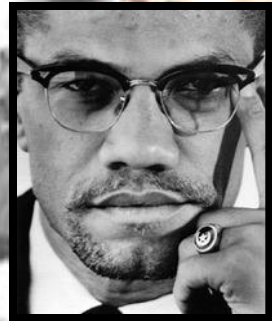


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The American Overhaul



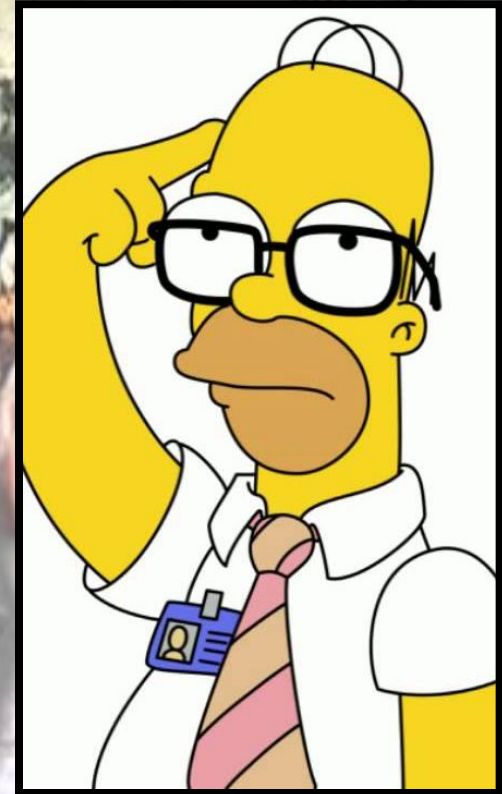


TODAY'S UNIT & LESSON



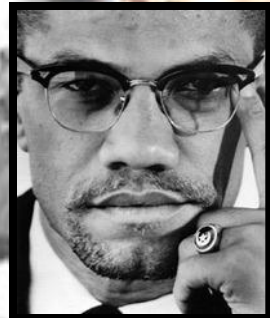
Lesson 13

(AH 5.13)



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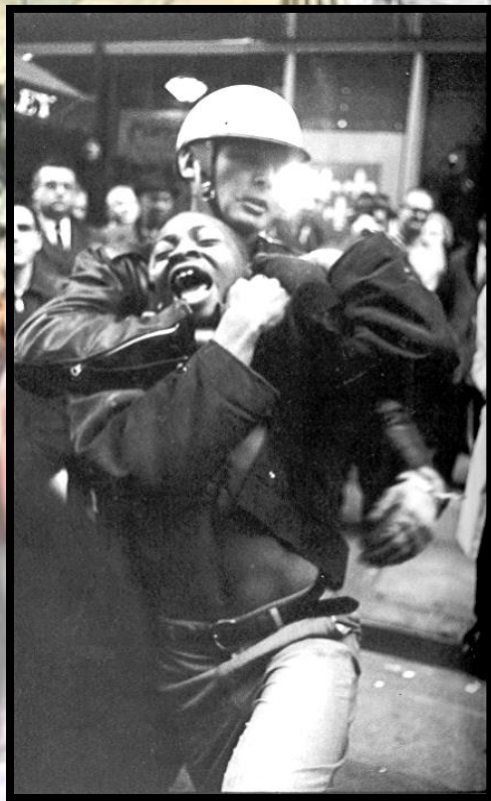




Civil Rights Battle #20: *Watts & 12th Street Riots*

The summers of **1965**, **1966**, and **1967** saw urban riots in several cities. The **summer of 1967** alone had **150 racial confrontations** and **40 riots**.

The **Watts Riot** in Los Angeles in **1965** and the **12th Street Riot** in Detroit in **1967** were among the **worst**.

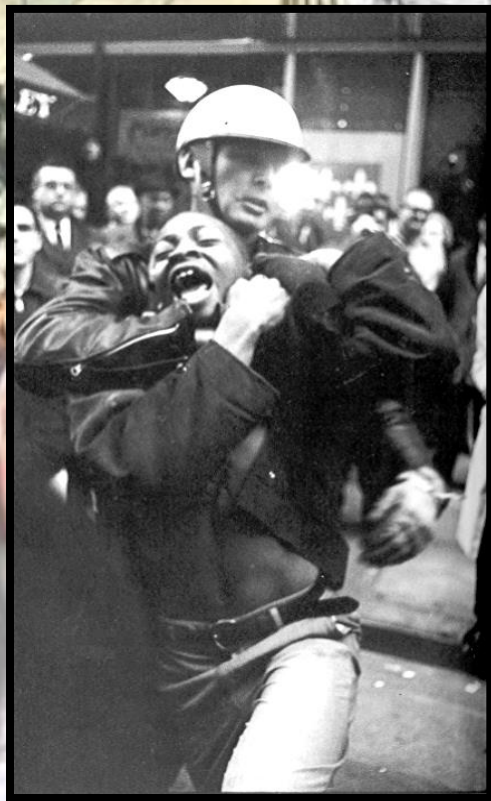


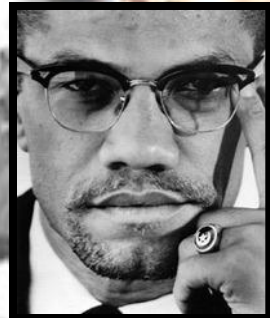


CRB20: Watts & 12th Street

The Watts Riots began on August 11, 1965 in Los Angeles when the police pulled over Marquette Frye and his brother.

A struggle ensued after their mother arrived... resulting in the arrest of all three family members.



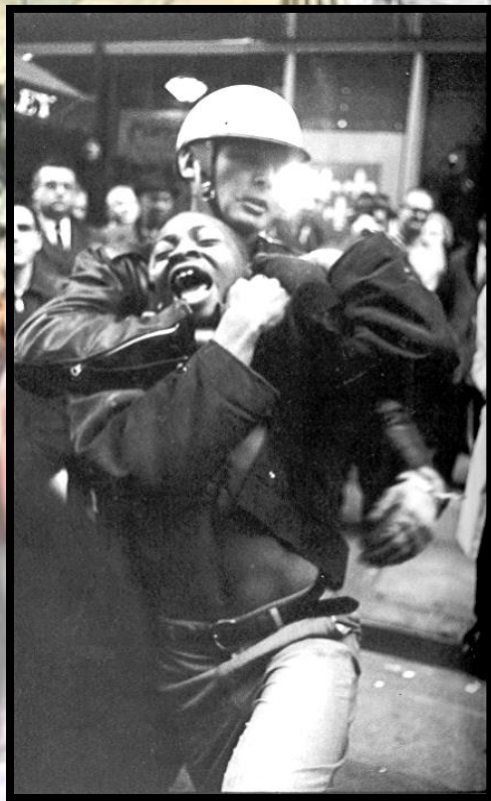


CRB20: Watts & 12th Street

Rioting began soon thereafter and lasted for six days.



By the time the riots ended, 34 people were killed and \$200 million (\$1.8 billion today) in damage was caused.



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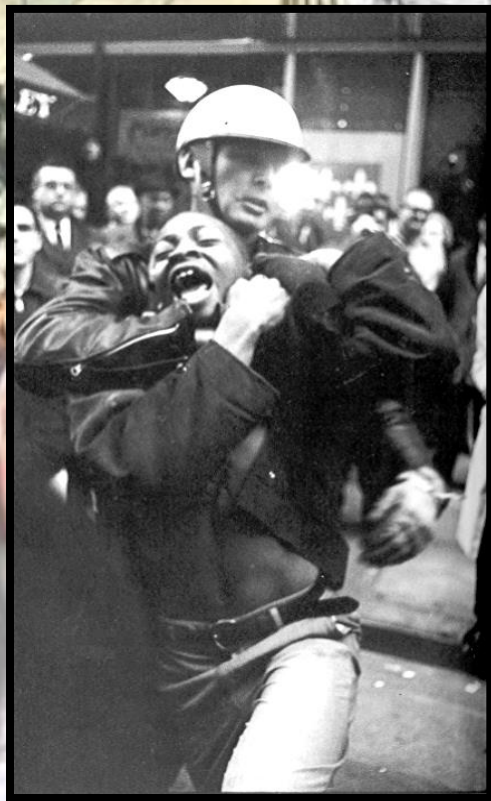


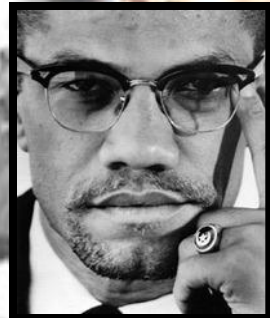


CRB20: Watts & 12th Street

The **12th Street Riot in Detroit** began on July 23, 1967 when police raided a “blind pig” (which was an unlicensed and illegal after-hours bar).

The police expected to find a few people in the mostly black bar, but instead found 82 celebrating the return of two Vietnam War Veterans.





CRB20: Watts & 12th Street

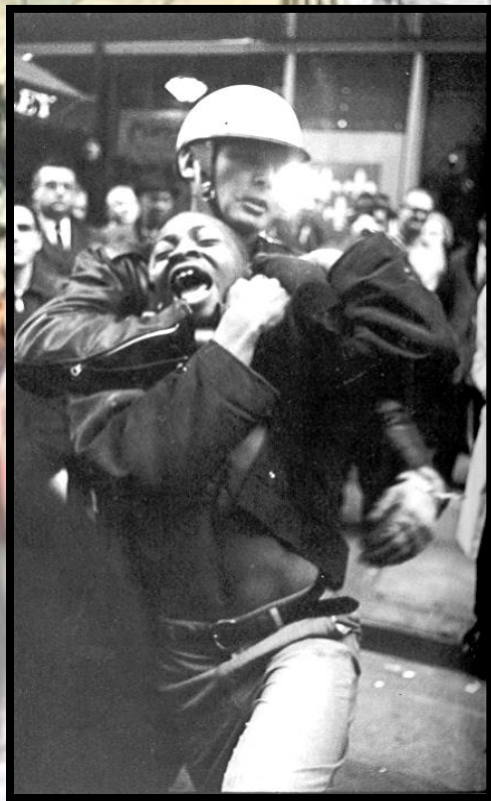
Despite this, the **police decided to arrest everyone** present.



Shortly after, full-scale rioting began and continued for five days.



