

Postscript

To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter from Fred Hampton

Written by Richard Bradford Directed by John Doyle February 8 – 10, 2019



Postscript by Jennifer Nelson, Kara Jönsson, & Ryanne Domingues



MEET THE TEAM

Richard S. Bradford Playwright & Performer

Richard Bradford is a Theatre Artist born and raised in Philadelphia. He began his training with the Freedom Theatre School, where he met Johnnie Hobbs. Dr. Hobbs enlightened Richard about the power of theatre and showed him how to represent his culture on stage, and how to talk about the social issues plaguing his community. That put Richard on a life-changing path of learning, training and performing. While training at Stella Alder Conservatory, Richard began working with Iron Age Theatre. He has performed in various plays with the company. With his mentor (Artistic Director of Iron Age, John Doyle), he has worked on projects, such as *To My Unborn Child*, hoping to inspire conversations that promote change. Richard is also a company member of the African American theatre company, Theatre In The X, as well as Curio Theatre.







An Interview with Richard Bradford

- 1. How and why did you set about writing *To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter from Fred Hampton*? What challenges did you face as you wrote the play? Mostly research at times. When it comes to the Black Panthers, there surprisingly isn't a lot of written info about his personal life. The actual task was never a burden though. I fell in love with the process more because of the love I had for Fred's story, and I wanted to know more.
- 2. What messages do you intend to convey to audience members through this play?

The idea that unity within class struggle is powerful. Also, the importance of challenging political and social thoughts and ideas that are trapped within an echo chamber. Also, that ideas of radical thoughts can be viewed in a positive way through Fred Hampton's words and actions.

3. Can you talk about the development process of the play from its premiere in 2017 to its current production at Passage?

Rewrites and workshops! Really, John and I just continue to work on developing a very lean and fulfilling piece.

4. How do you feel about the play being performed at Passage Theatre? Do you anticipate making changes to it after its production here?

Yes, there are always changes being made. I am excited to bring this play to Trenton. The mission of Passage Theatre is similar to the mission of *To My Unborn Child*. It's a perfect vehicle to talk about social issues within that area.

- **5. Where do you hope the play moves on to after Passage Theatre?** This message needs to be heard by the youth. This isn't just a love letter to Fred's child, but it's a love letter to all of the youth. I hope to bring that message to them via school tours and such. Because they are the change. They are the revolution.
- 6. How has your work as assistant artistic director of Iron Age Theatre in Philadelphia impacted your development as a playwright?

 Working with John Doyle personally has stretched my process of creating stories that aren't just smart but also enjoyable. Also dealing with the flow of the play.
- 7. What writing projects do you have for the future? I have a few: Helel (mini eps). I Heart Ellison. Café Brotherly Love.



MEET THE TEAM

John Doyle
Director

John Doyle founded Iron Age Theatre (www.ironagetheatre.org) with Randall Wise in 1992 and has been producing theatre with that company ever since. He has directed more than 50 professional productions including the international tour of *Marx in Soho* by Howard Zinn featuring Bob Weick. He has shepherded development of more than 20 new plays in the past six years and devised, in collaboration with the Norristown NAACP, an annual Juneteenth celebration. Last year, in collaboration with Theatre in the X, Iron Age produced *The Panther Project, Black Panther Oral History in Performance.* Iron Age Theatre is committed to social justice and has resided in the Norristown Community since its inception. John has directed with Eastern State Penitentiary, Play, Pie and a Pint, Plays and Players, the Philadelphia Dramatists Centre, Flying Quilt Productions and the One Minute Play Festival. Some directing credits include Baraka's *Dutchman*, *f*eatured in American Theatre Magazine, and *The Slave, Moby Dick Rehearsed*, national tour of *Citizen Paine, Waiting for Godot*, *Buried Child, Lesson Before Dying*, and *Terra Nova*, He is a videographer and teaches philosophy at Norristown Area High School.





An Interview with John Doyle

1. Why did you want to direct To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter from Fred Hampton and how did you find out about the play?

As part of Iron Age Theatre's "Radical Acts" programming we have been developing a series of one-person plays representing significant social justice issues. It began with Marx in Soho by Howard Zinn, but we have developed a play about Thomas Paine, Emma Goldman and the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. After using part of a Fred Hampton speech in a Juneteenth event I curated, I became enamored with Hampton's ideas and his story. Rich played the role of Hampton in a production of Zinn's Vices of a People's History I directed at Plays and Players, and from there, we decided that we should make a show about him. This is a collaborative project, with Rich writing, and Iron Age — and I in particular — guiding and honing the text through until production, so It was natural that I direct it. Hampton is a critical figure as he represents issues from police violence against blacks to legitimate social reform. He is a brilliant young man. He is also primarily a speaker, and as such, is tremendous fodder for the presentational nature of theatre.

