

Speech by Malcolm X titled "The Ballot or the Bullet"

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Abstract

When we talk about religion in America, many people think that religion is a religious thought and practice that is essential to a full understanding of American life. Such as malcolm x said in his speech. Malcolm X is an activist and leader of the Black Muslim Faith. When he was a child he changed his last name to X to represent the name of his slave. Malcolm X became leader of the Nation of Islam representing Black Culture and Islam to encourage and empower African Americans who are finding freedom in a separate America.

Key words: Speech, Malcolm, The Ballot or the Bullet

INTRODUCTION

In his speech entitled "The Ballot or the Bullet", Malcolm X discarded the issue of religious division in the public interest of civil rights (Puspita & Amelia, 2020). He equates his status as a Muslim with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020), as a Christian, knowing that in the past, his own religious affiliation has been a point of contention for him and Dr. King may have had different ways of worshipping, but they were both well-known civil rights leaders (Suprayogi & Eko, 2020), (Kuswoyo et al., 2021). Religious differences, he feared, could hinder solidarity within the African-American community (Suprayogi et al., 2021), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020a). This insult to his religion was echoed in the context of a speech advocating political involvement (Fakhrurozi & Puspita, 2021). The Nation of Islam led by Elijah Muhammad forbade its members from participating in the political process (Gulö & Rahmawelly, 2019), (Amelia, 2021). Earlier this year, Malcolm X, once a follower of Elijah Muhammad, declared his separation from the Nation of Islam and joining the civil rights movement (Setri & Setiawan, 2020), (Fithratullah, 2019). In the opening paragraph, Malcolm X called for increased political participation and awareness in the black community (Cahyaningsih & Pranoto, 2021). This marks a significant difference between the ethos of Malcolm X and the ethos of the Nation of Islam (Muliyah et al., 2020).

In his speech Malcolm X provided a summary of the economics of black nationalism (Hutauruk & Puspita, 2020), African-Americans must buy from African-American-owned and operated businesses to feed the prosperity of their own communities (Suprayogi, 2019), (Pranoto, 2021) and "raise the level to a higher level so that we will be satisfied (Samanik, 2019). Within our own circle and will not run here to drop us into social circles where we are not wanted (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021)." This economic stance was compatible with the greater social and political stance of separatism that characterized black nationalism, which claimed that integration would only result in further oppression of black society and advocated (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021), as the name implies, for a completely separate and self-governing community (Fakhrurozi & Adrian, 2020). In the first part of his speech, Malcolm relied on an appeal to the pride of the African-American community (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), especially through language centered on the castration of black people and

the need to rely on violence for peaceful protest (Kardiansyah, 2019). Relying on peaceful protests like sit-ins "castrates" black men, says Malcolm. Sit-ins are debilitating because they perpetuate the image of the African-American community as cowardly and weak (Endang Woro Kasih, 2018). If the political system game doesn't work, he recommends African Americans go straight for a revolution. "Well, you and I have been sitting for quite a while," he claims, "and it's time for us today to start standing up and some fighting to support it."

According to (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019) Malcolm X often used provocative language to anger his listeners, as is evident in his accusations that white people had "tricked you." Here, he makes use of the rhetorical device of pathos, or appealing to the emotions of the audience, to his advantage (Oktaviani & Sari, 2020). Insulting his audience was meant to incite anger and injustice among his audience, and provoke him to take more direct action against white supremacists than the peaceful protests advocated by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr (Samanik & Lianasari, 2018), (Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021). Malcolm X invoked one American dream while cursing another. White people don't know what he's doing when he lets black children read about "freedom or death" in his history books, he said (Samanik, 2021). Like the colonizers, Malcolm X was ready to fight tooth and nail for the liberation of his community, whether that meant using his voice profitably or participating in outright revolution (Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018). George Washington and Patrick Henry didn't win the American revolution, the soldiers won it. Likewise the black community will win by violence, and not by peaceful protest (Afrianto et al., 2021).

Meanwhile, the American dream of equal opportunity does not apply to African Americans (Journal et al., 2021). Black people are not born free, they are "born in prison," victims of structural oppression and the hypocrisy of a government that claims to represent the interests of all Americans (Iriawan & Fithriasari, 2018), (Al Falaq et al., 2021). Everything south of the Canadian border is South, he joked. In one of his many witty phrases, Malcolm uses humor and repetition to turn a situation facing African Americans into an "American nightmare." At the end of his speech, Malcolm X spoke of a man he studied with Billy Graham who preached white nationalism (Pranoto & Afrilita, 2019). To the audience, he spoke that they should do the same but their gospel is black nationalism which means they have to control themselves (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020b). For example the politics of their community and the economy of everything around them must be controlled there.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Malcolm X gave a public speech with the title "The Ballot or the Bullet," which was given on two separate occasions on April 3, 1964, at the Cory Methodist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, and on April 12, 1964, at the King Solomon Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. In the speech, Malcolm X advised African Americans to exercise their right to vote wisely (Gulö et al., 2021), but he also warned that if the government continued to prevent African Americans from achieving full equality (Gulö, 2019), it might be necessary for them to take up arms Among the top 100 American speeches of the 20th century, 137 prominent American public address scholars placed it seventh. Malcolm X announced his separation from the black nationalist religious organization the Nation of Islam on March 8, 1964 (Puspita, n.d.), (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020). For nearly a decade, he had served as the organization's spokesperson. The Civil Rights Movement and the Nation of Islam, which worked for African Americans, had significant disagreements. The Nation of Islam was in

