**The Pan African Movement**

The Pan-African movement aimed to united African people all over the world as well as bring the continent of Africa to a state of independence. The movement started in the twentieth century, as the abolishment of slavery and the fight for civil rights waged in America. Black intellectuals called for the end of colonialism and African self-rule. The call for unity by Pan-Africanism encouraged nationalism among many Africans and helped many African countries become independent. Experts break the Pan-African movement into two main categories: Continental Pan-Africanism and Diaspora Pan-Africanism.

Continental Pan-Africanism sought to promote the unity of countries and people within the continent of Africa. Throughout the exploration age, European countries colonized African and imposed their customs and beliefs on native Africans. Over many years, this process of colonization created deep divisions between African peoples. Each country had different customs, loyalties, and beliefs. The Pan African movement tried to end these decisions and create unity. Establishing independence from European powers in Africa, the movement also tried to create a deep bond of nationalism among native Africans. Advocates of Continental Pan-Africanism, such as Marcus Garvey and Kwame Nkrumah, believed that Africa could become a continent of united countries under one common government and common goals. The Continental Pan-African movement claimed that if African countries could unify and organize, Africa could become a large world power.

Diaspora Pan-Africanism sought to create unity among black people Africans and people of black African descent outside the continent of Africa. In fact, the first people to support the idea of Pan-Africans were Africans who were living in *other* parts of the world, like the U.S.A. They felt all Africans, no matter where they lived, shared a bond with each other. Advocates of the Diaspora view believed that even though many blacks were taken from their homeland and forced into a life of slavery, there was still common bonds that united them as Africans. They believed that Africans should come together as a unique ethnicity to express their ideas and creativity. They also believed it was very important to support their ancestors’ homeland of Africa by providing money, education, and independence to its people.

The Pan African movement was important to bringing about the end of colonialism in Africa and to the development of the African Union (AU) because it rallied African nations to work together. Today, the AU works for African unity, peace, human rights, cooperation among African countries, and a thriving economy in Africa. While Pan-Africanism and nationalistic feelings helped end colonialism in Africa, it has done little to unify Africa or end the current problems faced by the people today.

