Your Name

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Date

Title: Malcolm X - Civil rights advocate

Malcolm X was an African American speaker, Muslim minister, and civil rights activist. He spoke for the Muslims African American and he challenged the orthodox civil rights program initiated by the Martin Luther. He advised his followers to defend themselves against white oppression by any necessary mean. The used "X" in his name in order to reject his slave name. Malcolm became one of the most influential leaders and speaker of his time and played a significant role in the civil rights movement (Doeden, 25). He was charismatic and eloquent and united Black Nationalism with his religion Islam. He wanted to inspire and empower underprivileged young blacks seeking self-reliance in isolated America. His book led the foundation of the Black Power Movement after his death.

Malcolm was born on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska. His mother was a housewife while his dad was an opinionated Baptist minister. He was a native leader of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. He was brought up with the values of Black pride and self-reliance. His family had to relocate many times due to the threats of Ku Klux Klan, American white supremacist group. His youth was spent suffering from pain and violence owing to the black oppression and discrimination. In 1929, their house was burnt and his father accused a white supremacist group Black Legion for the accident. In 1931, his father was struck by a car leading him to death but his death was declared as an accident. Despite the efforts and actions from the black community, police failed to consider the accident as murder and also refused to pay them out. His mother had a nervous breakdown and she was declared lunatic. His mother was sent to the state mental hospital until after 26 years Malcolm and his siblings safeguarded her release.

Due to his criminal actions, Malcolm has to spend 10 years on parole.

During this time in the prison, he learned about the Nation of Islam, a Black Muslim organization that assumed that blacks are superior to whites. His brother told him about the NOI and after his parole he joined NOI. In 1953, he replaced his last name, soon he became an accomplished journalist. He strongly believed that blacks are the chosen people of God, and being the minister of NOI he preached separation from the whites. Malcolm assumed the whites were destined to death due to their long-lasting oppression on blacks. His goals for the Blacks was a separate nation for them since white had confirmed themselves as never practicing their ideals of freedom and equality (Goldman, 22). He believed that a separate nation is necessary for blacks to work on their self-improvement and progression as a nation. He highlighted the shortcomings of the civil rights movement on separate occasions.

Malcolm adopted a simple strategy and he believed that separation and self-reliance is the only way African Americans can secure their access to employment and protection of their rights. The purpose of Malcolm’s work was similar to that of other civil rights activists and leaders, that is, equality and protection of black’s rights but his approach was different from that of the conventional civil rights leaders. For him, civil rights had a greater emphasis on rights than on civility. He strongly favored the parting of blacks and whites and clarified it this way, “You don't integrate with a sinking ship."(“A Summing Up”, n.p). He also argued that America is too discriminatory in its institutions to offer expectation and hope to the people of color.

Malcolm had many achievements in his life as a civil rights activist and Muslim African American leader. Soon after he was released from the prison, he got fame as the minister at the Boston mosque of NOI. The next year he was made the minister at temple No. 12 and No. 7. In order to spread his voice, he also started Muhammad Speaks in 1967. Muhammad Speaks was the NOI newspaper. He got several invitations to take part in the debates on the most famous forums that let him spread his voice to a large audience. He was also declared as the second most sought after narrator in the US, by the New York Times. He also led one of the major civil rights happenings of state, Unity Rally in Harlem, in 1963. One of his biggest achievement is the conversion to Islam of the boxer Cassius Clay, known as Muhammad Ali in 1964. Malcolm is also credited with the formation of the Muslim Mosque, Inc. Moreover, he also organized the Organizations of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) to work towards the global rights of African American (Robinson, 10). Both the organizations emphasized the passions that defined Malcolm X.

Though he was not able to create a separate nation for the African Americans in his life, his contribution to the civil rights movement produced a positive impact for the African Americans. His success can be marked in the terms that he inspired many towards his beliefs. Advocating active battle with oppression and discrimination exhibited himself as a person of high intelligence, convictions, and self-esteem. He lived a life according to what he said was the right way and stimulated others to see themselves as arbitrators of their personal value as human beings. His legacy has been transferred to the coming nations in the form of his works, autobiographies, documentaries, etc. A movie was also released in his name in 1992 by Director Spike Lee. In his influence, members of SNCC also called for black power for black people. He will indeed be remembered as the pride of the Black community.

# Works Cited

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