountains, and courtyard. The lower floor has been preserved as it was during the reign of Asantehene Otumfuo Agyeman Prempeh II, and includes his library VIP room, Great Hall, Artifacts, and sketch map of the Asante Empire, a gift shop/bookstore. For more information, see <https://manhyiapalace.org/>

Sources,

Otumfuo Opoku, Ware Jubilee Foundation, A Guide to Manhyia Palace Museum, 2019

Osei Kwadwo, An Outline of Asante History Parts 1 and II, , 2004