



Pan-Africanism in Sierra Leone: Challenges and Opportunities in the Early Twenty-First Century

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Abstract

Pan-Africanism has been a significant force in African politics and culture since the mid-20th century, emphasising unity among black people across the continent. Sierra Leone, with its diverse ethnic groups and historical struggles for independence, provides an interesting case study. This qualitative study employs a thematic analysis approach, drawing on interviews with key stakeholders, focus group discussions, and secondary data from government reports and academic journals to analyse the impact of Pan-Africanism in Sierra Leone. Pan-Africanist movements have successfully facilitated cross-cultural dialogue among Sierra Leone's diverse ethnic groups, particularly during times of crisis such as natural disasters or political instability. A notable example is the increased cooperation between local communities and government institutions through joint disaster relief efforts. While Pan-Africanism has contributed to national cohesion and social stability in Sierra Leone, challenges remain in fully integrating these ideals into mainstream education systems and corporate cultures. Future research should focus on integrating Pan-Africanist values more deeply into curricula and business practices to ensure their sustainability. Additionally, policymakers could support initiatives that promote cross-cultural understanding and respect for diversity.

Keywords: *Pan-Africanism, African Studies, Sierra Leone, Diaspora, Multiculturalism, Postcolonial Theory, Cultural Identity*

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