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grantor. Applied to the Ahafo lands this meant that the grants of lands were made subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions, though, as we have said, distinguished military service in the Abiri Moro war had determined the grant in the first place. Clearly the chiefs who were granted these lands were at least expected to continue to render military service. The Asantehene also retained hunting rights in these lands. A Kumasi chief was expected to send shots and powder to the Adikro, village chiefs under him, who organized hunting expeditions and periodically sent venison to the Kumasi chief and the Asantehene. The Asantehene was already entitled to shares in the larger animals killed; such as the skin and tusks of the elephant. Until recently these rights were commuted to shares in revenues. Theoretically the caretakership of any of these lands could be withdrawn from a chief by an Asantehene.

My concern is not with the generally known point that Ghanaian stools (skins) acquired 'paramount...sometimes called absolute, final, radical or alloidal' title to land (Ollenu, op.cit.4). I wish to suggest that there are indications and possibilities of feudalistic parallels in Ahafo land tenure that may have escaped attention even though this was not true of central Ashanti itself. It seems to me that a case exists for investigating further this category of hwesoni or caretaker landholding in Ahafo.

Kwame Arhin

SALAGA 1875-1900:

The history of Salaga in the last quarter of the nineteenth century epitomises the impact of European imperialism in Africa -- the breakdown of an African state and the pattern of trade which had been associated with it; the enforced opening-up of trade routes to European commerce; the recruitment of people from a remote area to form a Colonial constabulary; the Scramble for Africa; and the eventual establishment of European rule.

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Documents bearing on this history have been coming to light in the course of other work; many are in French, German, Arabic, Hausa; many are in obscure publications such as German and Swiss Geographical journals or mission magazines. To make them available for study, these documents are now being translated and cyclostyled, in the Institute of African Studies. It is intended eventually to publish a selection in a special volume of the Proceedings of the Historical Society of Ghana.

This work is being done in conjunction with Professor Ivor Wilks, and the co-operation of a number of scholars in the Institute of African Studies.

Marion Johnson

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