2. What is the main message you want audience members to take away from the play?

Capitalism and rampant consumerism is bad, and the Black Panthers were not violent extremists but radical advocates for economic and racial justice. We need to see racism in the context of capitalism and we need to remember these powerful voices from the past. Hampton does not play politics; he lives revolution, and I hope that message is clear.

3. Please explain the importance of the set, lighting, and costumes in To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter from Fred Hampton.

Strangely enough, these items are not that important. Except for a few very specific items, the play is pretty flexible, and designed to be able to travel. Hampton's iconic hat and the shirt and jacket are important to Rich, and the imagery of the play and the blood-soaked sheet is a resonant item both physically and as metaphor throughout the play. The one crucial tech component is sound. Our sound designer, Luke Moyer, crafted a magnificent underscore for the production using both period music and rich soundscapes to create a living environment which Rich inhabits as Fred. The sound design acts as setting more potently so that the actual lights and set can be minimal in a production that needs to be light on its feet to tour. I am, as a director, very interested in the tech details, but for this production, they fall into the distance, obscured by the acting.

4. Can you relate to any character or situation in To My Unborn Child: A Love Letter from Fred Hampton? If so, which one or ones, and why? I don't really have a right to any of these characters. More than anything, I am Engels

to Marx... Still, I resonate so fully with Hampton's blossoming vision, it is hard to deny

the connection there.



5. What were the challenges and joys of directing this play that addresses issues of race, economic justice and human dignity?

I find life in the work of social justice. We live in terrible times where people separate themselves by gender, race and ethnicity falling into the capitalist trap prophesied by Karl Marx. So many focus on temporal political issues or personal concerns and forget that we are a human specific, full of differences sure, but on race. Issues of social justice, race and human dignity are at the core of correcting this issue in our civilization. I cannot express the importance for me of crafting works that speak to these larger issues so we can reach out and touch people for the better. This type of work is fulfilling even as I work past my own whiteness, producing these plays from a position of social privilege. I am so often disappointed by the lack of real impact the work I create has. It is one of the greatest challenges, working past the hopelessness and speaking to the ideas from this type of theatre that matters. Working to ensure that people don't misinterpret the work and use it for hateful reasons is also a challenge. The personal challenges interweave with the joys, and If I remain honest, and compassionate, the work has meaning.

6. Where and what plays will you be directing next?

I am going on hiatus. I have some other work to do, and my company needs time to regroup. I will continue our Juneteenth event this June 2018 and hopefully will find a spark to begin developing a new play.

7. Why did you become interested in pursuing a career in directing and theatre arts?

I have worked in theatre since I was about 12. I love the act of creation, the making, and I love storytelling. I love the rough-edged immediacy of theatre. The risk and the poverty of the art.





ASK PASSAGE

If you could change one aspect of today's society, what would it be?

DANNY: "Patience to listen & understand. With everything so readily available, literally at our fingertips, we forget to take a moment to truly listen to a side of a conversation/argument/position and respond appropriately. Listen to what someone is saying. Think about it by considering where they are coming from and why they might be saying/acting the way they are. Then respond with your own knowledge, understanding, sympathy/empathy. The end result, hopefully, would be thoughtful progress."

ELIZABETH: "I would change how we as a culture respond to hate. If I had the power to do so, I'd make us less susceptible to fear and demagoguery, and much less eager to 'other' a different group of people and blame them for any and all problems. So much of our history is rooted in hate and fear; until we face that for what it is, I don't think we can create a truly better world."

RYANNE: "I would increase the amount of time we spend listening to each other and doing our own critical self reflection. Finding out that you have your own biases and prejudices can be really hard, but it is absolutely critical to making progress. Also, it is so important for us to be able to forgive ourselves and each other and move forward to toward change together. I think that identifying issues is important, but our society has become so polarized that it's difficult to work together. And truly working together is the only way change is going to happen."

KARA: "I would encourage society to be truly open minded. To understand that change comes from thoughtful communication and ultimately, time. We have come very far as a society, yet we have so much further to go! I hope that someday the world can communicate safely and openly about emotional, societal, & physical change."





