

A Unit on Two movements – Negritude and the Harlem Renaissance

Osayimwense Osa

The aim of this unit is to share two movements that had an impact on the Black world.

Introduction

The Negritude Movement was a result of Negritude writers meeting African American intellectuals in Paris in the 1930s. The African American writers were Langston Hughes, Claude McKay and Countee Cullen. These intellectuals found what they considered to be a common ground in the black experience, and the Negritude movement was born. The Negritude writers were Leopold Sedar Senghor, the first President of Senegal, Aime Cesaire, and Leon Damas from the Caribbean.

The Harlem Renaissance preceded Negritude. In the early 1900s, particularly in the 1920s, African-American literature, art, music, and dance began to flourish in Harlem, a section of New York City. This African-American cultural movement became known as "The New Negro Movement" and later as the Harlem Renaissance. More than a literary movement, the Harlem Renaissance redefined African-American expression. African-Americans were encouraged to celebrate their heritage.

[http://qa.answers.com/Q/What was the similarity between Harlem renaissance and negritude](http://qa.answers.com/Q/What_was_the_similarity_between_Harlem_renaissance_and_negritude)

The negritude writers were **Cesaire, Senghor, and Damas** and were inspired by the black American art movement. The Harlem Renaissance was set into motion by the concept of The New Negro.

Materials: Readings in Harlem Renaissance and Negritude

Assignments:

- What were the main factors that contributed to the growth and development of the Harlem Renaissance?
- Discuss the Negritude movement and the Harlem Renaissance as a common ground in the black experience.

- Discuss the role of Leopold Sedar Senghor, the first President of Senegal in the Negritude Movement.
- Why did Negritude not remove the statue of the French General, Faidherbe in Senegal?

(http://qa.answers.com/Q/What_was_the_similarity_between_Harlem_renaissance_and_negritude)