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DR. HARTNELL



The American Overhaul



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AH
Lesson
5.11



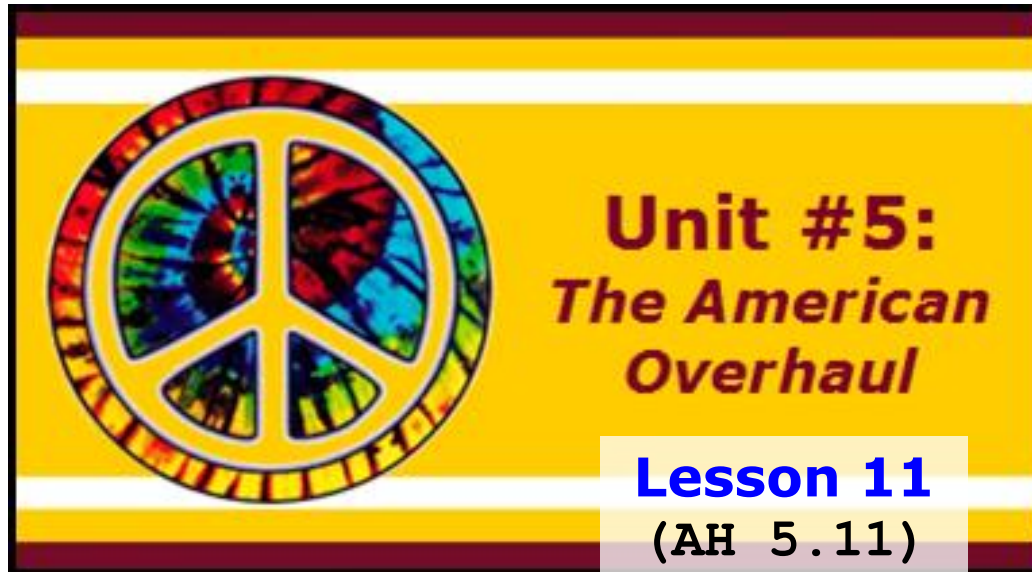
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Were the goals of Malcolm X
and MLK all that different?



Unit #5:
*The American
Overhaul*

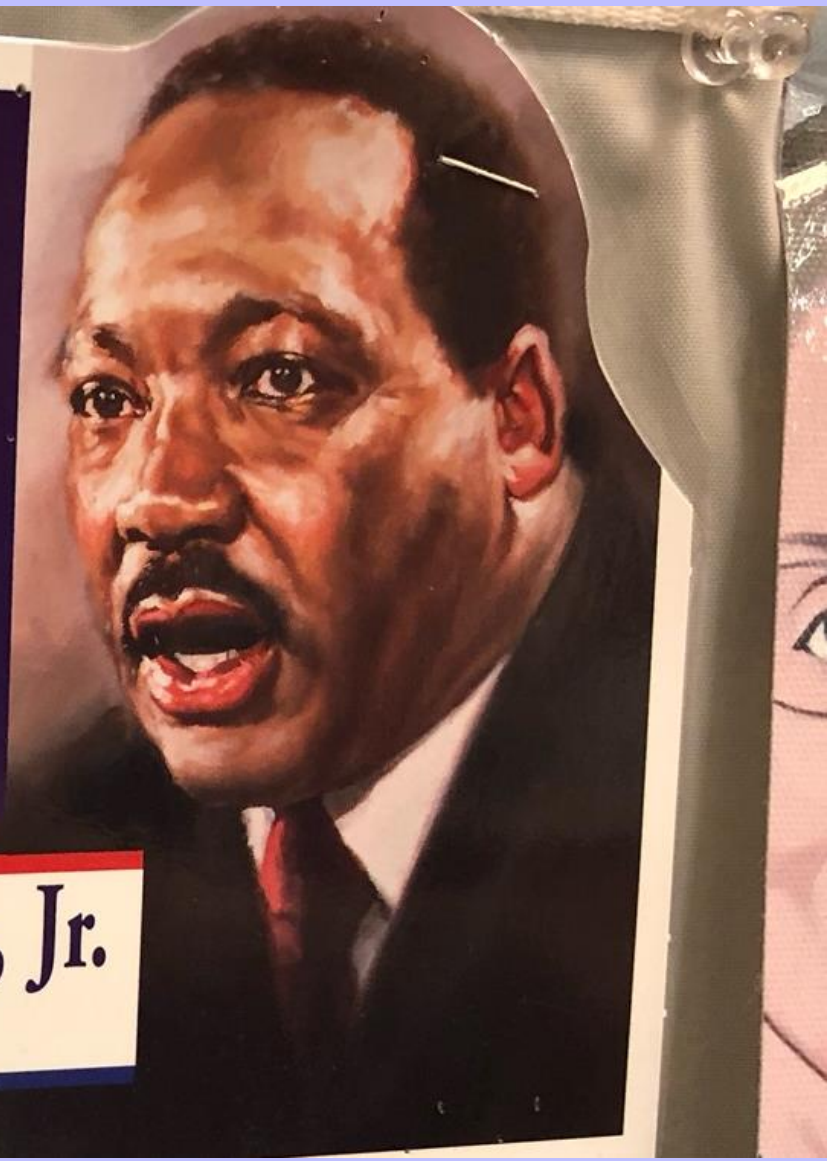
Lesson 11
(AH 5.11)



