

“White folk who want to help Africa must be prepared to work with Africans on the basis of complete racial equality. If the United States...is really worried about Communism taking root in Africa and wants to prevent such a disaster from taking place, [as a former communist] I can offer an assurance against it.¹ This assurance will not only prevent Communism, but endear the people of the great United States forever to the Africans.

Instead of supporting the discredited system of colonialism by propping up the European regimes with military and financial aid, let American statesmen make a bold gesture to the African in the spirit of the anti-colonialist tradition of 1776. This gesture should take the form of an aid package for Africa similar to the Marshall Plan.”²

Source: George Padmore, Afro-Caribbean intellectual, essay published while he lived in London, 1956

1: Padmore spent much of the 1920s and 1930s as a supporter of communism but became disillusioned with Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.

2: an initiative by the United States to provide aid to Western Europe after the end of the Second World War

2. Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- A. Identify one reason United States officials were concerned about communism as noted in the first paragraph of the passage.
- B. Describe the historical situation that resulted in the “system of colonialism” referred to by the author in the second paragraph of the passage.
- C. Explain one way the source reflects the political situation in Africa during the second half of the twentieth century.