The **result was 43 dead and \$40-80 million (\$340-680 million today) in damages.**





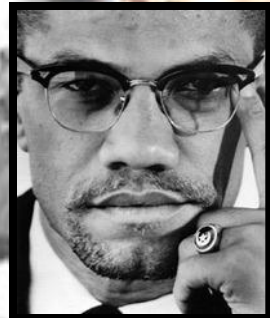
CRB20: Watts & 12th Street



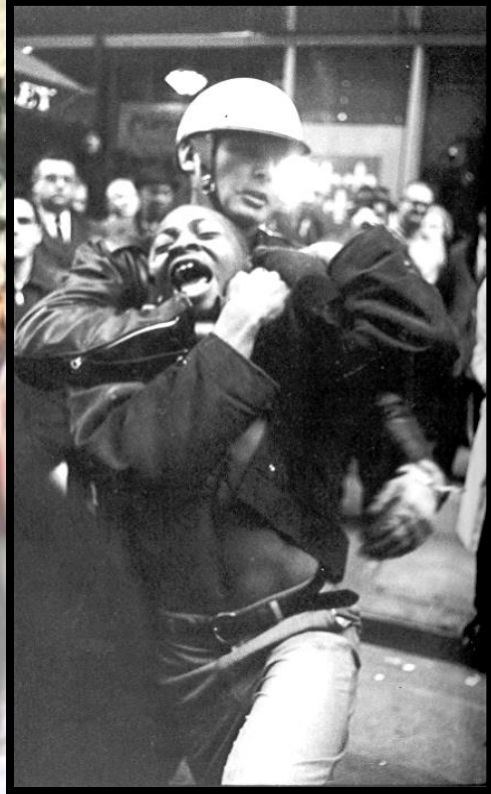
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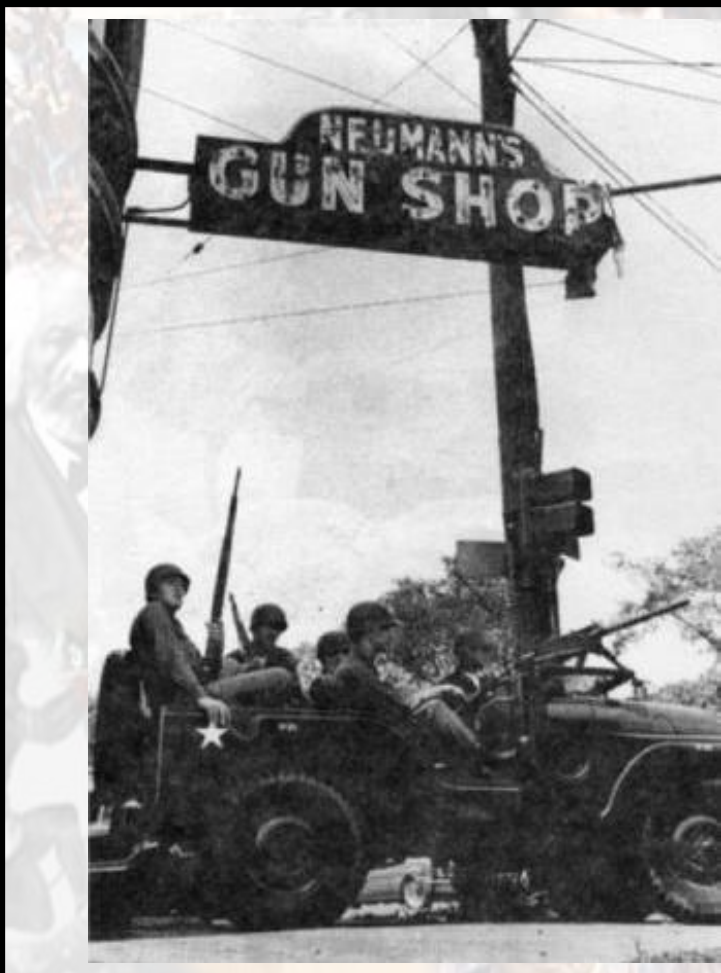


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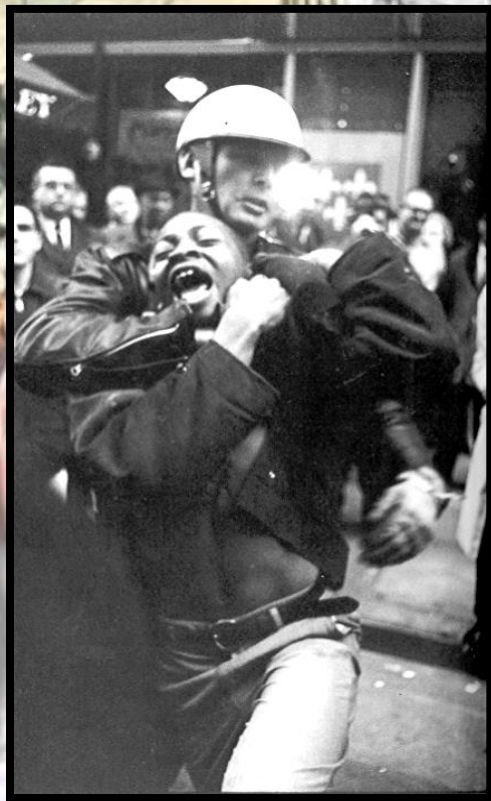
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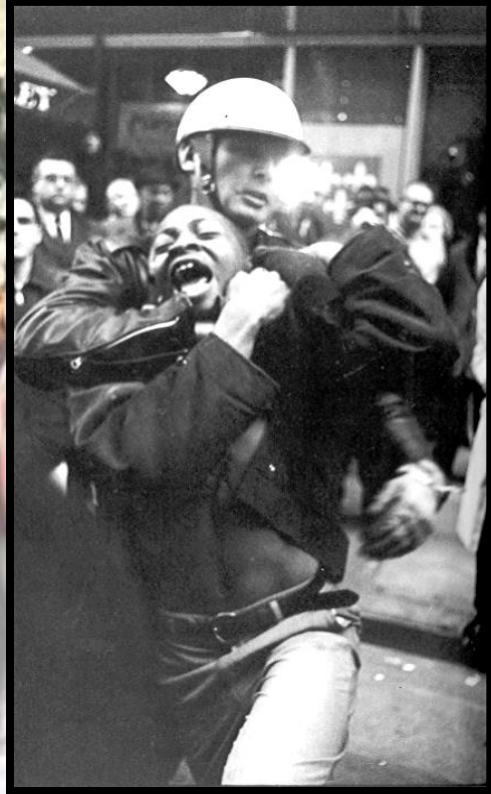


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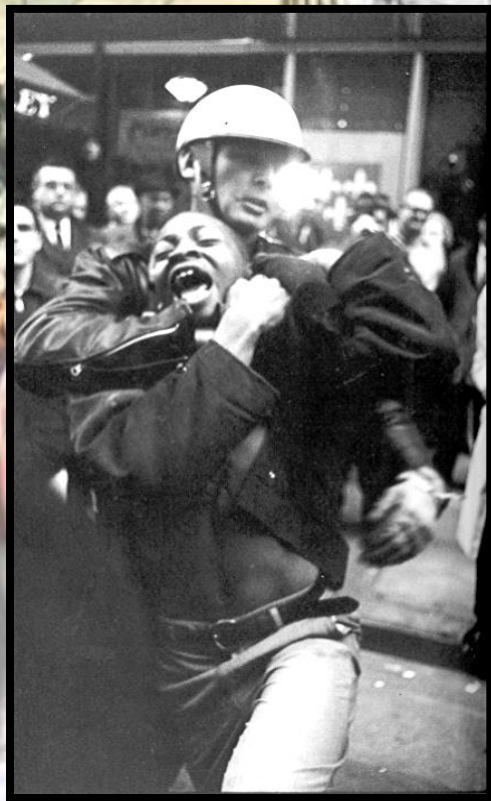
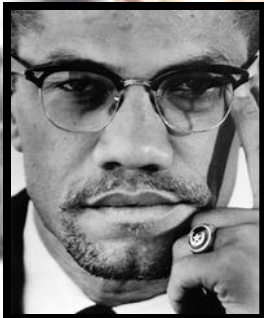


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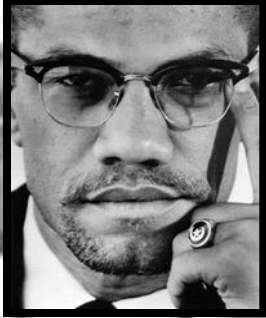


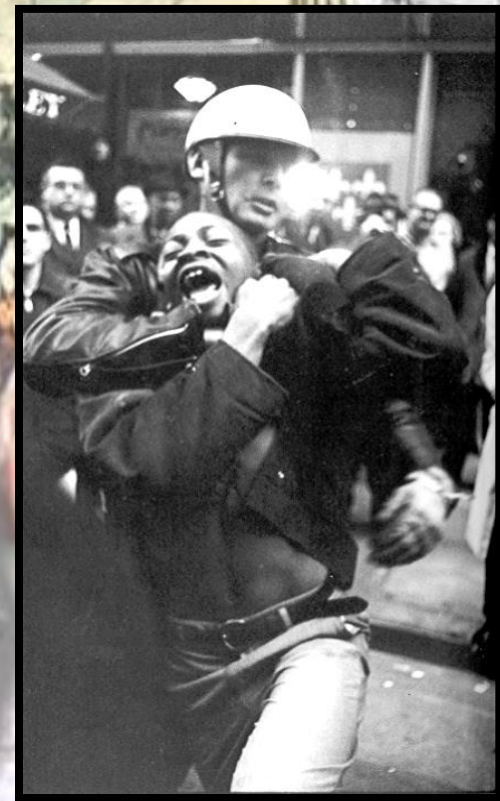
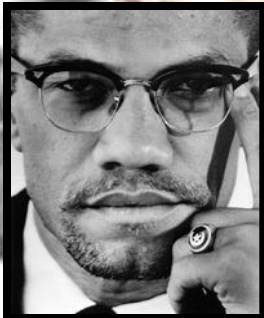
CRB20: Watts & 12th Street



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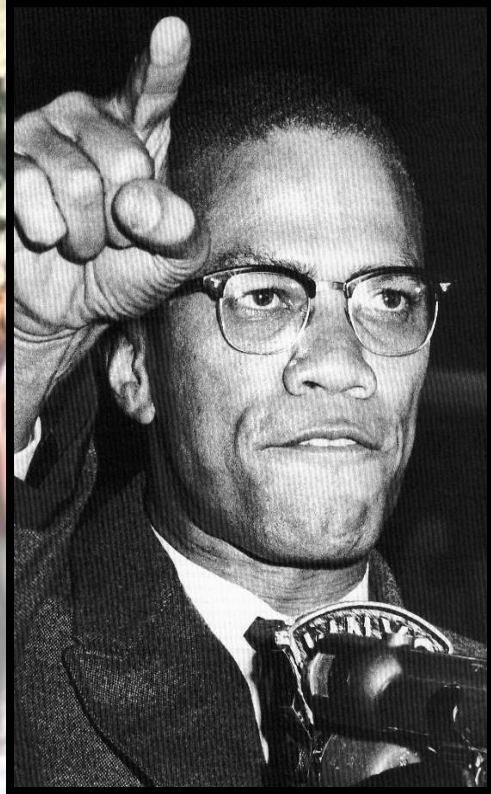


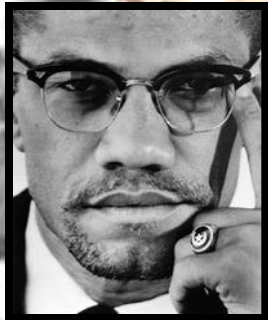


Civil Rights Battle #21: *Malcolm X & "Black Power"*

As the **urban riots** voiced **black rage** against the lack of progress, **demands for "Black Power"** changed the tone of the **Civil Rights Movement**.

Under the strain of constant attacks, many **black leaders** questioned nonviolence.