*"[R]ight temporarily
defeated is stronger than
evil triumphant."*

Martin Luther King Jr.
Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech,
December 10, 1964

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Civil Rights Leader

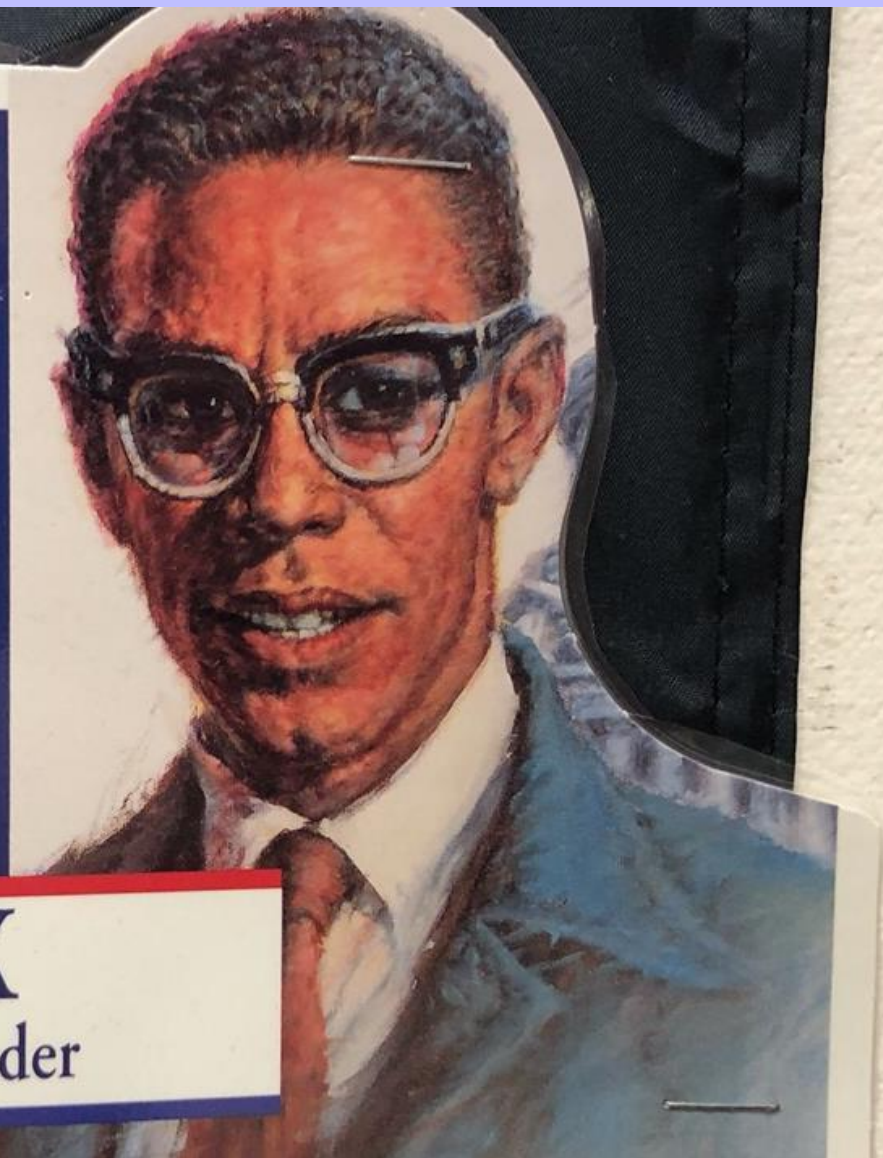


Martin Luther King, Jr.

