

African American History

Teacher: Thigpen

Week: May 18th – May 22nd, 2020

Topic: **Checking in & Reminders**

Turn-it-in (*I am just keeping this info in every assignment for your reference.*)

Black Panther Party & Angela Davis

Due Date: **Friday May 22th, 2020**

Assignments will be submitted by the following:

Thigpen- Turn-it-in

Assignments:

1. Just a few reminders.

- a. This weeks reading is another topic selected by you and your peers. Your readings are on the Black Panther Party and Angela Davis. If you were on our Zoom meeting last week, you know we were joined by Ms. Capelli, Mrs. Cleveland, Ms. Sharon and her daughter Taylin. We were talking about who we would have lunch with (alive or dead) and Mrs. Cleveland said Angela Davis. I thought this was a perfect teachable moment so I included Ms. Davis in this week's reading.

We will Zoom this week. Wednesday May 20th at noon.

Zoom login: 857 3031 5902

Password: Thigpen

- b. This is a college prep "elective". Therefore, I trying to keep our work simple and easy to complete. If you are overwhelmed or need help, **please** email me or reach out on Remind.
- c. Please make sure you are communicating with me if you are behind on the weekly work, need extra support. I am here to help.

2. Make sure you are registered for your history turn-it-in:

- a. Go to turnitin.com
- b. Go to the upper right hand corner and either log in (if you already have an account) or create an account. The "Class ID" and "Enrollment Key" for each class is broken down by teacher below. This is where you will submit your assignments.
- c. If you need help email me thigpenw@luhsd.net or message me on Remind.

Thigpen	Class ID	Enrollment Key
Period 3	24449394	aahistoy (all lower case)

3. Black Panther Party & Angela Davis

Read each passage and answer each question in complete sentences in a **separate word document**



Questions:

How much did you know about the Black Panther Party and Angela Davis before the readings? What did you find interesting about the articles? Do you think the Black Panther Party accomplished any of their 10 point goals discussed in the article? What do you think about Angela Davis now working for the UC system?

Black Panther Party

The Black Panthers, also known as the Black Panther Party, was a political organization founded in 1966 by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale to challenge police brutality against the African American community. Dressed in black berets and black leather jackets, the Black Panthers organized armed citizen patrols of Oakland and other U.S. cities. At its peak in 1968, the Black Panther Party had roughly 2,000 members. The organization later declined as a result of internal tensions, deadly shootouts and FBI counterintelligence activities aimed at weakening the organization.

Black Panthers History

Black Panther Party founders [Huey Newton](#) and [Bobby Seale](#) met in 1961 while students at [Merritt College](#) in Oakland, [California](#).

They both protested the college's "Pioneer Day" celebration, which honored the pioneers who came to California in the 1800s, but omitted the role of African Americans in settling the American West. Seale and Newton formed the Negro History Fact Group, which called on the school to offer classes in black history.

They founded the Black Panthers in the wake of the assassination of black nationalist [Malcolm X](#) and after police in [San Francisco](#) shot and killed an unarmed black teen named Matthew Johnson.

Originally dubbed the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, the organization was founded in October 1966. The Black Panthers' early activities primarily involved monitoring police activities in black communities in Oakland and other cities.

As they instituted a number of social programs and engaged in political activities, their popularity grew. The Black Panthers drew widespread support from urban centers with large minority communities, including Los Angeles, [Chicago](#), [New York](#) and Philadelphia. By 1968, the Black Panthers had roughly 2,000 members across the country.

Political Activities And Social Programs

Newton and Seale drew on Marxist ideology for the party platform. They outlined the organization's philosophical views and political objectives in a Ten-Point Program.

The Ten-Point Program called for an immediate end to police brutality; employment for African Americans; and land, housing and justice for all.

The Black Panthers were part of the larger Black Power movement, which emphasized black pride, community control and unification for civil rights.

While the Black Panthers were often portrayed as a gang, their leadership saw the organization as a political party whose goal was getting more African Americans elected to political office. They were unsuccessful on this front. By the early 1970s, [FBI](#) counterintelligence efforts, criminal activities and an internal rift between group members weakened the party as a political force.

The Black Panthers did, however, start a number of popular community social programs, including free breakfast programs for school children and free health clinics in 13 African American communities across the United States.

Black Panthers Violence And Controversies

The Black Panthers were involved in numerous violent encounters with police. In 1967, founder Huey Newton allegedly killed Oakland police officer John Frey. Newton was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in 1968 and was sentenced to two to 15 years in prison. An appellate court decision later reversed the conviction.

[Eldridge Cleaver](#), editor of the Black Panther's newspaper, and 17-year old Black Panther member and treasurer Bobby Hutton, were involved in a shootout with police in 1968 that left Hutton dead and two police officers wounded.

Conflicts within the party often turned violent too. In 1969, Black Panther Party member Alex Rackley was tortured and murdered by other Black Panthers who thought him a police informant.