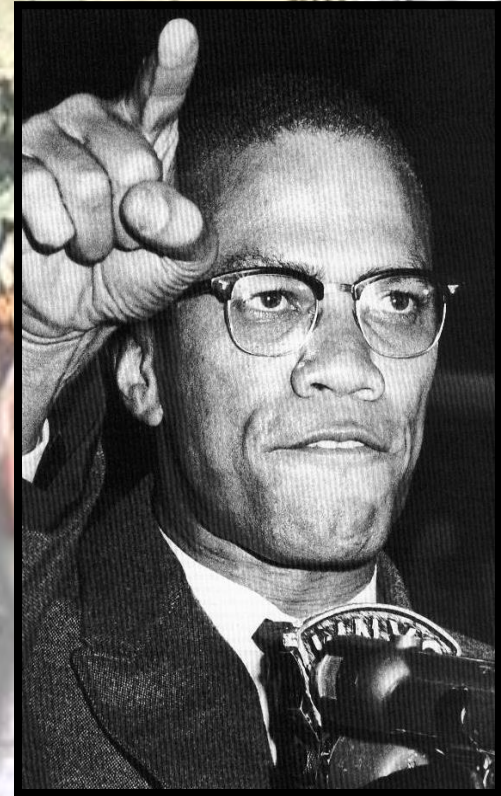
CRB21: X & "Black Power"

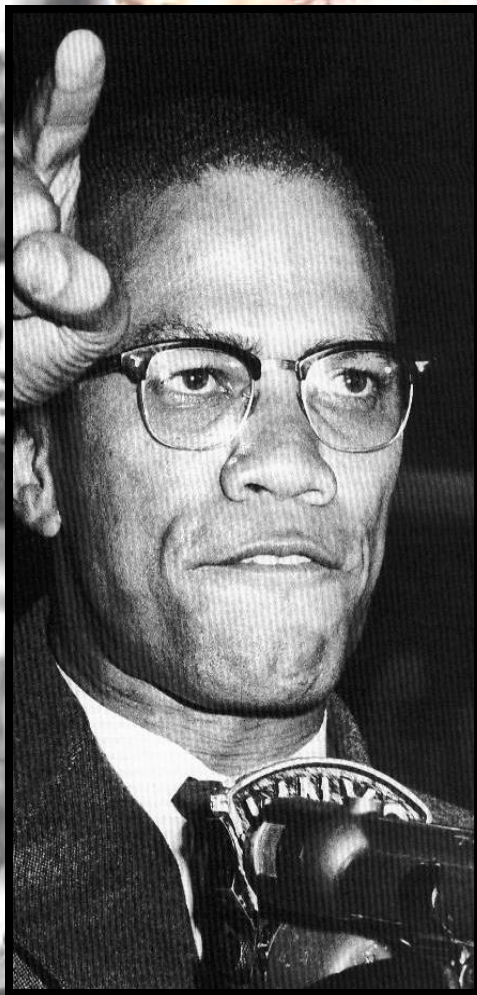


Such leaders were impressed by El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, (a.k.a. Malcolm X... a.k.a. Malcolm Little), the Nation of Islam minister who advocated black pride and armed self-defense.



Malcolm X commented on this stance...

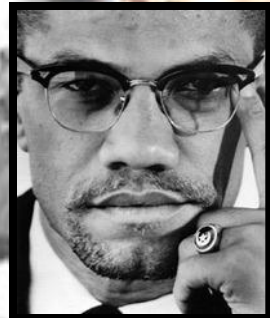




“I’m not for wanton violence, I’m for justice. I feel that if white people were attacked by Negroes – if the forces of law proved unable, or inadequate, or reluctant to protect those whites – then those whites should protect themselves from those Negroes, using arms if necessary. ...

... And I feel that when the law fails to protect Negroes from whites then those Negroes should use arms, if necessary, to defend themselves. ... My fight is against white racists. I firmly believe that Negroes have the right to fight against these racists, by any means that are necessary.”





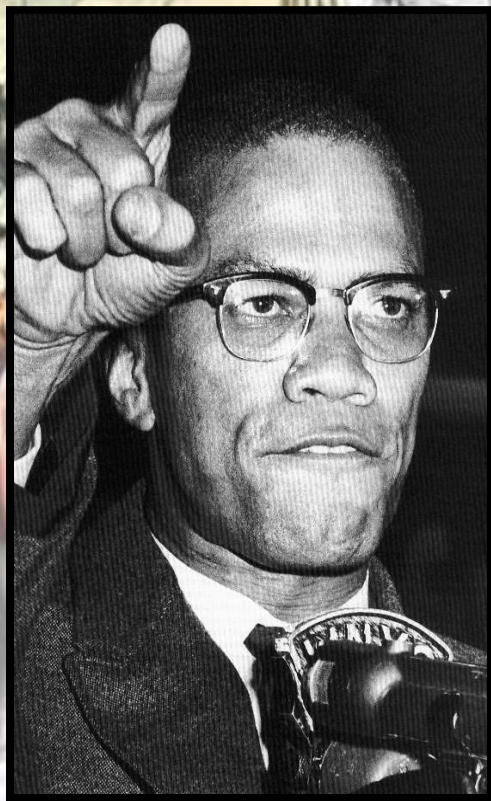
CRB21: X & "Black Power"



Born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska in 1925, his parents faced constant threats from white supremacists.



Before he was 6 years old, two of his homes were destroyed by the KKK.

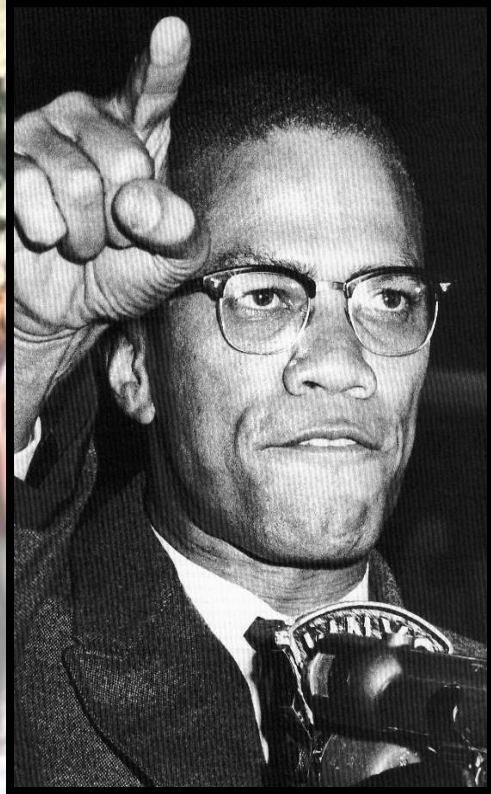




CRB21: X & "Black Power"

The family spent time in Milwaukee, Chicago, Indiana, and Michigan.

When Malcolm was 6, his father was beaten up and placed on the tracks of a streetcar in Lansing, Michigan, struck, and killed.



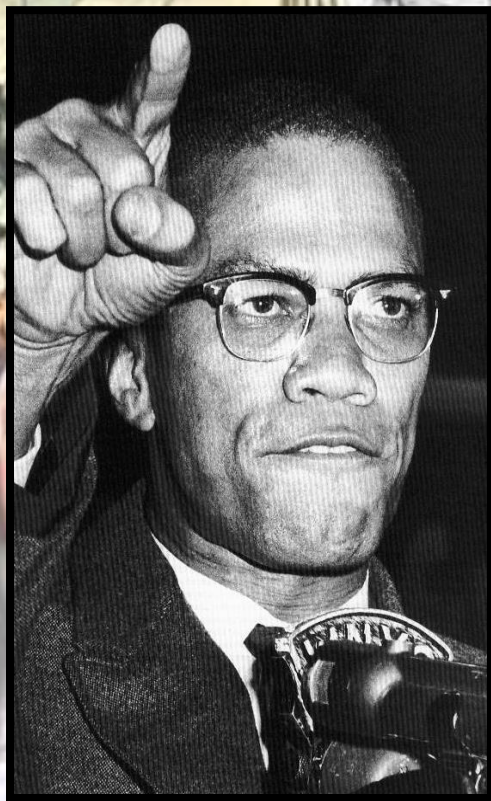


CRB21: X & "Black Power"

His father's death was ruled a "suicide" (which would have been impossible), which prevented the family from collecting on his life insurance policy.

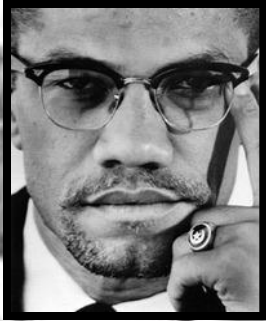


Not long after, his mother had a nervous breakdown and was sent to a mental institution.



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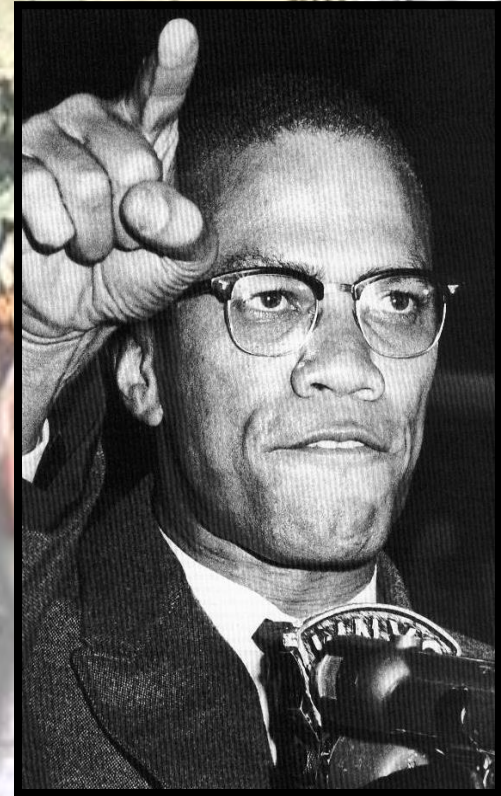


CRB21: X & "Black Power"

Welfare agents split Malcolm and his nine siblings apart.

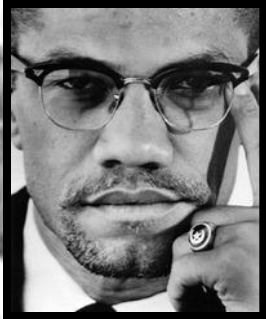


Malcolm was sent to a juvenile detention home in Mason, Michigan (10 miles south of Lansing), where he attended an all-white middle school.



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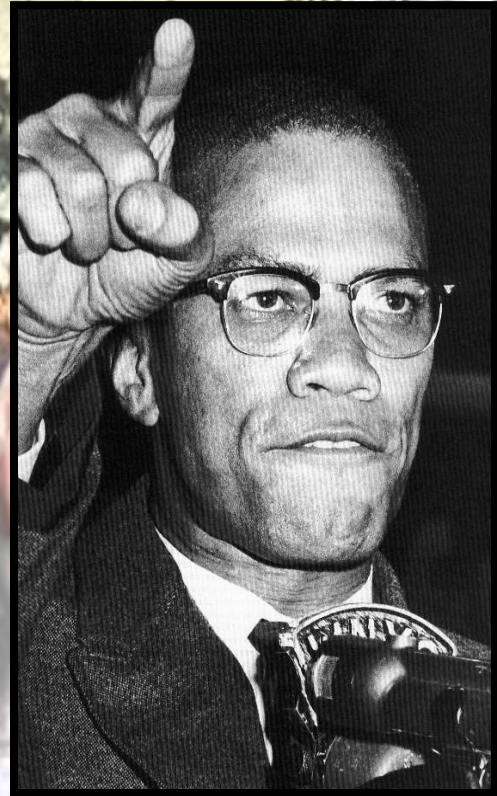


CRB21: X & "Black Power"

Growing up, Malcolm had wanted to become a lawyer.



