Pan Africanism
Pan Africanism:
The Philosophy that is based on the belief that African people share common bonds and objectives. They advocate unity to achieve these objectives.

Applies to:

- All African people (people of black African descent)
- All people on the African continent, including non-blacks
- All states on the African continent
Adopted as a rallying cry for independence movements from colonial rule (mid 20th century)

Union through political union or through international cooperation

Solidarity among Africans

The significance of this flag:
Red: The blood that unites all Africans
Green: The rich land of Africa
Black: The color of the African’s skin
Background

1. European contact with sub-Saharan Africa began in the mid 15th century Portuguese traders (gold, spices, ivory, and slaves)

2. Britain and France followed (slaves, colonies, spices)

3. 16th century sees an expansion of colonies and agriculture, especially in South Africa
Colonialism

1. Systematically degraded Africans, both slaves and residents of Europe’s African colonies

2. Slaves labored under cruel, dehumanizing, conditions for no pay or extremely low wages

3. African Diaspora - The dispersion of Africans throughout the world through the slave trade (denies cultural heritage)
The political systems of the indigenous African people were transformed:

African rulers were usually forced to act as pawns of the colonial administration.

Economic impact on Africans: agricultural commodities, mineral, and people were usually exported from the colonies to Europe and the New World rather than being used for the direct benefit of Africans.
The development of Pan-Africanism

1900: Henry Sylvester Williams - founder

-Lawyer from Trinidad organized a Pan-African conference in London

-Attracted a significant number of African participants

-Purpose of meeting was to protest the unequal treatment of blacks in the British colonies
W.E.B Dubois

- Co Founder of NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)
- 1st black to receive a doctorate from Harvard
- Raised concerns about the treatment of Black-Africans in WWI

- Status of former German colonial territories in Africa that were captured by Britain
- Lead Pan African conference in Paris (1919)

1. Agenda: The need for greater African participation in colonial affairs
2. The plight of the Africans and people of African descent throughout the world
3. Education of Africa
4. League of Nations was in favor of granting the territories self-determination as soon as possible
More Pan-African Conferences

-1921 (London, Brussels (Belgium), Paris)
-1923 (London, Lisbon (Portugal))
- 1927 (New York)

With each passing conference attendance gained
Sponsored by international labor movements
Inspired Marcus Garvey
Marcus Garvey

- United States - popular expression of the sentiments of African unity and redemption among working class blacks

- wished to see the repatriation of Blacks back to Africa (Back to Africa movement)
Malcolm X

- 1960s
- Nation of Islam
- Goes to Africa and comes back with the black power movement
- Declared “racial unity and self-reliance”
- Pan Africanism came to be regarded as the international expression of black power and Malcolm X as the American voice of Pan-Africanism
Other Civil Rights Movements

- Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
  (Stokley Carmichael.....coined the term Black Power)

- Black Panthers
The Hip Hop Movement and Pan-Africanism

- Block parties in the Bronx (1970s)
- DJs would isolate percussion (Jamaican immigrants)
- Since percussion breaks were usually short, DJs started adding record scratching, filler words
- Rapper’s Delight (Sugar Hill Gang)
Rapper’s Delight (1979)

i said a hip hop the hippie the hippie
to the hip hip hop, a you don’t stop
the rock it to the bang bang boogie say up jumped the boogie
to the rhythm of the boogie, the beat

now what you hear is not a test--i'm rappin to the beat
and me, the groove, and my friends are gonna try to move your feet
see i am wonder mike and i like to say hello
to the black, to the white, the red, and the brown, the purple and yellow
but first I gotta bang bang the boogie to the boogie
say up jump the boogie to the bang bang boogie
let's rock, you don’t stop
rock the riddle that will make your body rock
well so far you’ve heard my voice but i brought two friends along
and next on the mike is my man hank
come on, hank, sing that song
L. L. Cool J
1980s: Takes hip hop mainstream

Dr. Dre
1990s: Introduces “Gangsta rap”