*“Without
education, you
are not going
anywhere in
this world.”*

Malcolm X
Militant Labor Forum Speech,
May 29, 1964

Malcolm X
Militant Black Leader

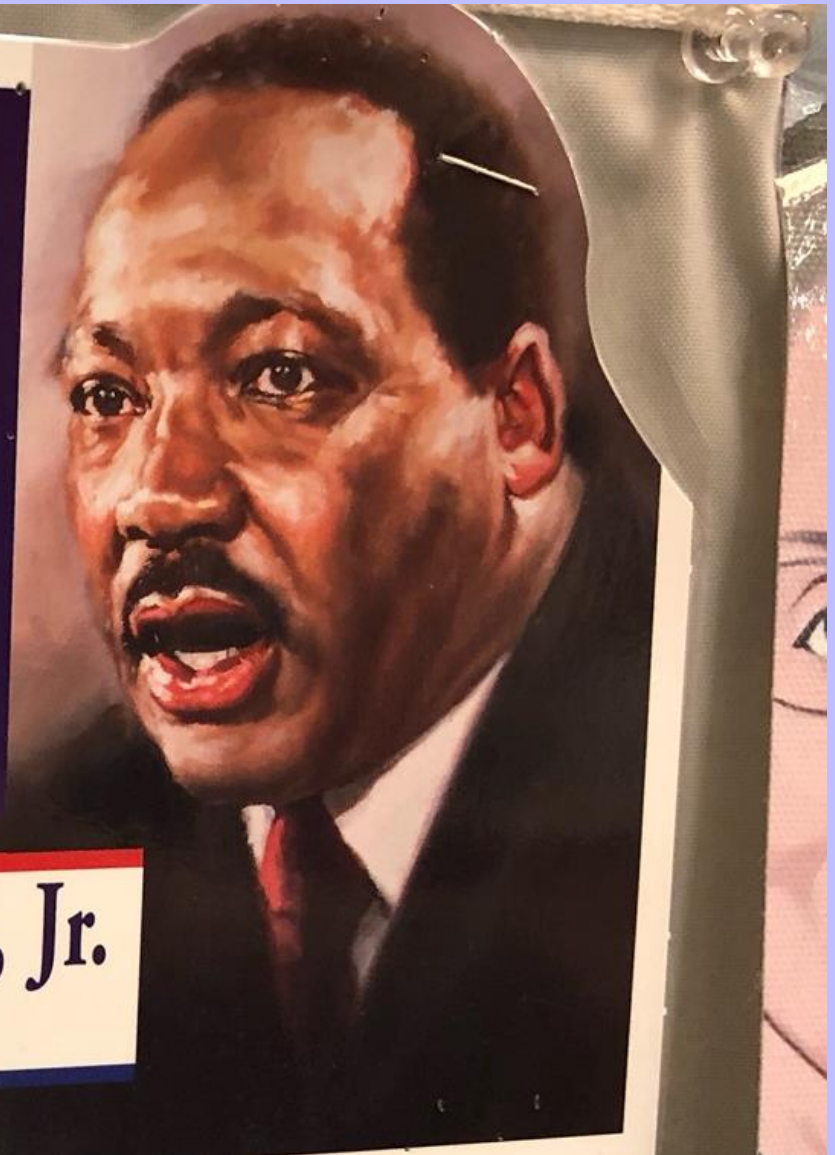


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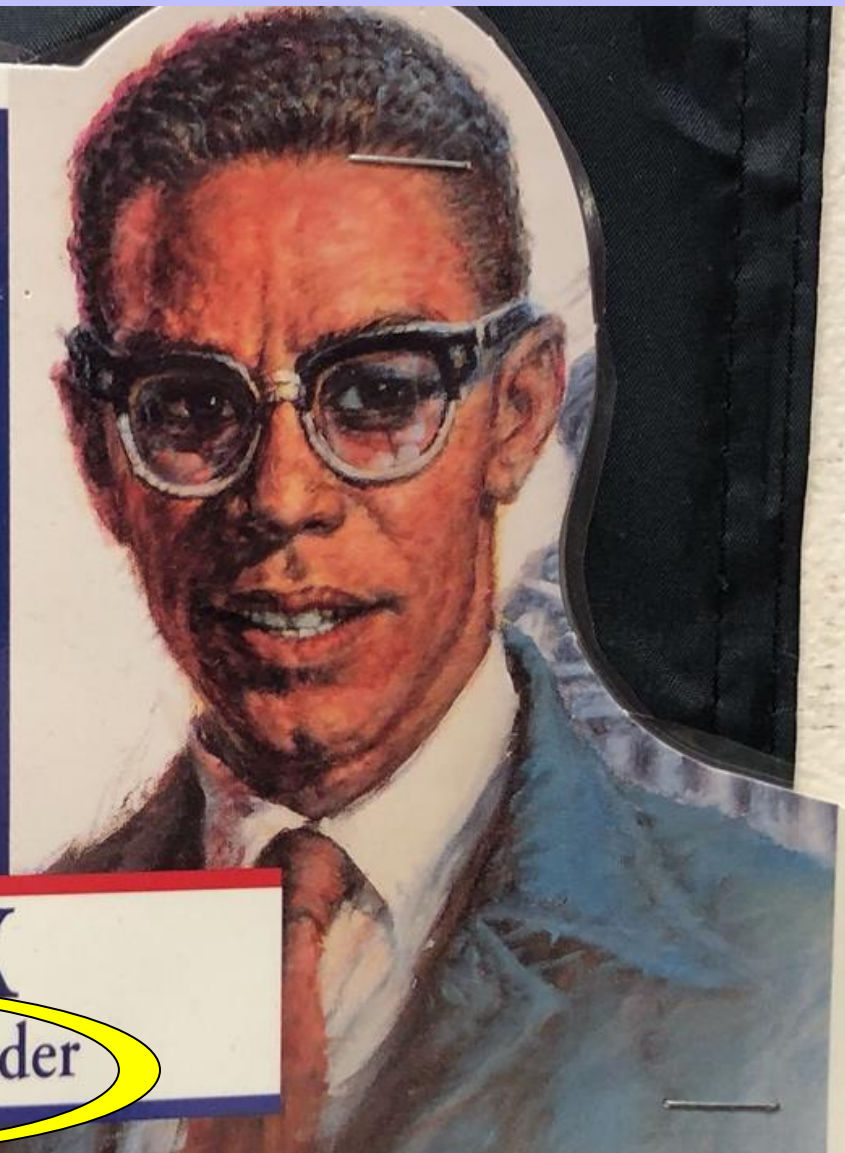
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Malcolm X

B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- As urban riots voiced **black rage** against lack of progress, demands for “**Black Power**” changed tone of CRM.
- Under strain of constant attacks, many **black leaders** questioned nonviolence.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

