

## **“Gold Mining and the Development of Obuasi in Adanse”**

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Mining, particularly gold mining has had a long history in Africa. West Africa in particular has been a major gold mining area for many centuries with activities dating back to the beginning of the fifth century. The earliest available records indicate that the forest people of modern Ghana mined gold for several centuries before the Portuguese landed on the West Coast of Africa. Until the late nineteenth century, mining in modern Ghana was wholly an African activity. Using a simple but effective technology, gold miners in Ghana kept North Africa, Asia and Europe supplied with enormous quantities of gold. The focus of the early Atlantic traders in Ghana was gold. Until the eighteenth century when the slave trade supplanted the gold trade, gold mining was the dominant activity of the Akan people of Ghana.

The advent of colonialism and introduction of scientific mining in Ghana during the last decade of the nineteenth century enabled European mining companies to gain over the mining industry. This effectively excluded Africans from participation in the gold mining industry except as labourers and artisans. This has disrupted the indigenous gold mining industry both in the short and long term, raising questions as to what impact – either positive or negative – the mining sector has made. This paper examines the positive and negative impacts of scientific mining on the people of Obuasi in Adanse (in modern-day Ghana) from the latter part of the nineteenth century up to 1960.