

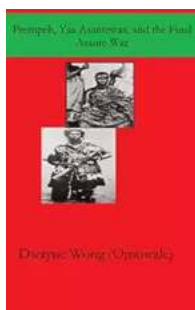
# Prempeh Yaa Asantewaa And The Final Asante War

When we think of heroes and heroines who fought valiantly to protect their land and people, one name that cannot go unnoticed is that of Prempeh Yaa Asantewaa. She was a courageous Queen Mother of Ejisu in the Ashanti Empire, now modern-day Ghana. Yaa Asantewaa's legacy is etched in history, primarily known for leading the Asante military against British colonial forces during the final Asante War in 1900.

## Understanding the Asante Kingdom

The Ashanti Empire, also referred to as the Asante Kingdom, was a powerful West African state that emerged in the late 17th century. The Asante people were known for their rich cultural heritage, complex political system, and skilled Kente weavers. The Kingdom prospered through trade in gold, ivory, and slaves, which contributed to its considerable wealth and influence.

However, in the late 19th century, the British began to expand their colonial territories in Africa, aiming to control vital resources and establish dominance. The Ashanti Empire stood in the way of their objectives, leading to tensions and conflicts between the Asante and the British.



## Prempeh, Yaa Asantewaa, and the Final Asante War

by Dwayne Wong (Omowale)(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 628 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 20 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## **The Final Asante War Begins**

In 1896, the British invaded the Asante Kingdom and exiled Prempeh I, the reigning king at the time. He was sent into exile in the Seychelles, leaving a void in leadership within the empire. The British Governor of the Gold Coast, Frederick Hodgson, attempted to impose direct British rule and dismantle the traditional Asante governance system.

This oppressive action didn't sit well with the Asante people, who began to harbor feelings of discontent and desire for independence. The decline of their once prosperous kingdom and the oppressive British rule pushed them to a boiling point. The Asante became determined to confront the British and regain their autonomy.

## **Yaa Asantewaa: The Fearless Leader**

In the face of adversity, Yaa Asantewaa emerged as the charismatic and fearless leader, rallying the Asante people to stand up against British colonialism. She was chosen by the Ejisu court to lead the Asante military and protect their freedom from oppressive forces.

Yaa Asantewaa's leadership and revolutionary spirit spread like wildfire, not only throughout the Ashanti Empire but across the whole of Ghana. She

motivated both men and women to join the resistance and fight for their homeland.

Yaa Asantewaa famously proclaimed:



***“Now, I have seen that some of you fear to go forward to fight for our king. If it were the brave days of Osei Tutu, Okomfo Anokye, and Opoku Ware, chiefs would not sit down to see their king taken away without firing a shot. No white man could have dared to speak to a Chief of the Ashanti in the way the Governor spoke to you chiefs this morning. Is it true, then, that the bravery of the Ashanti is no more? I cannot believe it. It cannot be! I must say this: if you, the men of Ashanti, will not go forward, then we will. We, the women, will. I shall call upon my fellow women. We will fight the white men. We will fight till the last of us falls in the battlefields.”***

## **The Legacy Lives On**

Yaa Asantewaa's call to arms ignited the spirit of resistance in the Asante people, resulting in the final Asante War. Though ultimately suppressed by the superior British firepower, Yaa Asantewaa's unwavering determination and courage remain an emblem of strength and resilience.

Her legacy is revered in Ghana, and her story continues to inspire future generations. Today, a statue of Yaa Asantewaa stands in Kumasi, Ghana, as a symbol of resistance and a reminder of the bravery exhibited during the final Asante War.

Prempeh Yaa Asantewaa is a heroine who defied societal norms and stood up against oppression. Her leadership during the final Asante War etched her name in history and solidified her place as an icon of resistance and courage.

Yaa Asantewaa's bravery serves as a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Asante people and their unwavering fight for freedom. Her legacy remains an integral part of Ghanaian history, a reminder of the sacrifices made in pursuit of independence.

As we reflect on the final Asante War and the remarkable individuals who shaped it, let us not forget the extraordinary Queen Mother, Prempeh Yaa Asantewaa, whose bravery echoes through the centuries, inspiring us to stand up for what we believe in and fight for justice.



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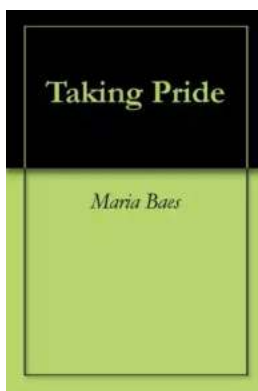
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In the history of European colonization of Africa, the Asante people stand out as putting up the longest resistance. From 1807 to 1900, the Asante

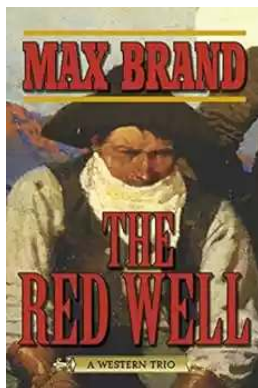
fought a number of wars with the British. This short ebook details the last of these wars, focusing particularly on two important figures from this final war; Prempeh, the last independent ruler of the Asante kingdom, and Yaa Asantewaa, a warrior and queen who led her people into their final war against the British colonizers.

This essay along with others is included in “Africa-Man: A Collection of Pan-African Writings.”



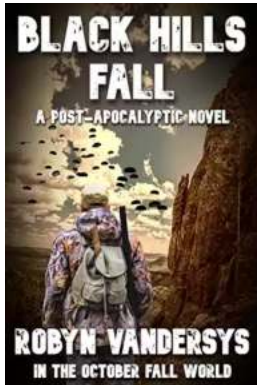
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