STUDENT ACTIVITIES

THEMES

- Changing society
- Leaving a legacy
- · Loving a cause

PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. The Black Panther Party (BPP):

Research the history of this organization. Why was this party started and who were its main founders? What were the party's goals? Where were its chapters? How did the organization recruit members? Why and when did it disband?

- 2. The NAACP (the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People): Research the history of this organization. Who and why was this organization started? What are its goals? Who are its members? What have been the organization's major accomplishments and challenges?
- 3. Discuss the issue of police brutality: In what major cities have the police been seen or reported to have harmed people of color? What has been done to correct this issue? Which cities have seen demonstration because of this issue? How can this issue be solved?
- 4. There is a lot of profanity in this play because the language is based upon the language used by a real person in history.

How do you react to profanity on radio, TV, Netflix, and social media? Do you think the way a person talks reflects different things about their character? What does the use of certain words tell us about the background of a person or the emotional content of what they are trying to say? Do you think it is important to reflect people in history accurately? Why or why not?





1. Design an ideal society.

Consider political systems, such as capitalism, socialism, democracy and communism. What are the advantage and disadvantages of each of them? What values would be inherent in your society? What services would your society offer? How would your society differ from the one today?

2. Explore the history of Civil Rights activists killed in Mississippi in 1955: Emmett Till, a teenager from Chicago, mentioned in the play; George W. Lee, a civil rights leader; and Gus Courts, his associate.

How did these killings happen? Why were these African Americans killed that year? What impact did their deaths have on the Civil Rights movement? How does the story of Emmett Till's death in the play add to the understanding of Fred Hampton's life and actions?

3. Discuss one of the Black Panther Party's chants: "The Revolution has come. It's time to pick up the gun. Off the pigs."

Why did the BPP feel it necessary for members to carry arms? Why did they call the police "pigs"? Were they justified in using violence to protest injustices? What other means do people use to combat inequality?

4. Research the death of Fred Hampton

Describe the raid in his Chicago apartment, and the FBI's role in the killing of Hampton and Mark Clark, a fellow BPP member. Why do you think he was killed? What threat did the BPP pose to the government?

5. Discuss the following quote: "We're under attack while ya'll trying [to] intellectualize and trying to cast ballots and shit in a system that can give two fucks about grievances of the working people!" (page 25)

What do you think are the "grievances of the working people"? How can economic inequalities be addressed? Why do you think the BPP was being attacked?







"FOR AKUA NJERI" By Titilope Sonuga

2337 West Monroe
December 4th, 1969
on the cusp of a new year
You
19 years old
lay sleeping
carrying
a new day
in your belly

8 and a half months of dreams for a boy with a fierce spirit

like his father

prayed for him the power of speech

like his father

in a world
where a Black man
walks with
a target on his forehead
you prayed for him

peace

"Knock, knock"
"Who's there?"
"Tommy"
"Tommy who?"

bang! bang!

What were you dreaming of when the first shot was fired 45 rounds for the 45 times you must've said

"he'll be just like you"
45 rounds
for the 45 times
he must've put
his head to
swollen belly

"revolution"

to his unborn son

So you lay
on top of him
as he slept silently
human shield
for this
21 year old man
with fire on his tongue
this man
who knew the value
of freedom
because you knew
that the world
needed more men
like him

Felt the baby
kick and turn into the space
for fatherless children
then the final shot to the head
our dreams bleed red
on new carpet

"Is he alive"

Yes because you carried his legacy inside of you

"he is good and dead now"

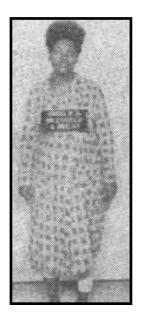
good but never dead

"You can jail a revolutionary, but you can't jail the revolution"

> December 29th, 1969 A new sun rises Fred Hampton, Jr.

> > "knock, knock!"
> > "who's there?"
> > "Revolution"









SHARE YOUR MESSAGE

WRITE A POEM ABOUT AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE YOU FEEL NEEDS TO BE SHARED WITH SOCIETY







CREATE A COLLAGE

THE BLACK PANTHERS USED SYMBOLS TO INSPIRE THEIR MOVEMENT.
WHAT SYMBOLS INSPIRE YOU?



