

The Role of the Black Panthers in Civil Rights Movement

Name

Institutional Affiliation

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The African Americans residing in different cities in the United States significantly suffered social and economic inequalities. Indeed, they faced various challenges such as congested public amenities, chronic health problems, violence, and poor living conditions. Such difficulties led to uprisings in the urban centers. The situation worsened when Malcolm X was assassinated. As a result, Huey Newton and Bobby Seale instituted the Black Panthers Party for self-protection in 1966 (Gatchet & Cloud, 2013). The Black Panthers Party pursued a dream to liberate African Americans by fighting against discrimination and racism using a Ten Points Program.

Foremost, the Black Panthers played a vital role in defending themselves. They took up their legitimate right to own and carry arms in pursuit of the Malcolm X's ideology of self-defense (Abbott, 2013). They made this decision because Africans Americans frequently suffered from police brutality. Indeed, police would whip and murder them at random. Therefore, the Black Panthers believed that they had to carry arms to defend themselves from such cruelty. Although they experienced scuffles with the police, Black Panthers succeeded in enlightening the minority groups about their rights. In this way, the Black Panthers empowered Africans Americans thus making them vigilant towards pursuing their place in the American Society.

The Black Panthers also played a significant role in initiating community programs. They demonstrated the importance of politics to the people's lives through various programs such as feeding the hungry and offering medical care to all individuals irrespective of their backgrounds. The first community program planned by Panthers was a free breakfast for minors (Kordi, 2013). The Black Panthers Party also helped in shaping the destiny of Africans Americans' children by

organizing an educational program. Apart from gaining formal knowledge, the black children were taught about their history as well as their role in the society. These programs helped in achieving the civil rights movement's objective of ensuring that everybody benefits from the available resources. Undeniably, the programs empowered Africans Americans to realize their potential, and thus they embraced the revolutionary agenda.

Additionally, the Black Panthers helped in transforming the black women groups. Previously, the majority of the black women engaged in home chores. The Black Panthers assisted these women as well as the small proportion of working class to form trade unions, which could help them fight for their labor rights. Although they faced various challenges in efforts to bridge gaps created by capitalism, understanding their rights as workers gave them a revolutionary position in the labor market. The party substantially campaigned on the need to empower every person irrespective of his or her gender to acquire full employment or a guaranteed income source (Gatchet & Cloud, 2013). In this way, Africans Americans made tremendous steps toward alleviating poverty thus improving their living standards.

In conclusion, the Black Panthers Party left an invaluable experience in the American history. They fought for the rights of the oppressed people in an effort to enhance equality in the American community. Their devotion, willpower, and courage in the face of what may have seemed insuperable possibilities are examples, which any devoted black revolutionary or activist should be honored and ready to pursue. The Black Panthers demonstrate to the present day activists how selfless they should be in pursuit of their goals for the better of the entire society. Without a doubt, they represent the pinnacle of the civil rights movement.

References

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