favor of separatism, whereas the Civil Rights Movement was in favor of integration and opposed to segregation (Qodriani, 2021). The Nation of Islam prohibited its members from participating in the political process, despite the fact that disenfranchisement of African Americans was one of the goals of the Civil Rights Movement. Malcolm declared his willingness to work with the Civil Rights Movement when he left the Nation of Islam. "I've forgotten everything bad that [they] have said about me, and I pray they can also forget the many bad things I've said about them," he reassured Civil Rights Movement leaders.

METHOD

In this study, the writers utilized library research techniques and subjective depiction. This study utilized a subjective methodology zeroing in on story understanding, portrayal, and examination. Subjective means examination dependent principally upon a constructivist viewpoint with respect to a singular's encounter that has been by and large or socially built. The information hotspot for this study was a Speech by Malcolm X titled "The Ballot or the Bullet". Information assortment strategies were performed by exploring or perusing sources in books, the web, as well as in past exploration reports, and others. Most understudies can find their assets in the library, information on the main libraries, experience with the chapter by chapter guide and other reference works, about complex is surely a fundamental apparatus for pretty much every understudy of writing. The information examination procedure utilized in this study is clear investigation. To help this information, the specialists looked for important information from different sources. Information investigation is the methodical course of considering and orchestrating information from meetings, perceptions, and records by coordinating the information and concluding what is significant and which should be contemplated. also, make determinations that are straightforward.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Malcolm X started his speech by saying that he was still a Muslim. However, he quickly said that he didn't want to talk about religion or any other issues that make African Americans different. Instead, he planned to emphasize the experience that African Americans of all faiths share: It is time for us to submerge our differences and realize that it is best for us to first see that we have the same problem, a common problem a problem that will make you catch hell regardless of whether you are a Baptist, Methodist, Muslim, or nationalist. Whether you live on the boulevard or in the alley, educated or illiterate, you will experience hell just like I did.

"When all of the white political crooks will be right back in your and my community... with their false promises which they don't intend to keep," Malcolm X said of 1964, an election year. He claimed that President Johnson and the Democratic Party claimed to support the civil rights bill, that Democrats controlled both the House and Senate, but that they had not actually done anything to pass the bill. He claimed that the Dixiecrats, who were "nothing but Democrat in disguise," were to blame for the Democrats' problems. He said that African Americans were the victims of a "political con game" played by Democrats. Malcolm said that African Americans were becoming "politically mature" and that they were realizing that they could be the swing vote in the upcoming elections and elect candidates who would be attentive to their concerns if they remained united and did not align themselves with any one political party. What's the significance here? It indicates that when Black people have a bloc of votes and White people are evenly divided, it is up

to them to decide who will sit in the White House and who will be in the dog house. Malcolm said that the ballot could be a powerful weapon if used carefully: A bullet is similar to a ballot. When you see a target, you don't throw your ballots; if the target is too far away, keep your ballot in your pocket.

Malcolm X expressed doubt that voting would bring about full equality for African Americans, despite his support for exercising the right to vote. "This government has failed the Negro," Malcolm asserted, "is responsible for the oppression, exploitation, and degradation of Black people in this country." One of the ways in which the government had "failed the Negro" was its unwillingness to enforce the law. He brought up that the High Court had prohibited isolation: You are entitled to assert your claim to anything that belongs to you whenever you pursue it. Additionally, anyone who attempts to deprive you of what is yours is breaking the law and is a criminal. The decision of the Supreme Court also made this clear. It made segregation illegal. And that implies a segregationist is violating the law. However, he said, the police division and neighborhood government frequently favored segregationists against the Social equality Movement. Malcolm said that depending on the national government to drive neighborhood state run administrations to comply with social equality regulations was purposeless. "At the point when you take your case to Washington, D.C., you're taking it to the crook who's capable; Running from the wolf to the fox is similar. They are all working together in secret."

CONCLUSION

"The Ballot or the Bullet" served several purposes at a critical point in Malcolm X's life: it was part of his effort to distance himself from the Nation of Islam, and it was intended to reach out to moderate civil rights leaders. At the same time, the speech indicated that Malcolm still supported Black nationalism and self-defense and thus had not made a complete break with his past. "The Ballot or the Bullet" also marked a notable shift in Malcolm X's rhetoric, as he presented previously undiscussed ways of looking at the relationship between blacks and whites.

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