

Black Panther Party Legacy

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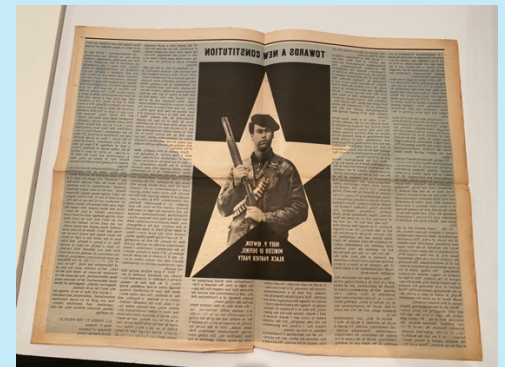
Black Panther Archive

Reframing American History: A BP Legacy

El Buchanan

In the November 1970 issue of *The Black Panther*, Huey Newton wrote an article entitled "Towards a New Constitution." The article emphasizes the importance of history and understanding the nationalistic propaganda spoon-fed to Americans. Newton focuses on the language used in the Constitution and how it does not apply to Black Americans. The rights gained in 1776 were revolutionary to wealthy land-owning White people, but Newton believed that Black people could never gain total freedom under the US's capitalist system. This anti-capitalist rhetoric was radical at the time, but in contemporary America it has been taken by mainstream sources and spread nationwide. For example, the *New York Times* created The 1619 Project in 2019. It aims to reframe US history by focusing the enslavement of Africans as the center of the narrative. The Project is a collection of articles, photo essays, poetry, and other

resources attempting to go beyond what is taught in US history classes. Matthew Desmond wrote in an article entitled, "American Capitalism is Brutal. You can trace it back to the plantation," about how contemporary American capitalist tactics are rooted in how the industry of slavery functioned in the American South. He writes about the misrepresentation of freedom in American culture, a topic Newton and the Black Panthers reiterated in articles and speeches. The NYT is in no way a beacon of radicalism, but their critiques of capitalism show how far America has come in understanding its history. The relevance of a mainstream news source writing against capitalism shows the true legacy of the Black Panther Party of critiquing and reframing the story of American history.



**"You can kill
a revolutionary,
but you can
never kill the
revolution."**

- Fred Hampton



10 Points Everchanging

Sierra Bynes-Eason

The Black Panther Party's core values centered around radical change that aligned with the desire for solidarity, unity, and equity for the Black community. Through their activism, they gathered in protest, rallies, and worked with their fellow allies to elicit change. Before they knew it, their messages spread across the country as they gained thousands and thousands of members. The BPP, so foundational within grassroots organizing, had such a heavy influence on a variety of contemporary movements.

Organizational Founders Bobby Seale & Huey P. Newton proposed that the best way to get the organization off the ground and running was to create a program. Newton wanted this program to serve as a foundation. This program was made with the intention for it to be "for and understood by the people." Newton drafted this program, as it then became the historically well known, 10-Point Platform we recognize today.

The platform was divided into two sections of the Party's demands for their wants and needs. Newton drew inspiration from his aligned beliefs that centered ideologies from leftists, Marxist, Maoism, and numerous grassroots Black Power movements within his writing process. Essentially the platform outlined that Party's listed demands that ranged from...

Freedom, full employment, putting an end to the robbery by which capitalism oppresses black folk under, decent housing fit for shelter, a decent and valuable education that exposes the truths of colonialism and white supremacist powers to the right to free health care for all black and oppressed people, an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of black people and all other people of color along with other oppressed groups in America, freedom for black and oppressed people now held in county jail and or prison systems. Lastly, an exemption from military service and in sum "land, bread housing, education clothing, and justice" for Black communities.

10 Point's Influence on BLM

Parallel to the Black Panther Party, the Black Lives Matter Movement poses strong comparison and influence, as their mission statement opens with, the organization's aims to...

"Eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes, [through] combating and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy, we are winning immediate improvements in our lives."

Their Mission Statement centers the values of the Black Panther Party as both organizations aim to dismantle structures of white supremacy that disrupt and harm the black communities in such detrimental ways.

Both organizations center the black imagination and its use in such a beautiful way that create space to envision the reality that they seek through their goals and demands by a means to create equality for their communities. The BPP articulates this idea of Black joy through first stating the necessities of freedom and leaving open "what freedom looks like" in this context, because in America as black people, though it legally deems all people free, the lived experience displays that freedom is experienced so differently by those who receive benefits from systems of white supremacy vs. those who are hindered by it.

"One of the most vital ways to sustain ourselves is by building communities of resistance, places where we know we are not alone."
-bell hooks

