

Colonialism and Independence in Africa Decolonization (Black Consciousness)

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Decolonization

Africa wanted to be in their own state of power. Decolonization is the process of a state removing itself from another colony in order to become independent. This tactic was going to be used in order to help African leaders gain political power even though they are currently under the European's rule. They were in the process of trying to shape the cultural, political and economic positions of the postcolonial state. Some Africans worked against the Europeans, while others worked with them in order to have a hold over the control of economic and political resources. Though decolonization did spark ideas, it failed to transform African economies and political structures.

Africa

- Africa was currently lacking things such as finances and training
- They were weak in obtaining European colonial strategies
- Decolonization was put in place for hope that they would be able to change Africa



The Cold War

- There was fear of having Soviet influence in Africa.
- Western powers saw African independence through the Cold War's lens.
- Through this, African leaders deciphered being pro-west or pro-east.
- As Africans sought out as nonaligned, politics of the Cold War blocked their freedom of shaping their paths.
- Though aid was given to African nations, Western European powers persuaded governments to support their tasks and to aid coups that went against democratically elected governments.
- Governments that went along the Cold War plan were ensured to remain in power.
- Anyone that went against the Cold War agenda was to be assassinated.

Neo Colonialism

- Neo Colonialism helped aid in the exploitation of the continent from outside and within alongside European political intervention.
- The plan of ex-colonizers was to still be in possession of their territories.

- African politicians and the small middle classes got benefits, but not national majorities.
- Due to Africans lacking national networks of administration, communication, or transportation, senior administrators were replaced with European rule and got replaced by Africans with less experience.
- The system formed by African leaders was not in favor of people's needs.
- They had failed in taking down European political structures and religion.
- European rule continued to prosper.

