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| Négritude |
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| The literary and cultural movement known as négritude was begun in Paris in 1932 by black students from French-speaking colonies in West Africa, the Caribbean, and South America. The word négritude, which literally means ‘negro-ness,’ expresses the value and depth of black culture and history, as opposed to European, particularlyFrench, culture. Its aesthetics drew from other black-centric movements of the period, including the Harlem Renaissance in the United States. The most prominent authors associated with négritude were Léopold Sédar Senghor (of Senegal), Léon Damas (of French Guiana), Aimé Césaire (of Martinique), and Birago Diop (of Senegal), who wrote literature and political treatises that influenced their contemporaries, as well as postcolonial writers. Some of the movement’s founding members, including Césaire and Senghor, held political offices in their newly independent states in the post-World War II period. |
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| Further reading:  (Kennedy)  (Kesteloot) |