

Freedom: The Story of the Black Panther Party



Freedom! The Story of the Black Panther Party

by Joshua Bloom

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The Black Panther Party was a revolutionary organization founded in Oakland, California in 1966. The party's goal was to fight for the self-determination of Black people in the United States. The Panthers advocated for armed self-defense, community control, and the establishment of a socialist state.

The Black Panther Party was founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale. Newton was a former law student at Merritt College in Oakland. Seale was a former member of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, a group that had been founded in 1966 by Bobby Hutton and David Hilliard.

The Black Panther Party quickly gained a national following. The party's members were known for their distinctive black uniforms, berets, and

sunglasses. The Panthers also established a number of community programs, including a free breakfast program for children, a free medical clinic, and a free legal aid clinic.

The Black Panther Party was a major force in the Civil Rights Movement. The party's members were involved in a number of protests and demonstrations against police brutality and racial discrimination. The Panthers also played a role in the Black Power movement. The Black Power movement was a movement that advocated for Black people to take control of their own communities and destinies.

The Black Panther Party was a controversial organization. The party's members were often accused of violence and extremism. The Panthers were also targeted by the FBI. The FBI's COINTELPRO program was a program that was designed to disrupt and discredit the Black Panther Party and other radical organizations.

The Black Panther Party declined in the early 1970s. The party was weakened by internal divisions and by the FBI's COINTELPRO program. The Panthers also faced a number of legal challenges. In 1971, Huey Newton was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the death of a police officer. In 1973, Bobby Seale was convicted of conspiracy to murder a police officer.

The Black Panther Party was a significant force in the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power movement. The party's legacy is still debated today. Some people view the Panthers as a symbol of Black resistance and empowerment. Others view the Panthers as a symbol of violence and extremism.

The Black Panther Party's Ten-Point Program

The Black Panther Party's Ten-Point Program was a set of demands that the party made to the government of the United States. The program was adopted in 1966. The ten points are as follows:

1. We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.
2. We want full employment for our people.
3. We want an end to the robbery by the white man of our Black Community.
4. We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings.
5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present day society.
6. We want all Black men to be exempt from military service.
7. We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people.
8. We want freedom for all Black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.
9. We want all Black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their Black Communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States.
10. We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace.

The Black Panther Party's Legacy

The Black Panther Party's legacy is still debated today. Some people view the Panthers as a symbol of Black resistance and empowerment. Others view the Panthers as a symbol of violence and extremism.

There is no doubt that the Black Panther Party was a significant force in the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power movement. The party's members were involved in a number of important protests and demonstrations. The Panthers also played a role in the establishment of a number of community programs.

However, the Black Panther Party was also a controversial organization. The party's members were often accused of violence and extremism. The Panthers were also targeted by the FBI. The FBI's COINTELPRO program was a program that was designed to disrupt and discredit the Black Panther Party and other radical organizations.

The Black Panther Party declined in the early 1970s. The party was weakened by internal divisions and by the FBI's COINTELPRO program. The Panthers also faced a number of legal challenges.

Despite its decline, the Black Panther Party's legacy continues to be debated today. The party's members were involved in a number of important protests and demonstrations. The Panthers also played a role in the establishment of a number of community programs.

The Black Panther Party was a complex and controversial organization. The party's legacy is still debated today. However, there is no doubt that the Black Panther Party was a significant force in the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power movement.



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