This study is an attempt to describe and analyse the Transformation of West African Foreign Policy: New Continental Orientation in Ghana. The study provide evidence that the recent changes of events is due mainly to the democratic reforms in the national and global economic, the new world order, including the end of the Cold War. This is done by continues comparisons of processes and activities of actors in my study of the changing political and economic conditions in West Africa, the emergence of "West Africa" foreign policy and diplomatic sub-system and the "case" of Ghana with this sub-system. The purpose of the present study provide the theoretical components by contrasting the "realist" theoretical approach and the "liberalist" theoretical approach and their interpretations of the determinants of a stable or less so regional security system. The empirical components of the study consists of (1) an overall description and analysis of the historical development of the Ghanaian foreign policy, (2) the historical description and analysis of the context of that policy, that is, of the international relations and peace/conflict in West Africa, (3) the assumed "turn" of the foreign policy development in the late 1980's with the civil war in Liberia and the related ECOWAS/ECOMOG operations, and (4) the economic development in Ghana and its impact on the Ghanaian foreign policy.

The study is based on a qualitative empirical research, on data collected from variety of sources. The study uses both documentary and interview data from the field. This includes a survey questionnaires and fellow up interviews, and in its analysis employs grounded theory approach. The study revealed that the West African foreign policy took a new turn that was precipitated by the Liberia civil war and it helped, on the one hand to re-enforced the emergence of a more stable security system, on the led to the subsuming of this foreign policy under the emerging institutional order of this security system. In respect to the role of Ghana, the changes of its foreign policy is not seen totally or predominantly determined by this interactive development, but due to the new orientation of Ghanaian national economic policies, which through the adoption of SAP, have their own international dimension.