

Key Insights

- President Senghor defines “Africanness” as the collective cultural and civilizational achievements of Africa.
- He believes the primary aim of African Unity is economic development that elevates the worth of each individual African.
- The Addis Ababa Conference’s objective was to reconcile rival groups and establish agreements for unity.
- Senghor warns against hastily constructing political federations without thorough groundwork, fearing potential failures.
- He acknowledges existing challenges to achieving unity, indicating a need for a step-by-step approach.

Questions for consideration

1. What does Senghor mean when he says that Africanness is “the sum total of African civilized”?

Senghor suggests that Africanness encompasses the entirety of African cultural and civilizational achievements, representing a shared identity that binds the continent.

2. Why does Senghor believe observing Africanness is essential for the foundations of African Unity?

He argues that recognizing and valuing shared cultural heritage is crucial for fostering solidarity and cooperation among African nations, thereby strengthening collective efforts towards unity.

3. What obstacles does Senghor identify in achieving African Unity?

Senghor points to political rivalries, differing national interests, and the legacies of colonialism as significant challenges that must be addressed to foster genuine unity.

4. What does Senghor imply about the significance of economic growth in relation to African Unity?

He views economic growth as a means to empower individuals, suggesting that enhancing the economic standing of Africans is vital for achieving true unity and development across the continent.