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

- **Malcolm X commented:**

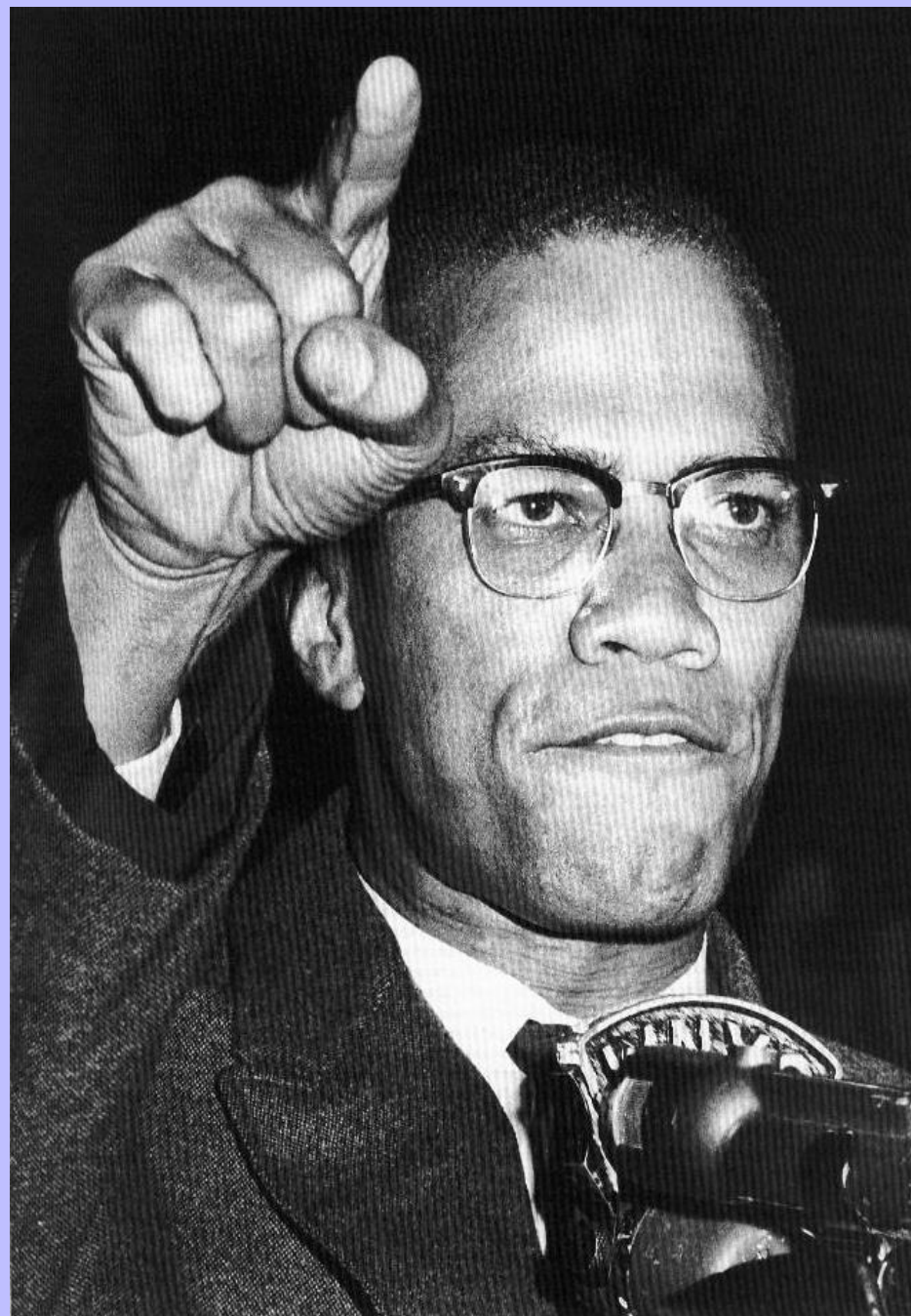


*“I’m not for wanton violence, I’m for justice. I feel that if white people were attacked by Negroes – if the forces of law proved unable, or inadequate, or reluctant to protect those whites – then those whites should protect themselves from those Negroes, using arms if necessary. ...
... And I feel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



Malcolm X

B1G THING



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **May 19, 1925: Born “Malcolm Little” in Omaha, Nebraska,** X’s parents faced constant threats from white supremacists.
- Before X was **6, 2** of his homes destroyed by KKK.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- Family spent time in Milwaukee, Chicago, Indiana & Michigan.
- When X was 6, father beaten up & placed on tracks of streetcar in Lansing, MI; struck & killed.

B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **Death ruled “suicide”** (which would have been impossible), which prevented family from collecting on his life insurance policy.
- Not long after, **mother** had nervous breakdown & **sent to mental institution.**



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- Welfare agents split X & 9 siblings apart.
- X sent to juvenile detention home in Mason, MI (10 miles south of Lansing), where he attended all-white middle school.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- Growing up, X had wanted to become lawyer.
- Though academically near top of class, English teacher told him being lawyer was *“not a realistic goal for a N-word”*.

B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- Fed up w/ educational system & systemic racism inherent throughout, **when X turned 15, left to go live w/ half-sister in Boston & never attended school again.**
- By age **17**, he resided in Harlem in NYC.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- During time in Boston & NYC that X got involved in drug dealing, gambling & prostitution.
- **Arrested** numerous times for smaller crimes before being picked up **for burglarizing homes in Boston.**



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **1946:** Sentenced to state prison & served **6.5** yrs.
- **While in prison, X was approached by minister for Nation of Islam (NOI).**



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- NOI preached “black power” & taught that whites were race of “blue-eyed devils” created millenniums ago by evil scientist.
- X soon exchanged letters with NOI’s leader Elijah Muhammad.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **1952:** After release from prison, **X moved to** brother's house near **Detroit**, where he attended local NOI mosque.
- Dropped last name "Little" (his "slave name") & adopted letter "X" (for "unknown").



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **X** became favorite minister of Elijah Muhammad & was **sent to BOS & PHIL to establish new mosques.**
- Gave fiery speeches & said things like: ***“We didn’t land on Plymouth Rock – Plymouth Rock landed on us!”***



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **1958**: Married fellow member named Betty Dean Sanders in Lansing.
- Had **6** daughters (twins born after his assassination).
- Betty died in **1997** when her **12**-yr-old grandson set fire to her apartment.