Though academically near the top of his class, an **English teacher told him that being a lawyer was "not a realistic goal" for a black child.**

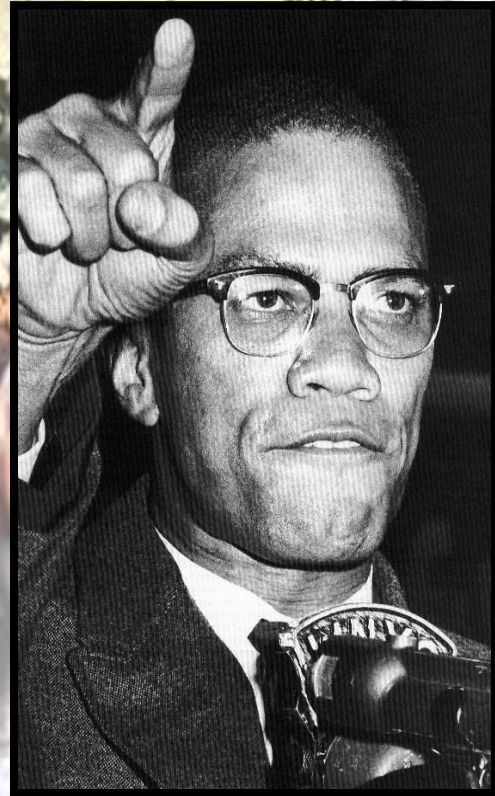




CRB21: X & "Black Power"

Fed up with the educational system and the systemic racism inherent throughout, **when Malcolm turned 15, he left to go live with his half-sister in Boston and never attended school again.**

By age 17, he resided in Harlem in New York City.

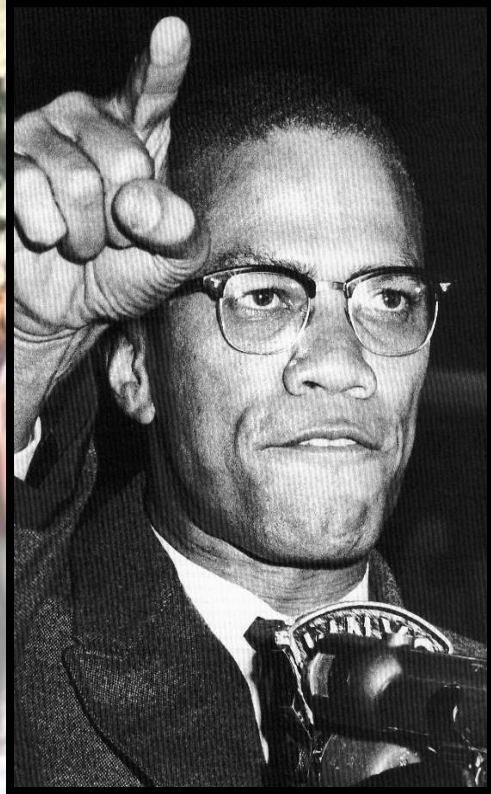




CRB21: X & "Black Power"

It was **during his time in Boston and NYC** that **Malcolm** got involved in **drug dealing, gambling, and prostitution.**

He was arrested numerous times for smaller crimes **before** being picked up for **burglarizing homes in Boston.**



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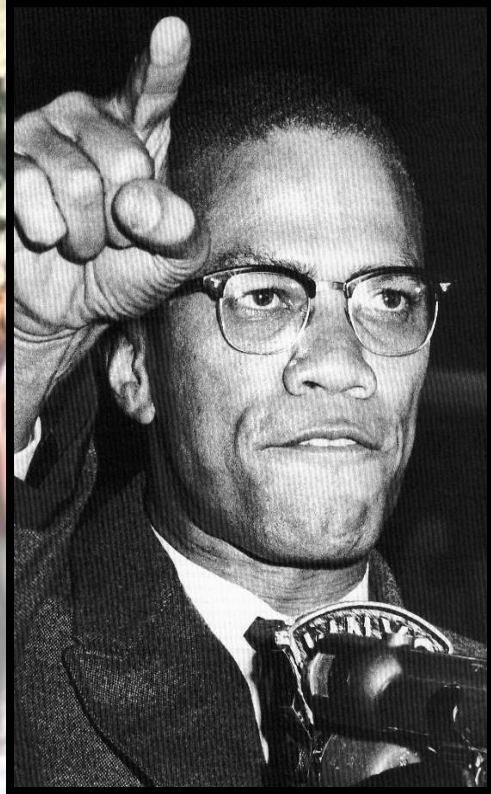




CRB21: X & "Black Power"

He was sentenced to state prison in 1946 and served six and a half years there.

While in prison, he was approached by a minister for the Nation of Islam.



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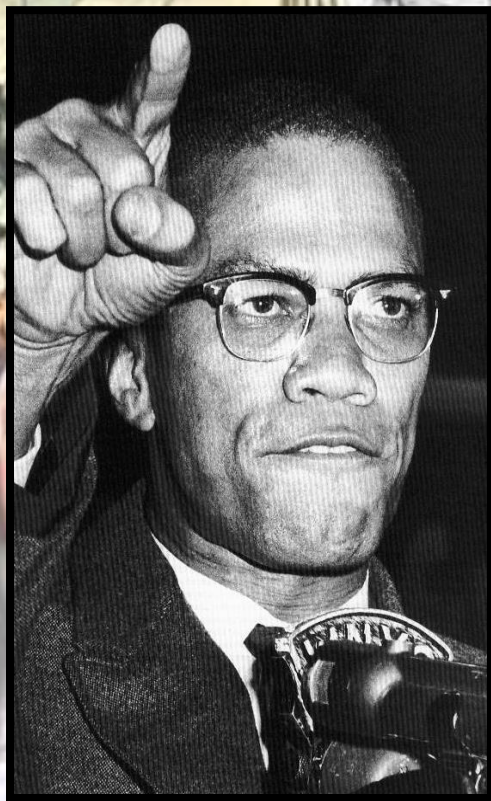
CRB21: X & "Black Power"



The Nation of Islam preached "black power" and taught that whites were a race of "blue-eyed devils" created millenniums ago by an evil scientist.



He soon exchanged letters with the Nation of Islam's leader Elijah Muhammad.

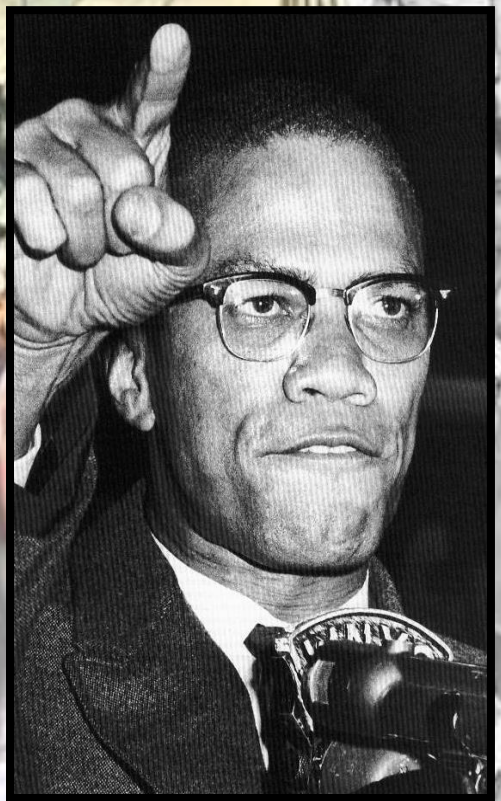


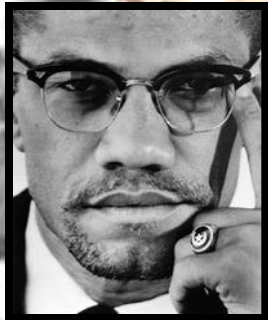


CRB21: X & "Black Power"

After getting out of prison in 1952, Malcolm moved to his brother's house near Detroit, where he attended the local Nation of Islam mosque.

He dropped his last name of "Little" (which he called his "slave name") and adopted the letter "X" (for the "unknown").

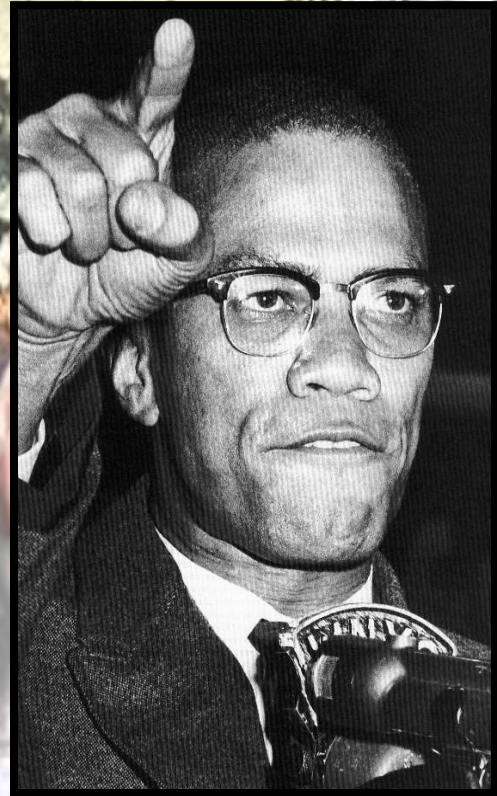




CRB21: X & "Black Power"

Malcolm became a favorite minister of Elijah Muhammad, and he **was sent** him to **Boston and Philadelphia** to establish **new mosques** there.

He gave fiery speeches and said things like, *"We didn't land on Plymouth Rock – Plymouth Rock landed on us!"*



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CRB21: X & "Black Power"

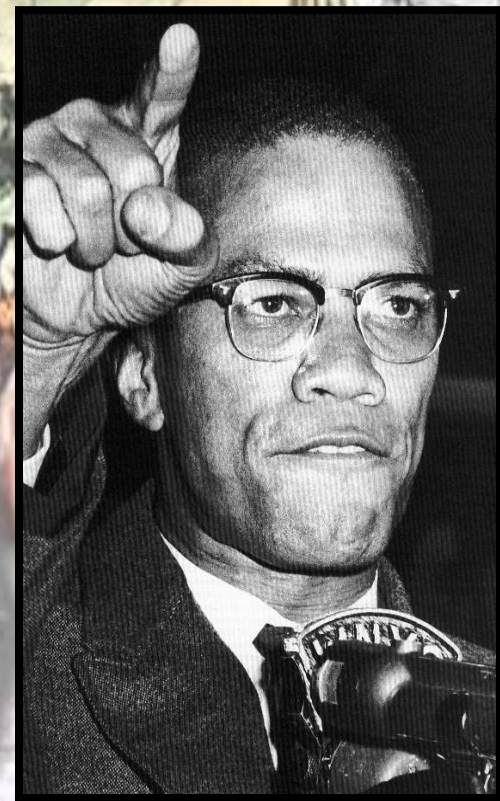
He married a fellow member named Betty Dean Sanders in 1958 back in Lansing.



They had six daughters (including twins born after his assassination).



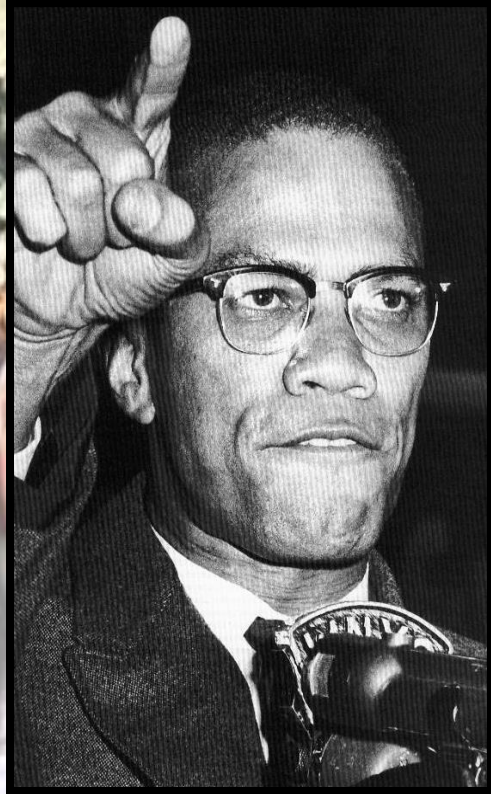
Betty died in 1997 when her 12-year-old grandson set fire to her apartment.





