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The African diaspora is arguably the most important event in modern African history. From the fifteenth century to the present, millions of Africans have been dispersed—many of them forcibly, others driven by economic need or political persecution—to other continents, creating large communities with African origins living outside their native lands. The majority of these communities are in North America. African immigrants to this country, an increasingly important part of the Diaspora, boast some of the highest educational attainments of any immigrant group and there are now more than 250,000 scientists and physicians of African descent in the United States. As a country, our human, economic, moral and strategic ties to Africa are strong and growing. The African diaspora consists of the worldwide collection of communities descended from native sub-Saharan Africans or people from sub-Saharan Africa, predominantly in the Americas. The diaspora has continued for millennia, but historically, ethnographers, historians, politicians and writers have used the term particularly to refer to the descendants of the West and Central Africans who were enslaved and shipped to the Americas via the Atlantic slave trade between the 16th and 19th centuries, with The African Diaspora is broadly defined by the African Union Commission as "peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union." Globally, Africans in the diaspora are spread out across the continents. Read: How African innovation can take on the world. Lastly, diasporans can bring their talent, energy, skills and technological know-how to furthering economic progress in Africa. Many Africans in the diaspora want to eventually go back home after living abroad. However, one of their biggest challenges is finding suitable employment once they return.