B1G THING

CRB #20: *Malcolm X*



- **Because of X's efforts,** membership in **NOI grew** from only few hundred at time of his conversion **to 6,000** in **1955** & **75,000** by **1960s.**



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- While in NOI, **X called mainstream Civil Rights leaders “Uncle Toms”** (slur used to disparage black people seen as being subservient to whites).
- Referred to MLK’s *“March on Washington”* as *“Farce on Washington”*.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **Supporter of strict separation of races, X entered into secret negotiations w/ KKK to try to accomplish this.**
- **Dec. 1960: X went to home of KKK's leader in Atlanta who spoke of land in GA or SC where blacks could move to & live "freely".**

B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **1961**: Members of American Nazi Party attended speech given by X.
- NOI seated Nazis in front row... & **Nazis made donations to NOI.**
- *Why?*



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **Both groups hated Jews & wanted to separate black/white races.**

B1G THING

CRB #20: *Malcolm X*



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



B1G THING

CRB #20: *Malcolm X*



- Their relationship was further strained when Elijah Muhammad suspended him for asserting that Prez JFK's assassination in **1963** was case of *“chickens coming home to roost”*.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **Early 1964: X** announced split from NOI, converted to traditional Islam & took new name: **El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz.**



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **April 1964: Made religious pilgrimage to Mecca in where began to “reappraise the white man”.**
- **When returned home, X 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.”



Malcolm X

B1G THING

CRB #20: *Malcolm X*



- **Moving forward, X** stopped advocating black separatism & **began to embrace more peaceful approach** to fighting for CR.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- In speeches, **X criticized NOI & Elijah Muhammad for “religious fakery”**, which resulted in NOI retaliating.
- **Feb. 14, 1965**: Someone (most likely NOI) threw Molotov cocktails at X’s NYC home.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- 1 week later (on **Feb. 21, 1965**), **X** was in **Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom** **about to speak** to **400** people.

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



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- When crowd turned to see disruption, **man rushed forward & shot X** once in chest w/ sawed-off shotgun.
- **2** other men charged stage firing semi-automatic handguns.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- Autopsy showed **21 wounds.**
 - Happened in front of wife Betty & children, who were attending speech.
 - **X was 39.**
 - **Gunmen were members of NOI.**

B1G THING



Assassination of X (1965)

B1G THING



Assassination of X (1965)

B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **1** of **3** gunmen (Thomas Hagan) beaten by crowd before police got there.
- Hagan sentenced to life in prison but paroled in **April 2010**.



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- Other **2** gunmen (Norman Butler & Thomas Johnson also sentenced to life.
- Butler paroled in **1985** & Johnson paroled in **1987**.
- Both maintained innocence (Johnson died in **2009**).



B1G THING



CRB #20: *Malcolm X*

- **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.”*





What did we

LEARN

TODAY?



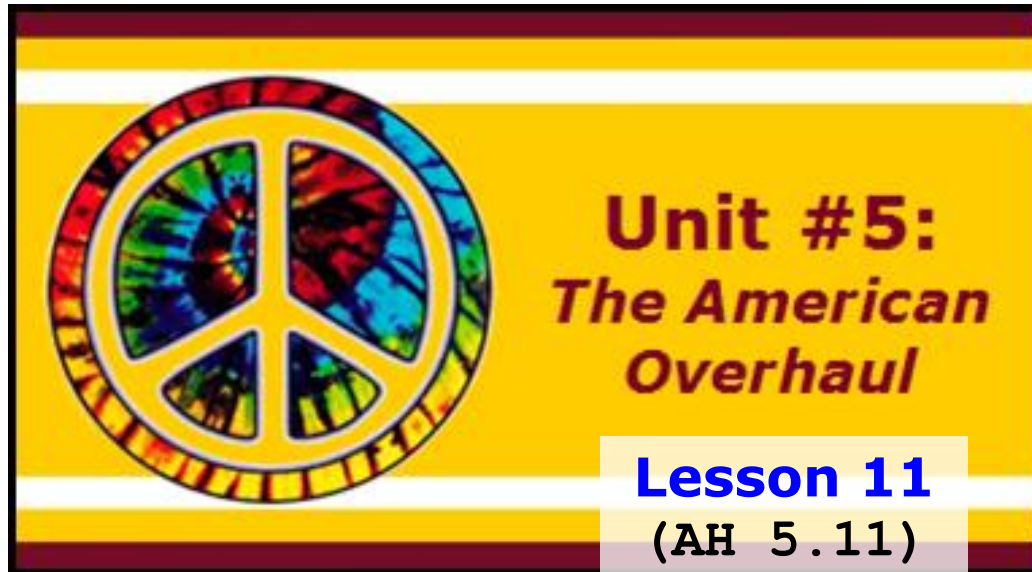
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