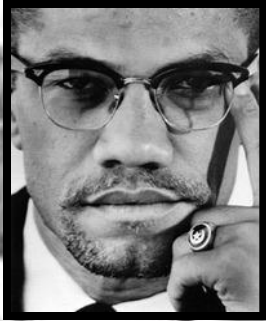
CRB21: X & "Black Power"

Because of Malcolm's efforts, membership in the Nation of Islam grew from only a few hundred at the time of his conversion to 6,000 in 1955 and the 75,000 by the early 1960s.



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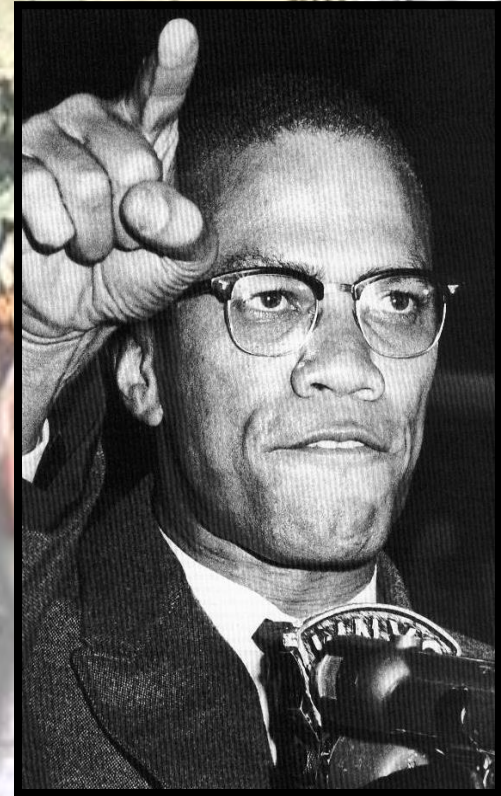


CRB21: X & "Black Power"

While in the Nation, **Malcolm** called mainstream Civil Rights leaders **"Uncle Toms"**. The expression was a slur used to disparage black people seen as being subservient to whites.



He referred to MLK's "March on Washington" as the "Farce on Washington".



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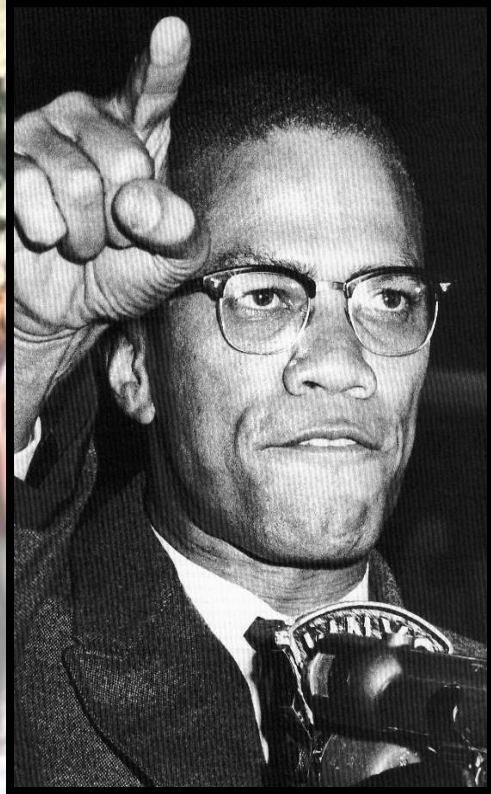




CRB21: X & "Black Power"

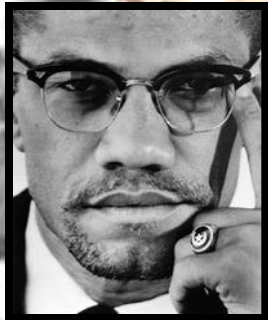
A believer in strict separation of the races, he entered into secret negotiations with the KKK to help accomplish this.

In December 1960, Malcolm went to the home of the KKK's leader in Atlanta who spoke of land in Georgia or SC where blacks could move to and live.



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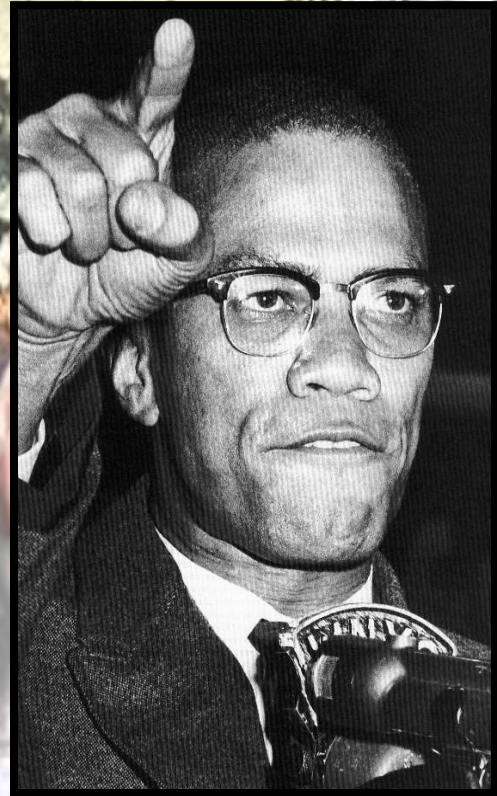
CRB21: X & "Black Power"

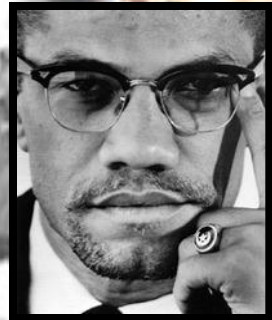


In 1961, members of the American Nazi Party attended a speech given by Malcolm X.



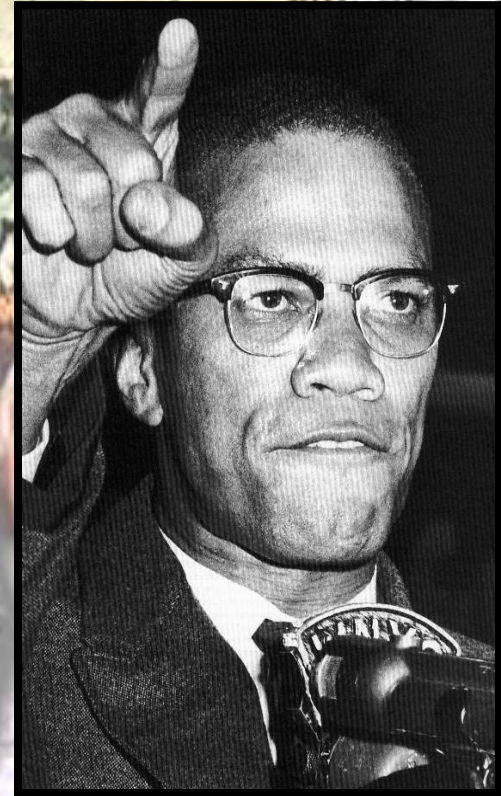
The Nation of Islam seated the Nazis in the front row... and the Nazis made donations to them. *Why?* Both groups hated Jews and wanted to separate the black and white races.





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

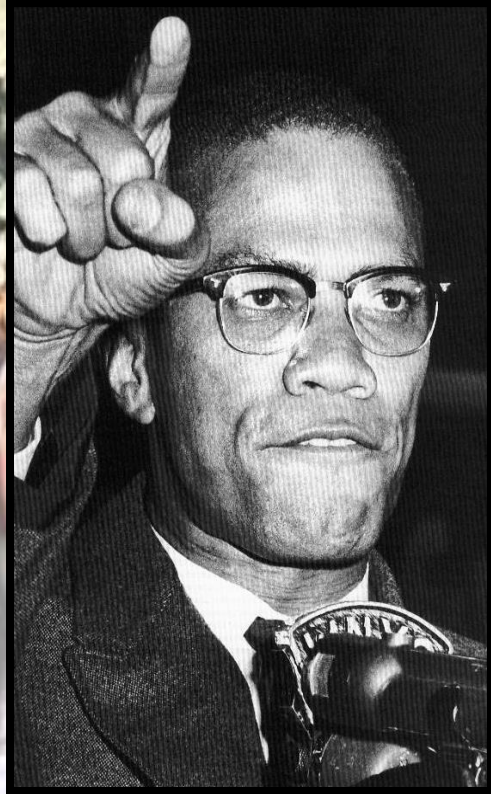
Though he once loved Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm began having second thoughts after his mentor fathered several illegitimate children in direct violation of the Nation of Islam's teachings.





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

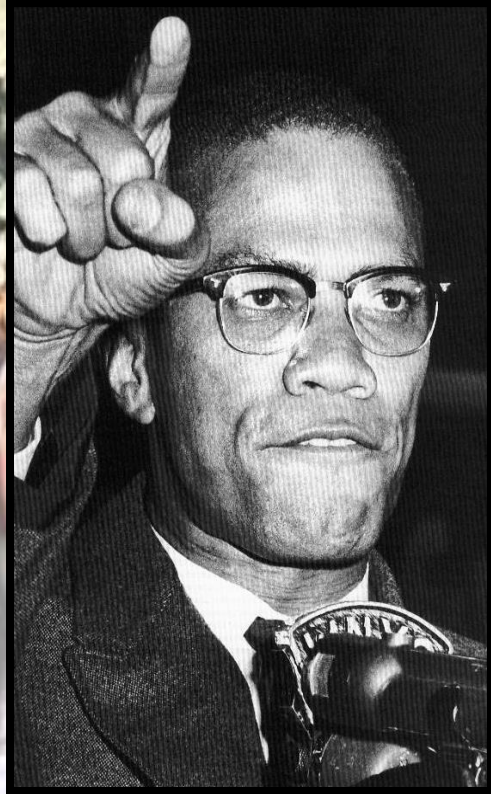
Their relationship was further strained when Elijah Muhammad suspended him for asserting that President JFK's assassination in 1963 was a case of the *"chickens coming home to roost"*.



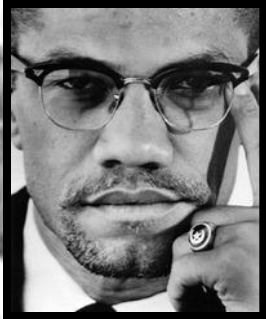


CRB21: X & "Black Power"

In early 1964, Malcolm announced his split from the Nation of Islam, converted to traditional Islam, and took a new name: El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz.