Black Panther bookkeeper Betty Van Patter was found beaten and murdered in 1974. No one was charged with the death, though many believed that party leadership was responsible.

The FBI And COINTELPRO

The Black Panthers' socialist message and black nationalist focus made them the target of a secret FBI counterintelligence program called COINTELPRO.

In 1969, the FBI declared the Black Panthers a communist organization and an enemy of the United States government. The first FBI's first director, [J. Edgar Hoover](#), in 1968 called the Black Panthers, "One of the greatest threats to the nation's internal security."

The FBI worked to weaken the Panthers by exploited existing rivalries between black nationalist groups. They also worked to undermine and dismantle the Free Breakfast for Children Program and other community social programs instituted by the Black Panthers.

In 1969, Chicago police gunned down and killed Black Panther Party members Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, who were asleep in their apartment.

About a hundred bullets were fired in what police described as a fierce gun battle with members of the Black Panther Party. However, ballistics experts later determined that only one of those bullets came from the Panthers' side.

Although the FBI was not responsible for leading the raid, a federal grand jury later indicated that the bureau played a significant role in the events leading up to the raid.

The Black Panther Party officially dissolved in 1982.

New Black Panther Party

The New Black Panther Party is a black nationalist organization founded in Dallas, [Texas](#), in 1989. Members of the original Black Panther Party say there's no relation between the New Black Panther Party and the original Black Panthers.

The United States Commission on Civil Rights and the Southern Poverty Law Center have called the New Black Panther Party a hate group.

SOURCES

5 things to know about the Black Panthers. [USA Today](#).
Black Panther Party. Federal Bureau of Investigation.
The Black Panthers: [Revolutionaries, free breakfast pioneers](#).

Citation Information

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Black Panthers

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Angela Davis

Educator and activist Angela Davis (1944-) became known for her involvement in a politically charged murder case in the early 1970s. Influenced by her segregated upbringing in Birmingham, Alabama, Davis joined the Black Panthers and an all-black branch of the Communist Party as a young woman. She became a professor at UCLA, but fell out of favor with the administration due to her ties. Davis was charged with aiding the botched escape attempt of imprisoned black radical George Jackson, and served roughly 18 months in jail before her acquittal in 1972. After spending time traveling and lecturing, Davis returned to the classroom as a professor and authored several books.

Angela Davis: Early Life and Education

Angela Yvonne Davis is best known as a radical African American educator and activist for [civil rights](#) and other social issues. She was born on January 26, 1944, in Birmingham, [Alabama](#) to Sallye and Frank Davis, an elementary school teacher and the owner of a service station, respectively. Davis knew about racial prejudice from a young age; her neighborhood in Birmingham was nicknamed “Dynamite Hill” for the number of homes targeted by the [Ku Klux Klan](#). As a teenager, Davis organized interracial study groups, which were broken up by the police. She also knew several of the young African American girls killed in the [Birmingham church bombing](#) of 1963.

Angela Davis later moved north and went to Brandeis University in [Massachusetts](#) where she studied philosophy with Herbert Marcuse. As a graduate student at the University of [California](#), San Diego, in the late 1960s, she joined several groups, including the [Black Panthers](#). But she spent most of her time working with the Che-Lumumba Club, which was all-black branch of the Communist Party.

Hired to teach at the University of California, Los Angeles, Angela Davis ran into trouble with the school's administration because of her association with [communism](#). They fired her, but she fought them in court and got her job back. Davis still ended up leaving when her contract expired in 1970.

Angela Davis and the Soledad Brothers

Outside of academia, Angela Davis had become a strong supporter of three prison inmates of Soledad Prison known as the Soledad brothers (they were not related). These three men—John W. Cluchette, Fleeta Drumgo, and George Lester Jackson—were accused of killing a prison guard after several African American inmates had been killed in a fight by another guard. Some thought these prisoners were being used as scapegoats because of the political work within the prison.

During Jackson's trial in August 1970, an escape attempt was made when Jackson's brother Jonathan entered the courtroom to claim hostages he could exchange for his brother. Jonathan Jackson, Superior Court Judge Harold Haley, and two inmates were killed in the ensuing shoot-out.

Angela Davis was brought up on several charges for her alleged part in the event, including murder. She went into hiding and was one of the FBI's "Most Wanted" before being caught two months later. There were two main pieces of evidence used at trial: the guns used were registered to her, and she was reportedly in love with Jackson. Her case drew the attention of the international press and after spending roughly 18 months in jail, [Davis was acquitted](#) in June 1972.

Angela Davis Books

After spending time traveling and lecturing, Angela Davis returned to teaching. Today, she is a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she teaches courses on the history of consciousness. Davis is the author of several books, including *Women, Race, and Class* (1980), *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday* (1999), *Are Prisons Obsolete?* (2003), *Abolition Democracy: Beyond Empire, Prisons, and Torture* (2005), *The Meaning of Freedom: And Other Difficult Dialogues* (2012) and *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement* (2016).

Citation Information
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