

African culture and the gains of cultural inclusivity in the age of globalization

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Abstrak

ABSTRACT

The paper advances the reason for an inclusive review of what constitutes African culture in view of the impact of globalization on the continent of Africa. Culture is a significant aspect of the African social system. It is the platform for asserting Africanity. The paper is motivated by George Herbert Meads theory of symbolic interactionism whose core concern is mutual inclusivity. African culture has undergone different stages of modification. What constituted African culture in the 19th century, for example, is not what constitutes it in the present day. The paper, therefore, argues the need for African culture to embrace and coexist with the Western contact which globalization has occasioned. Such inclusivity is capable of making the continent of Africa affirm its Africanness and as such, its relevance on the global stage. A historical periodization of the cultures evolution is undertaken, resulting in the emergence of such categories as primitive African culture, traditional African culture and contemporary African culture. Also, the paper laments the inherent contradiction in the presentday African cultural practices whereby Africans live by Western values in their realities but condemn the West according to the principle of nationalism. Following this, it is proposed that African culture should liberalize and permit the indispensable visiting Western worldview to coexist with it. African spiritualism, arts and ethics are identified as the most enduring of all the elements of African culture, needed for Africas technology, iconic identity, and rectitude, respectively.