INFORMATIONAL ARTICLES

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT THE BLACK PANTHER MOVEMENT

(from excerpts by Lilly Workneh and Taryn Finley) (edited by Jennifer Nelson)

- 1. The Black Panthers Party's (BPP) central guiding principle was an "undying love for the people." The party's founders, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, created the organization to collectively combat white oppression. They aimed to help build community and confront corrupt systems of power and monitor the behavior of police in black communities.
- 2. At its height, the BPP had more than 5,000 members nationwide. It recruited black people who faced police brutality and took on issues that impacted every day life such as housing, welfare and health. The party also affirmed black beauty, which helped attract more members. It established Panther units throughout the country, officially chartering thirteen chapters.
- 3. The BPP launched the Free Breakfast for Children program. Each morning, members spent two hours cooking breakfast for children in poor neighborhoods before school. The program served about 20,000 meals a week, becoming the BPP's most successful program.
- 4. Members moved into "Panther Pads" together. These were community hubs with round-the-clock security. In order to protect their families, some members left home to live in these places.
- 5. Black women spoke out, helping empower the movement. Women such as Kathleen Cleaver, Assata Shakur, Elaine Browne and Angela Davis took on leadership roles, influencing greatly the party's direction.
- 6. To help the party financially, members sold a party newspaper, *The Black Panther*, which outlined the party's 10-point plan and featured impressive artwork. The paper sold for twenty-five cents, half of which went for printing and the other half to different branches of the party. It reached a circulation of 250,000.
- 7. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968 triggered an overwhelming response from the Panthers. King, a civil rights leader, had advocated non-violence. For the Panthers, the last chance for negotiation had been killed.
- 8. The Black Panther movement split due to growing differences. Its leadership was shattered with Bobby Seale incarcerated, Eldridge Cleaver in Algeria, and Huey P. Newton recently released from prison. Some Black Panthers chose a



- leader to follow, while others just walked away. "The party had leaders not worthy of the dedication of their followers," said historian Clayborne Carson.
- 9. During the Nixon Administration, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover publicly identified the Black Panther Party as the No. 1 threat against the United States. Hoover's statement, made during the Vietnam War, ignited immediate fury. Following this damning statement, the FBI took a more proactive approach to what they considered to be terrorist organization.



THE TRAGEDY OF BOBBY HUTTON

Bobby Hutton was born in 1950. He was only 16 years old when he joined the Black Panther Party in December 1966. On April 6th, 1968, eight Black Panther Party members, including Hutton, were ambushed by Oakland police officers. Hutton and another member ran for cover and found themselves in a basement surrounded by officers. Police fired on the building for over an hour. When a tear-gas canister was thrown into the basement the two men surrendered. Hutton left the building first. He walked out with his hands in the air and was immediately shot twelve times by the surrounding officers. He died instantly. Over 2,000 people attended his funeral in Berkley CA on April 12th, 1968.



BLACK PANTHERS' HOT SPOTS

(compiled by Jennifer Nelson from various sources)

OAKLAND

In 1966, Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton founded the Black Panther movement in Oakland, California, a city with a history of civil rights struggles. To resist police brutality directed against the city's black community, Black Panthers embraced armed self-defense. As allowed by the U.S. Constitution, they armed themselves and patrolled the streets, ostensibly to police the police.

In May 1967, Seale led armed Panthers into the California State Capitol building in Sacramento to demonstrate their opposition to a proposed law restricting the right to carry loaded weapons on city streets. Through this event, the organization gained international media attention.

CHICAGO

On December 4, 1969, just before 5 a.m., fourteen police officers raided Fred Hampton's apartment, a known Black Panther stronghold in Chicago's West Side. Gunfire lasted seven minutes. While they were sleeping, police shot and killed Hampton, 21, and Mark Clark, 22, and then arrested seven surviving Panthers, charging them with attempted murder.

At the time, authorities claimed that the Black Panthers opened fire on the police while serving them with a search warrant for weapons possession. The police maintained that they were justified in returning fire. After the raid, the relationship between the Panthers and police worsened. The following two years saw eight gun battles nationally that left dead three police officers and five Panthers.

Later, evidence from the night showed that the FBI, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the Chicago Police Department worked together to assassinate Hampton. It showed that the police fired 82 to 99 shots, while the Panthers fired only one. Cook County State Attorney Edward Hanrahan was indicted for the raid, but was cleared along with thirteen other law enforcement agents.