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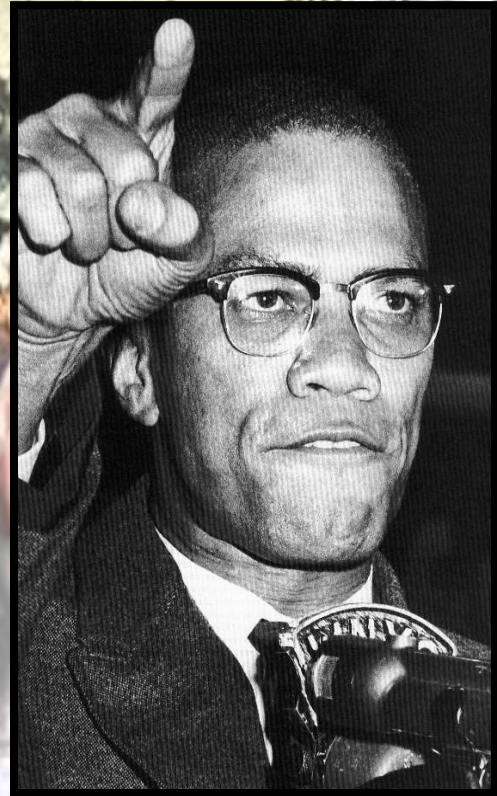
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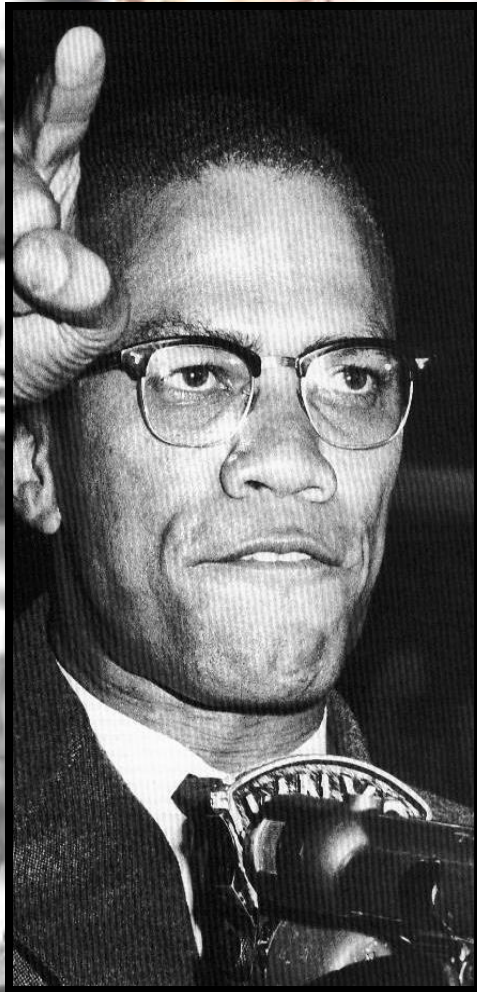


He **made** a religious **pilgrimage** to **Mecca** in **April 1964** where he began to **"reappraise the white man"**.



When he returned home, he discussed his transformation:





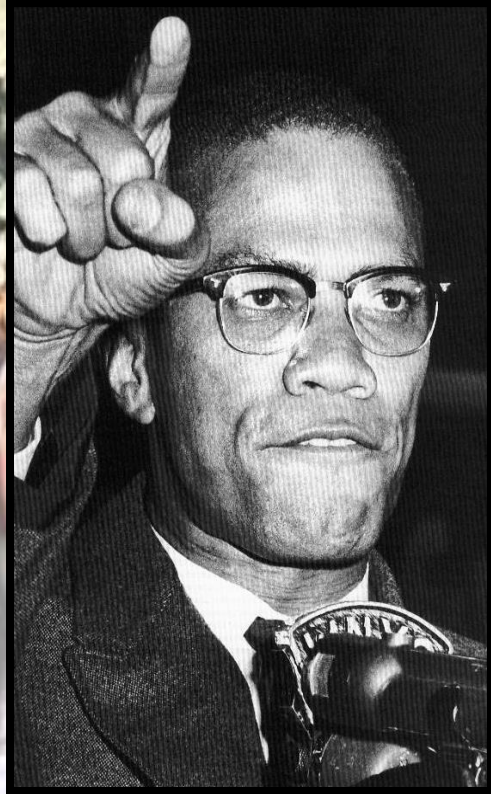
“During the past seven days of this holy pilgrimage, while undergoing the rituals of the hajj [pilgrimage], I have eaten from the same plate, drank from the same glass, slept on the same bed or rug, while praying to the same God – not only with some of this earth’s most powerful kings, cabinet members, potentates, and other forms of political and religious rulers – but also with fellow Muslims whose skin was the whitest of white, whose eyes were the bluest of blue, and whose hair was the blondest of blonde. It was the first time in my life that I didn’t see them as ‘white’ men.”





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

Moving forward, he stopped advocating black separatism and began to embrace a more peaceful approach to fighting for Civil Rights.



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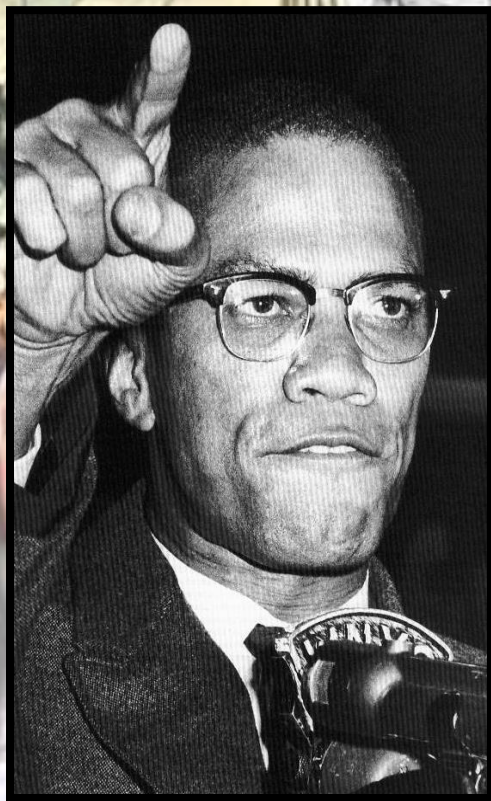


CRB21: X & "Black Power"

In speeches, he now criticized Elijah Muhammad for his "religious fakery", which resulted in the Nation of Islam retaliating.



On February 14, 1965, someone threw Molotov cocktails at his NYC home.





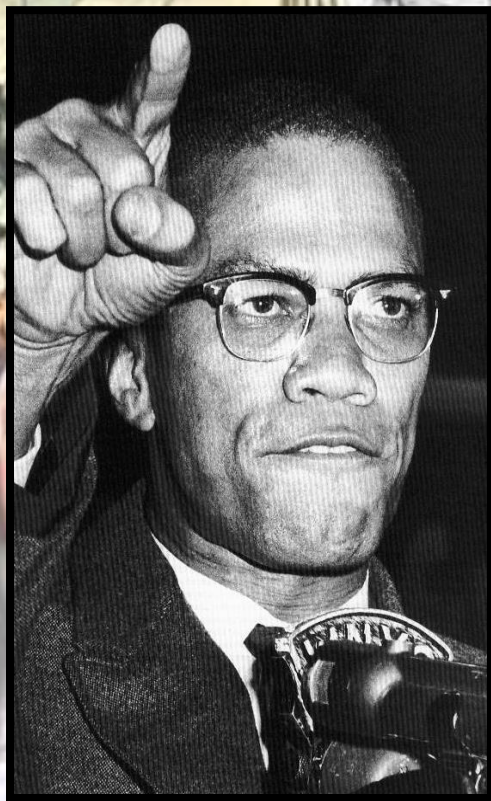
CRB21: X & "Black Power"



One week later (on February 21, 1965), Malcolm was in Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom about to speak to 400 people.



He had just walked on stage when someone shouted: *"Get your hand outta my pocket!"*



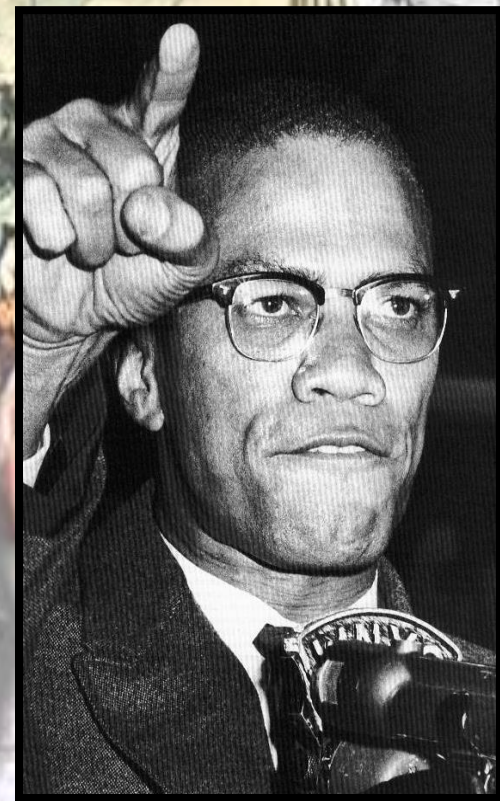


CRB21: X & "Black Power"

When the crowd turned to see the disruption, a **man rushed forward and shot Malcolm** once in the chest with a sawed-off shotgun.



Two other men charged the stage firing semi-automatic handguns.





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

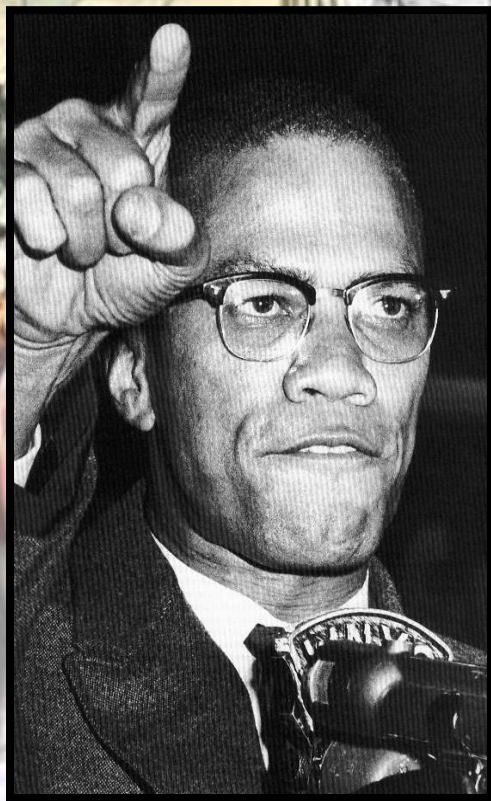
The autopsy showed 21 wounds.



This all happened in front of Betty and their children, who were attending the speech.

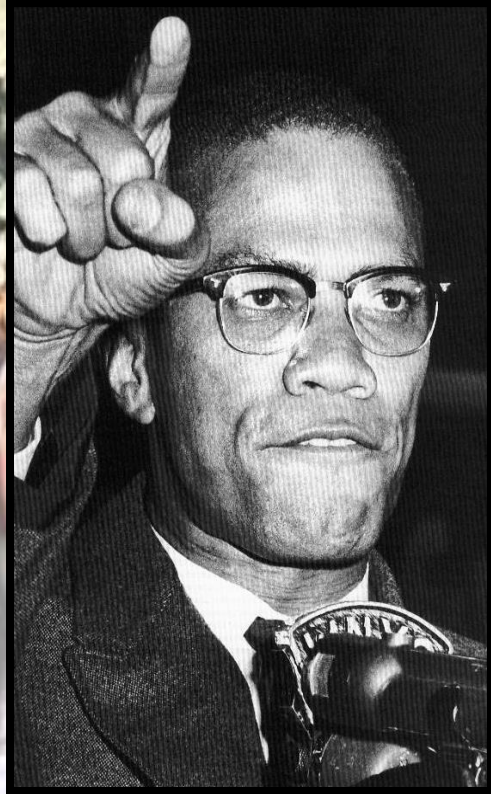
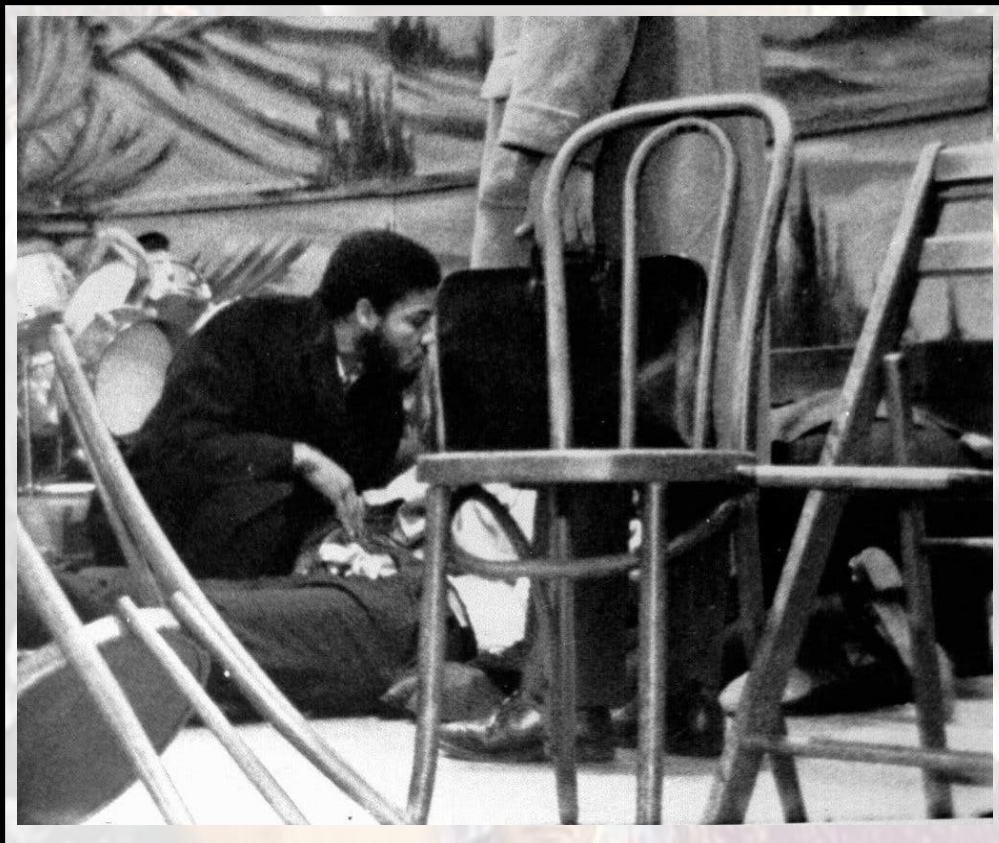