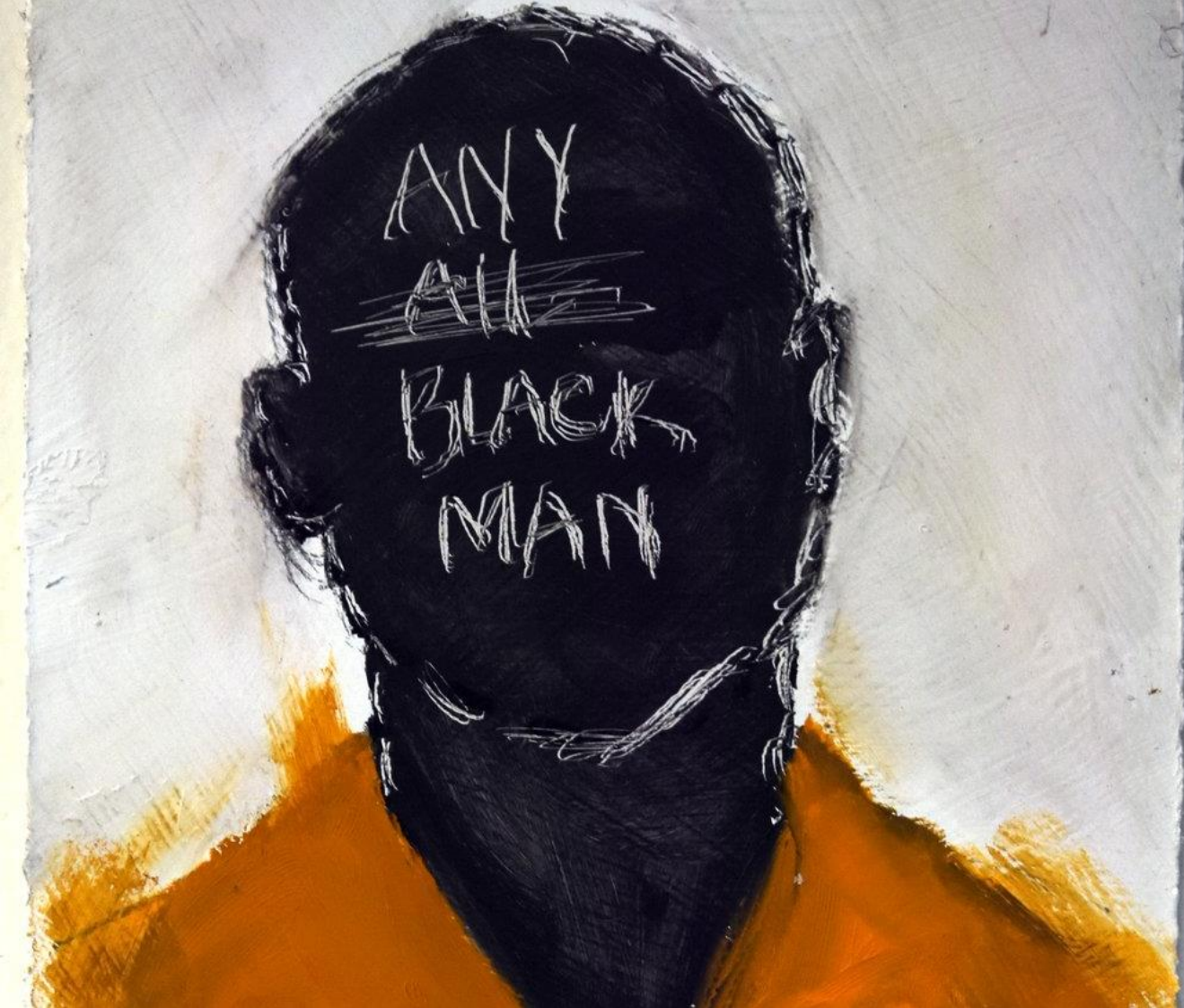


Pan Africanism

- Pan Africanism deals with unity amongst indigenous inhabitants of Africa. Two people that took part in Pan Africanism were Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and Haile Selassie.
- Nkrumah was the first president of the Republic of Ghana and a Pan African activist. Selassie, the emperor of Ethiopia, was significant to Pan Africanism because of his call of unity within African nations.
- During this time, leaders were focused on the development of their nations.

Pan Africanism Continued

- Kwame Nkrumah believed that Africa could become politically and economically connected.
- Nkrumah's perspective was that unified state would open a space for resources to aid in rebuilding the continent.
- Western governments were not in favor of Nkrumah's socialist views.
- Western governments were worried that Nkrumah would possibly influence the other African leaders.



What is Black Consciousness?

Black Consciousness includes our conscious within our race, pride, power and revolution. This idea connects with what we experienced as an oppressed community and guides us in reacting against it. It means that we are aware of the history of our people and have an understanding of where we take place in it. We are committed to the greatness that derived from our ancestors. However, we are not bringing our anger into our current world. Instead, we continue to spread our traditions.

Black Consciousness

- In relation to South Africa, Black Consciousness was a movement that occurred around the 1970s.
- It helped push a social, cultural and political awakening.
- During the mid-1960s, organizations in Africa's favor were silenced by the government.
- Thus, the South African Studies Organization created Black Consciousness which would help lead into making new cultural movements, communities and political organizations.

Congo & Angola

Congo

- Patrice Lumumba was Congo's first Prime minister.
- He battled with forces within the Cold War.
- He made an announcement based off of the horrid colonial rule and that Congo will have an autonomous government and economy.
- Western powers saw Lumumba as a threat to go towards the Soviet Union so they installed a pro-Western government.

Angola

- The United States was focused on undermining the post-independence government of Angola.
- Cuban and Soviets made Zaire and South Africa to withdraw forces.
- MPLA was able to create a government.
- Savimbi Ovimbundu's death put an end to issues between MPLA and UNITA.
- Around the early 1950s and the mid-1970s, leaders south of the Sahara got direct control of their economies, political institutions, and resources.
- European influence still remained in Africa.