Documents that were initially suppressed revealed that FBI agents had supplied intelligence upon which the police raiders depended, including a detailed floor plan of Hampton's apartment with where Hampton slept. It also showed that William O'Neal, the Black Panther's chief of security, had been a paid informant for the FBI.

Various investigations and lawsuits also disclosed how the FBI had run a secretive operation, COINTELPRO, which conspired to suppress and eliminate Black Panthers and other radical groups. Once news broke of these illegalities, Hoover's reputation was tarnished, and Hanrahan, who had ordered the raid, saw his political career ruined. Hampton's and Clark's families filed a civil suit that resulted in a \$1.8 million settlement.



LOS ANGELES

On December 8, 1969, police in Los Angeles raided the city's Black Panther office. This was four days after the death of Fred Hampton in Chicago, during a time of heightened racial tensions. Some 300 SWAT members attacked the Black Panthers, who fired back. This led to a massive showdown lasting five hours with 5,000 rounds of ammunition fired and three people wounded. All Black Panther survivors were taken into custody. Despite the violence, many members consider that moment a victory.

SEATTLE

Months after the Chicago raid in which Fred Hampton was killed, Justice Department officials urged the Seattle Police Department to join in an attack on the Seattle Panther headquarters. Newly elected Mayor Wes Uhlman refused and threatened to expose the Nixon administration plans. This decision saved lives even if other forms of FBI and police harassment continued.

In February 1969, duplicating the Sacramento incident, Seattle Panthers appeared with rifles at the state capital in Olympia to protest a bill limiting carrying firearms. Arrests, trials, and the deaths of several Panthers at the hands of police followed. In 1970 the chapter established a breakfast program, a medical clinic, and youth education programs.

NEW YORK

On April 2, 1969, twenty-one leading Black Panther members in New York were arrested on charges related to terrorism, including an alleged bomb plot of department stores, streetcar, and police station. "The Panther 21" faced 360 years in prison and extortionate bail amounts. Community members raised money for legal fees. The men were eventually acquitted after a thirteen-month trial. This chapter founded a free community health center, breakfast programs, and the Black Panther Athletic Club, a youth group.

PHILADELPHIA

Started in 1968, this chapter sponsored free health clinic, clothing, grocery, and breakfast programs. It also offered a community protection patrol to combat police brutality. Unique to this chapter was a free library that primarily housed works by black authors. Like other cities with a Black Panther presence, Philadelphia police frequently arrested members without cause and raided offices. Police oppression and internal strife led to a decline in membership following 1970, though the chapter's community programs continued for another two years.

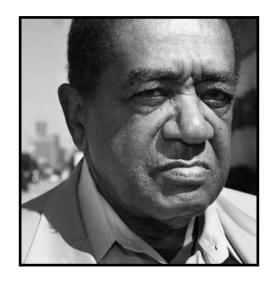




WHO'S WHO

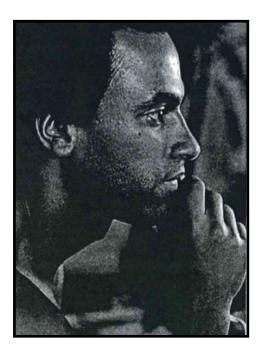
Bobby Seale:

Born on October 22, 1936 in Dallas, Texas, Bobby Seale was the eldest of three. After moving throughout Texas, his family relocated to Oakland, CA. After dropping out of high school and being discharged from the Air Force, Seale earned his high school diploma at night and studied engineering. He met Huey P. Newton at the Afro-American Association and became inspired by the teachings of activist Malcolm X. Together Newton and Seale created the Black Panther Party, and wrote two doctrines. What We Want Now!, Seale said, was intended to be "the practical, specific things we need and that should exist"; What We Believe outlines the philosophical principles of the Black Panther Party in order to educate the people and disseminate information about the specifics of the party's platform. During his time with the Panthers, Seale underwent surveillance by the FBI.