The gunmen were members of the Nation of Islam.





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

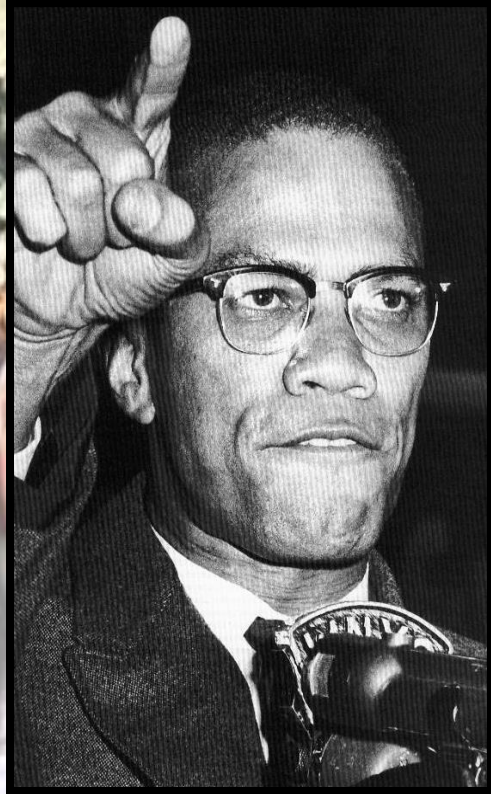
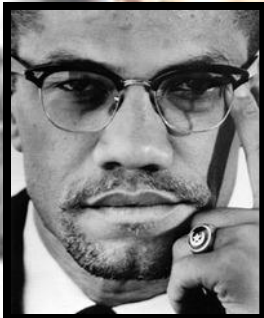


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CRB21: X & "Black Power"



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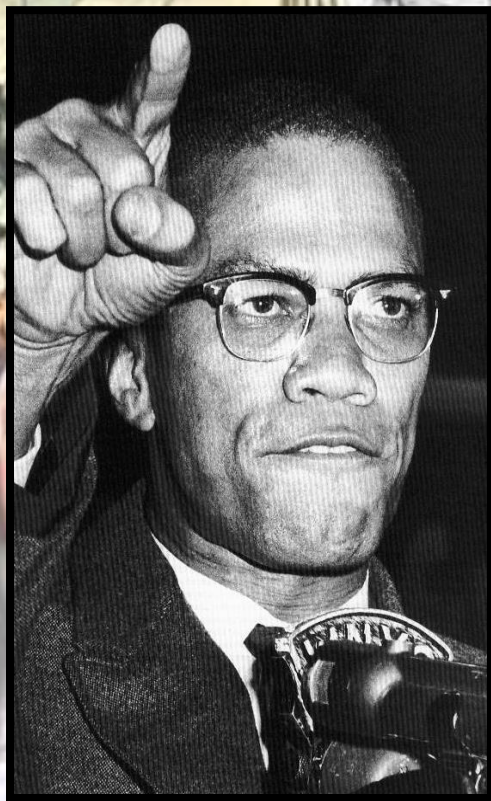


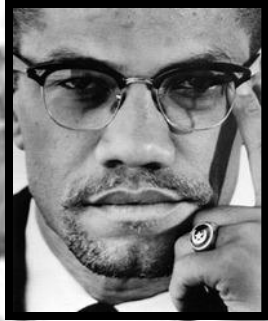


CRB21: X & "Black Power"

One of the three gunmen (Thomas Hagan) was beaten by the crowd before police got there.

He was sentenced to life in prison but was paroled in April 2010.





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

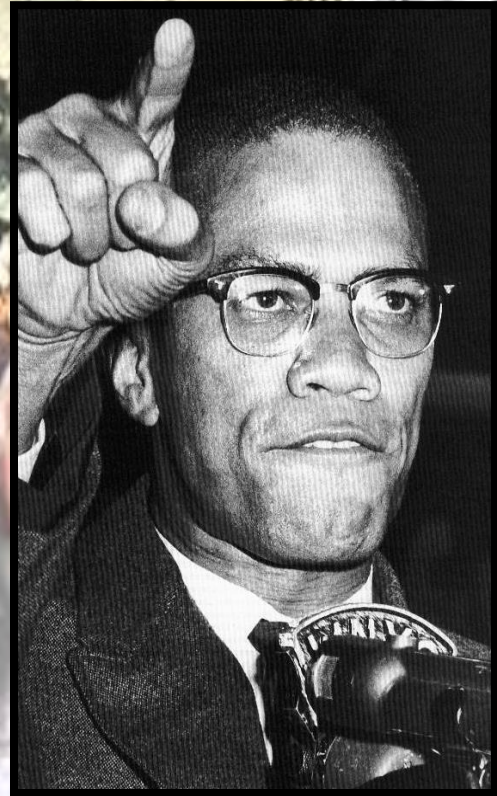


The other two gunmen (Norman Butler and Thomas Johnson) were also sentenced to life in prison.



Butler was paroled in 1985 and Johnson was paroled in 1987.

Both maintained innocence (Johnson died in 2009).

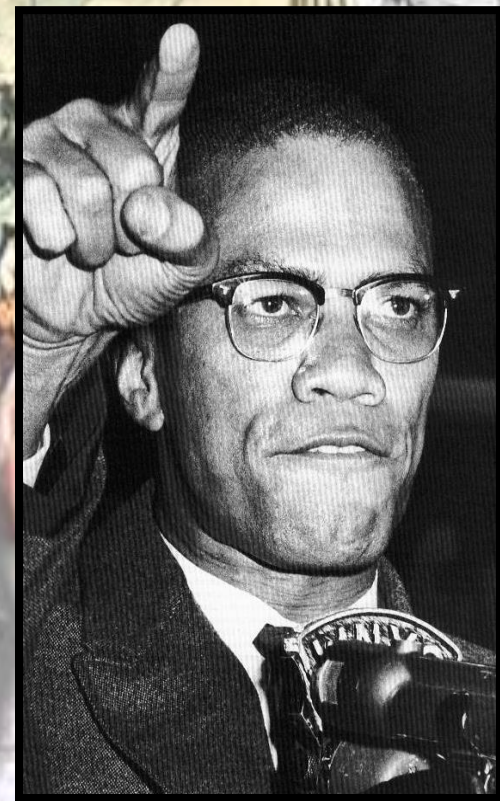




CRB21: X & "Black Power"

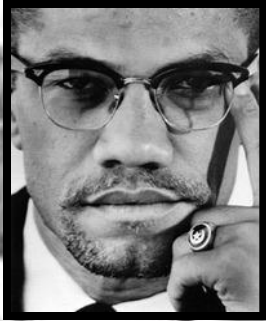
MLK later wrote to Betty:

"While we did not always see eye to eye on methods to solve the race problem, I always had a deep affection for Malcolm and felt that he had the great ability to put his finger on the existence and root of the problem."



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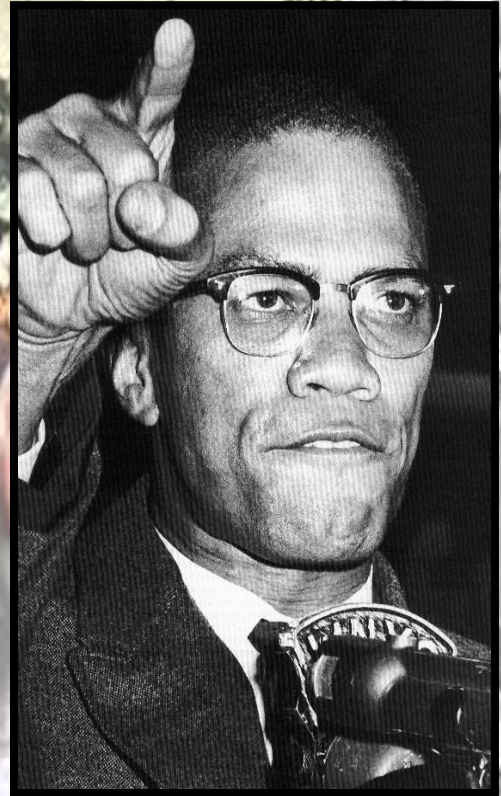


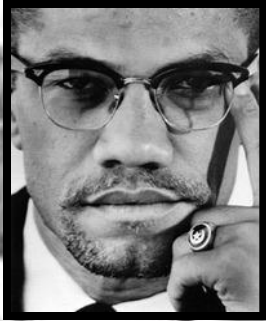
CRB21: X & "Black Power"

In 1966, the year after Malcolm X's assassination, the SNCC chairperson Stokely Carmichael called for "Black Power".

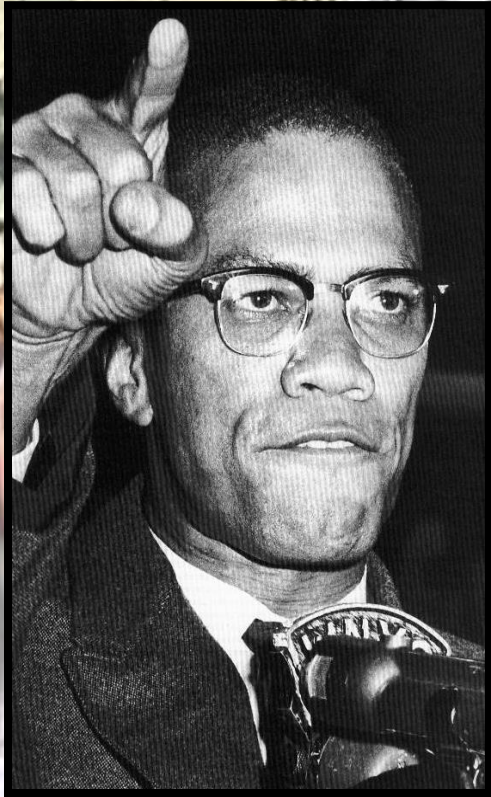


Many black leaders, including MLK, were appalled by the slogan.





