

Lesson 4: Pan-Africanism

1. Video Lesson

2. Competencies

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- discuss the birth and development of the Pan-Africanism movement;
- identify the main leaders of the Pan-Africanism movement;
- explain the unique feature of the Fifth Pan-African movement of 1945 to Africa;

3. Brainstorming Questions

- What do we mean by “Pan-Africanism”?
- What makes the 5th Pan-African Conference different from the previous Pan-African Conferences?

5. Lesson Presentation

A. Pan-Africanism

Pan-Africanism is not only an expression of the desire for African unity, but also a sense of unity among all black peoples of African origin in Africa and elsewhere

It originated and developed outside the African continent by black people of African origin in the Americas. Afro-American people in the USA and the Caribbean were the first to introduce Pan-African ideas. These people of African origin in the “New World” were living in alien lands, and thus they felt they had been made homeless by their eviction from their countries of origin and forced to live in a social environment unknown and unfriendly to them. For many of them, Africa was a continent where black people lived in happiness and freedom

Congresses of Pan-Africanism

The first Pan-Africanism Conference was held in London in 1900. Before 1945, four Pan-African Conferences were held. The two prominent Pan-African leaders during that period were Dr. William Du Bois (1868-1963) and Marcus Garvey (1887-1940). Du Bois is referred to as the Father of Pan-Africanism. Du Bois believed that black people residing outside their mother continent should struggle to ensure their rights in their host countries. Contrary to this stand, Marcus Garvey insisted that the only bright future for people of African origin living outside Africa was to return to their mother continent, Africa. To materialize this dream, Garvey organized the so called “Back to Africa Movement.” The Universal Negro Improvement

Association, established by Garvey in 1914, was meant to promote his “Back to Africa Movement.”

In 1945, the Fifth Pan-African Conference was held in Manchester. This conference was different from the previous Pan-African conferences in the sense that it was the first time that Africans from the African continent participated and the issue of independence of Africa was raised. Some of the participants of the Fifth Pan-African Conference were the future leaders of independent Africa, like Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya. The decisions of the Fifth Pan-African Conference brought Africans together in the struggle to achieve political independence.