# The Anglo-Asante Treaty of 1817: A Landmark in British-Asante Relations



#### The Anglo-Asante Treaty of 1817 by Dushan Wegner

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The Anglo-Asante Treaty of 1817 was a landmark agreement between the British Empire and the Asante Kingdom. The treaty established peace and trade relations between the two powers and had a profound impact on the history of West Africa.

#### **Background**

The Asante Kingdom was a powerful state in West Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries. The kingdom was founded in the early 1700s and by the late 1700s, it had become one of the most powerful states in the region. The Asante were skilled warriors and traders, and they controlled a vast empire that stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the interior of West Africa.

The British Empire was also a major power in West Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries. The British had established a number of trading posts and colonies along the coast of West Africa, and they were eager to expand their influence in the region.

In 1817, the British and Asante came into conflict over the control of the coastal town of Cape Coast. The British had established a trading post at Cape Coast in the late 17th century, and they were determined to keep the town under their control. The Asante, however, also claimed the town as part of their empire.

#### **The Treaty**

In order to resolve the conflict over Cape Coast, the British and Asante agreed to negotiate a treaty. The treaty was signed on April 27, 1817, and it established peace and trade relations between the two powers.

The treaty had a number of provisions, including:

- The British agreed to recognize the Asante Kingdom as an independent state.
- The Asante agreed to cede the town of Cape Coast to the British.
- The two powers agreed to establish trade relations between their respective territories.
- The British agreed to provide military assistance to the Asante if they were attacked by another power.

#### **Impact of the Treaty**

The Anglo-Asante Treaty of 1817 had a profound impact on the history of West Africa. The treaty established peace and trade relations between the two powers, and it helped to stabilize the region.

The treaty also had a significant impact on the Asante Kingdom. The treaty gave the Asante international recognition, and it helped to legitimize their rule. The treaty also gave the Asante access to new markets and technologies, which helped to boost their economy.

The Anglo-Asante Treaty of 1817 is a landmark agreement in the history of British-Asante relations. The treaty established peace and trade relations between the two powers, and it had a profound impact on the history of West Africa.



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