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

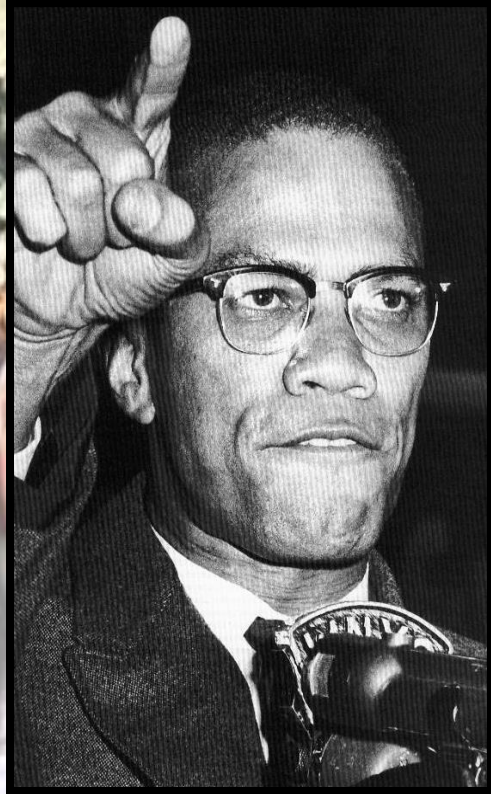
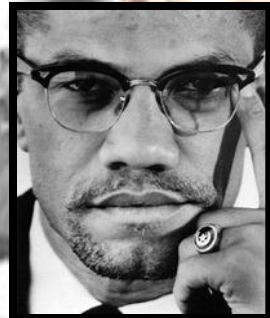


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CRB21: X & "Black Power"



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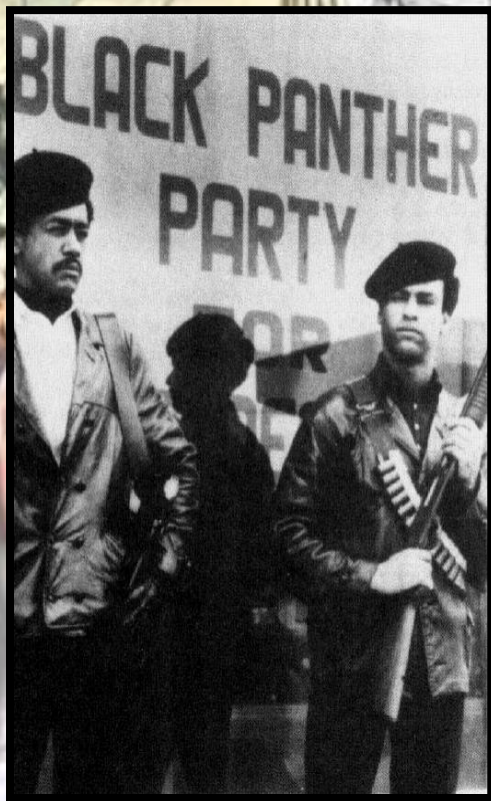
CRB21: X & "Black Power"



In October 1966, two black college students organized the Black Panther Party in California to promote community service and armed self-defense for blacks.



The Black Panthers became synonymous with "Black Power".





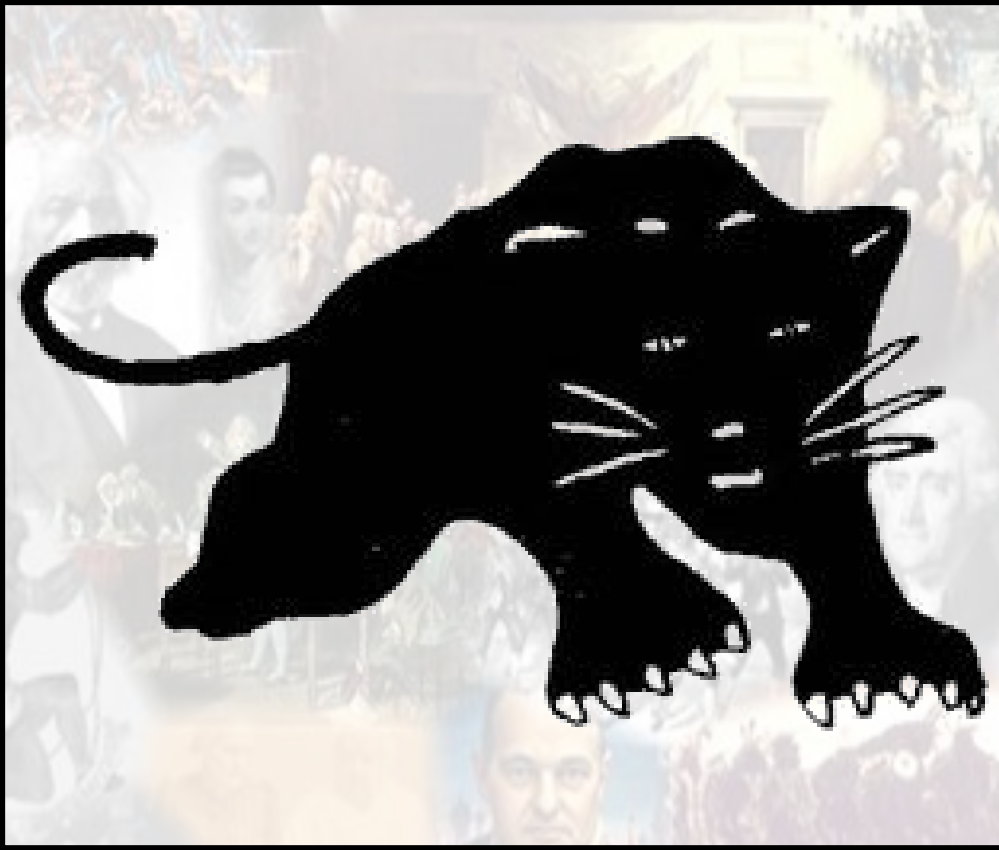
CRB21: X & "Black Power"



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CRB21: X & "Black Power"

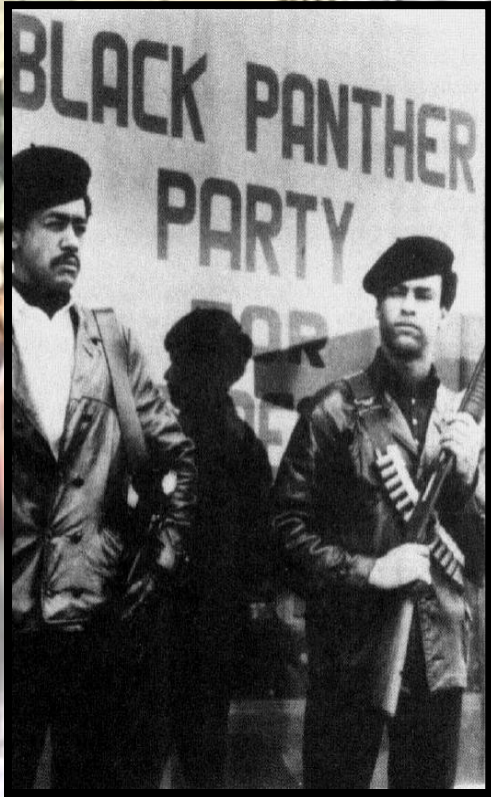
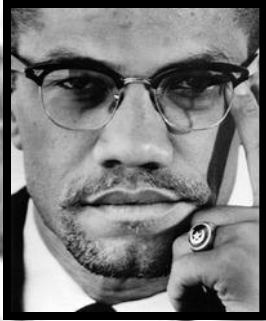


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CRB21: X & "Black Power"



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CRB21: X & "Black Power"

At the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, two black U.S. runners Tommie Smith (gold winner) and John Carlos (bronze), raised black-gloved fists while the U.S. National Anthem played as a way to show support and solidarity with black people and racial injustice in the world.





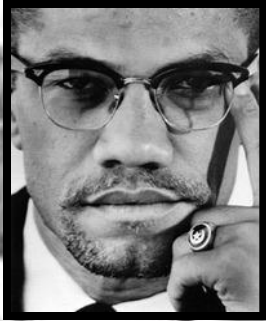
CRB21: X & "Black Power"

Both Smith and Carlos had taken off their shoes and wore black socks on the podium to highlight black poverty.



Smith also had a black scarf to represent black pride, while Carlos had a necklace of beads to remember people who had been lynched.





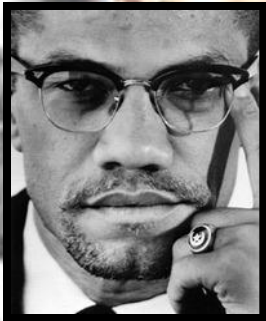
CRB21: X & "Black Power"

For their gesture (which was widely deemed a "Black Power" salute), **Smith and Carlos** were suspended from the **Olympic team**, ordered to return their medals (they never did), and had to fly home.



Both received death threats and struggled to find work.





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

In 1968, a majority of the country saw them as traitors, as villains, and un-American.



As the decades passed, Smith was careful to not refer to their gesture as a "Black Power" salute; rather, it was *"for the community and power in Black America."*





CRB21: X & "Black Power"



In 2008, 40 years after the medal ceremony, Smith and Carlos were honored with the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage.



In 2012, President Barack Obama recognized them during a White House ceremony. He said:





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

"Their silent protest in the 1968 Games was controversial, but it woke folks up and created greater opportunity for those that followed."

In 2016, Smith and Carlos were selected as U.S. Olympic Committee ambassadors.





CRB21: X & "Black Power"

As U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War grew, race became a factor.

Many black leaders argued that blacks soldiers shouldn't fight in a war for freedom abroad when they didn't have freedom at home.



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CRB21: X & "Black Power"

Many black leaders warned against alienating President LBJ by opposing the war... because Johnson had supported Civil Rights.

Demonstrations grew as the percentage of black casualties became higher than for whites.



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CRB21: X & "Black Power"

The **anti-communist campaign** during the **Cold War** had a **mixed impact** on **black Americans**.



The **U.S.** presented itself as the **"champion of freedom and democracy"** against the **totalitarianism of communism**.



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CRB21: X & "Black Power"

The **denial of rights to blacks** wasn't a **good look for the U.S.**



As a result, activists asked:
"How can the U.S. tell African or Asian countries to reject communism and emulate the American way of life, when racism and inequality are a part of that way of life?"



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CRB21: X & "Black Power"



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WHAT
DID WE
LEARN
TODAY?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 13 (AH 5.13)

QUESTION 1 




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1. What caused the Watts Riot in LA? What was the end result? What caused the 12th Street Riots in Detroit? What was the end result?



FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 13 (AH 5.13)

QUESTION 2 

2. What happened to Malcolm X's father and mother? Why did he change his name to "Malcolm X"?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 13 (AH 5.13)

QUESTION

3




3. Explain Malcolm X's views when he was a member of the Nation of Islam. Explain his views after he left. Who assassinated him in 1965?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 13 (AH 5.13)

QUESTION 4 

4. What did Tommie Smith and John Carlos do during the 1968 Olympics that got them in trouble? How were they treated right after the incident? How are they treated today?



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FAST 5: UNIT 5, LESSON 13 (AH 5.13)

QUESTION

5



5. Why did it become difficult for the U.S. to promote itself as a “champion of freedom and democracy” against communism during the 1960s?

! THINK

✓ CHECK

> SUBMIT



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