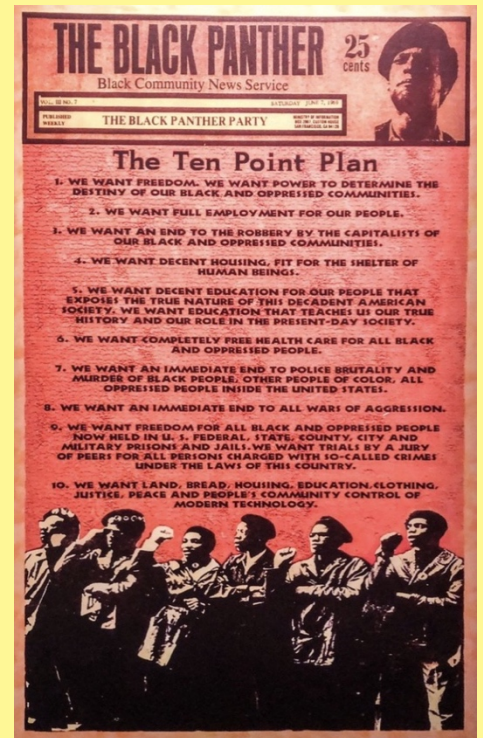
Struggle in South Africa

Jack Fitzpatrick

Global Outrage

The ever-increasing role social media has in protests and spreading awareness combined with the increase in time spent on social media as a result of Covid-19 has brought support to BLM all around the globe. Many countries in Africa have showed their support and have stood in unity against police brutality around the globe. The Black Lives Matter movement has brought more attention to the racial issues within South African society. Many South African activists believe that the BLM movement is inspiring the youth and empowering them to come together and challenge the social norms that were established during colonization. Their goals are very similar to those of the Black Panther Party back in 1966.

The Black population in South Africa has been fighting to end racial disparities in wealth, housing, education, and jobs. Society has constantly marginalized Black South Africans. They seek an end to these issues along with the excessive force and violence brought on by police. All of these problems are the same ones that formed the Black Panther Party. As seen in their Ten Point Platform these struggles that have been imposed on the Black population have not improved, but rather in some cases have continued to get worse.



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

..... BPP & BLM



Aaron Shellow-Lavine

The Ten-Point Platform of the Black Panther Party is one of the founding documents of the radical civil rights groups. Since the conception of the United States of America, Black populations have been systematically devalued and commoditized unfairly. The Panthers hoped to fight against this long history of tyranny, by any means necessary, and while they are largely remembered for their work with the 2nd Amendment, their goals went far beyond arming Black citizens for self-defense. Attempts to skew the legacy of the Panthers to that of a purely violent revolutionary group have all been in bad faith. In reality, while the Panthers certainly were a revolutionary organization, they were striving to attain a basic level of survival for their communities - something the U.S. government had refused to do.

GOALS OF BLM AT SCHOOL:

BLM At School aims to increase racial justice education through a yearly week of curated programs and activities. Through this week of action, BLMAS aims to:

- End Zero Tolerance Polices
- Hire More Black Faculty
- Mandate Year-round Black History and Ethnic Studies
- Increase the Funding of Mental Health Resources & Defund Police in Schools

Point 5 focused on education. As a revolutionary group the Panthers recognized the importance of exposing the systems that were perpetuating the exploitation and devaluation of Black lives, and they understood that one of the best ways to do this was through education. Panther organizations in various cities ran what were known as survival programs: meeting the needs of their communities where the government had failed to do so. These programs ran the gamut: some were focused on providing good meals to kids, others were centered around providing much needed medical care. Early childhood education programs took the form of afterschool programs, as well as Black Panther Liberation Schools.

This emphasis on education has lived on in civil rights efforts long beyond the end of the BPP. Today we see their early efforts to properly educate Black boys and girls reflected in the push to get BLM into public school curriculums. BLM At School is a nationwide push by local BLM organizations and individual activists to incorporate some of the BLM movement's principles into a week of curriculum at varying grade levels. Like the Panthers' past efforts, BLM At School hopes to educate youth on the nature of American society in ways that have been overlooked in the past. BLMAS differs from the Panthers as their curriculums are, while differing on a local level, solely based on providing a more just and representative education in public schools, whereas the Panthers were providing services that often did not exist in any substantial way.



BPP Platform Point #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.*

Contemporary Support

Orlando Burgos

The 10-Point Platform and Program served as a foundation for the BPP in their fight towards fairness for the Black community. As sad as it is to think about, the BPP's fight and struggle, while it did have some great impact, it is still too much to think that their fight migrated generations while still impacting all of us. I'm referring to the BLM movement, which has to fight for their voice and justice. In the past, the BPP fought for similar reasons. In fact, one of their platform points is directly connected to the BLM movement.

Point #7 mentions that they want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of Black people. The BLM movement has been predominantly acting upon events which violate this point. The main fight overall is to get respect, acknowledgement, and an unbiased view against Black people and communities. It is the fight to directly acknowledge police brutality and the need to protect Black people and communities.

For instance, I saw a post recently regarding the BLM movement that said something along the lines of 'Black Lives Matter, not that only Black Lives Matter, not that any other life doesn't matter, but instead Support Black Lives Matter, for Black Lives actually do matter and need help. I saw this posted on social media and it honestly got to me because a lot of other people are being extremely ignorant by saying things such as "White lives matter" or "Blue lives matter" instead, which does not help the case at all. As far as contemporary sources go, it can be said there's a good variety to pick from. A perfect example would be many of the historically important photographs taken during the many BLM protests.

One that I saw which was very impactful was of an incident that happened in one of those protests. The picture may be a little too graphic, but what it showed was the moment a protester was shot with a rubber bullet. He stood up in pain after that, yet still fighting for his voice to be heard as every protester wished. Another contemporary source, although very different from what you may expect, is a rap song by Lil Baby called "The Bigger Picture."

In this track, the artist manages to reach the souls of the audience simply because he's talking about real issues that need to be addressed. The song is dedicated to the BLM movement and he addresses all the killings that have been occurring lately.

The song mentions that "they killing us for no reason," which resonated with me and many people because it's as clear as that. Police brutality isn't stopping, and it's time to keep acting on it as Lil Baby expressed throughout the whole song.