Huey P. Newton:

Huey P. Newton was one of the founding members & 'minister of defense' of the Black Panther movement that radicalized the civil rights campaign in America. Newton was born on February 17th 1942 in Monroe, Louisiana. In 1945, the family moved to Oakland, CA. Newton found school difficult as he felt that he was made to be ashamed of his color. He left high school barely literate, but wanted to prove that those who classed him as a failure were wrong. He taught himself to read by studying poetry, went to college where he gained an associate's degree, and went on to study at Oakland City College & San Francisco Law School. In order to fund his studies Newton took to burglary, and at 22 he was arrested and found guilty of assault with a deadly weapon. Prior to his arrest, Newtown began to study the writings of Mao Zedong, Ché Guevara, and Malcom X. This inspired him to create a political party that represented the Black Community in Oakland. Along with Bobby Seale, Newton started the Black Panther Party for Self Defense in October of 1966. Newton, along with Seale,



wrote the Black Panther Party Platform and Program, which laid out what the Black

Panthers wanted for their community. In 1967, Newton was accused of murdering an Oakland police offer, John Frey. In the following year he was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced, but was later released due to legal technicalities. After



his release from prison, Newton changed the direction of the movement. The Black Panthers began to provide free breakfast for children, provided free shoes, and sponsored a school.

Newton continued to struggle with the law, including being arrested for several charges of embezzlement. On August 22nd, 1989, Huey Newton, aged 47, was shot dead, apparently by a drug dealer in a deal that went wrong.

THE DEATH OF EMMETT TILL

While visiting family in Money, Mississippi, 14-year-old Emmett Till was brutally murdered for allegedly flirting with a white woman four days earlier. His assailants — the woman's husband and brother — drove Emmett to the bank of the Tallahatchie River and ordered him to take off his clothes. The two men beat him nearly to death, gouged out his eye, shot him in the head, and threw his body, tied with barbed wire to a 75-pound cotton gin fan, into the river.

Emmett grew up in a working-class Chicago neighborhood and attended a segregated elementary school, but he was not prepared for Mississippi. On August 24, 1955, according to Carolyn Bryant, Emmett entered her husband Roy's country store, grabbed her, made lewd advances, and wolf-whistled at her as he sauntered out. There were no other witnesses in the store. In *The Blood of Emmett Till*, published in 2017, Bryant admitted that she had lied.

Roy Bryant went to the home of Emmett's great-uncle, Mose Wright, in the early morning of August 28. Despite Wright's pleas, Bryant and his brother-in-law, J.W. Milam, forced Emmett into their car. Three days later, his corpse was recovered, so disfigured that Wright could only identify it by an initialed ring. Emmett's mother, Mamie Bradley, held an open-casket funeral so that all the

world could see what racist murderers had done to her only son. Jet, an African American weekly magazine, published a photo of Emmett's corpse, and soon the mainstream media picked up on the story.

Less than two weeks after Emmett's funeral, Milam and Bryant went on trial in a segregated Mississippi courthouse. There were few witnesses besides Mose Wright, who identified the defendants as Emmett's killers. The all-white jury debated for under an hour before issuing a verdict of "not guilty," saying that the state hadn't proven the body's identity.





"IT'S NOT RACISM VS ANTI-RACISM; IT'S CAPITALISM VS. SOCIALISM"

"It's not racism that creates the difference between classes; it's capitalism. And it's not anti-racism that can combat the difference; it's socialism."

SOCIALISM

-Aims to redistribute resources from the rich to the poor

-Prices are usually set by the government, which leads to shortages and surpluses

-All people are considered equal

-Economy is controlled by the state

-Believes that economic inequality is bad for society, and the government is responsible for reducing economic gain via programs that benefit the poor

-There is no private ownership of property

-No incentives

BOTH

-Regulate society, the economy, $\ensuremath{\mathtt{\&}}$ property

-Society is motivated by policy

CAPITALISM

-Efficiency of economics, goods & services produced is based on supply and demand which create incentives to cut costs & avoid waste.

-The market is based on consumer's choice

-Maintains a market-based economy combined with private or corporate ownership

-Unconcerned about complete equality

-Argues that inequality is essential in order to encourage innovation & economic development

-Private businesses are owned by private individuals



GLOSSARY

Ali: Ali refers to Muhammad Ali, a famous boxer, who supported and inspired the Black Panther Party (https://www.biography.com/people/muhammad-ali-9181165)

Angolans: People from Angola, a nation in Southern Africa

AR-15s: A semi-automatic gun that makes killing numerous people at once possible

Babylon: The most famous city in Mesopotamia, whose ruins are in modern-day Iraq. It is famous for its many negative references in the Bible as well as its impressive buildings, its reputation for fostering culture and learning, and its law.

Black Panther Party: The Black Panther Party was a movement devoted to ending police brutality

Bobby and Huey: The co-founders of the Black Panther Party (http://kentakepage.com/bobby-seale-co-founder-of-the-black-panther-party-for-self-defense/bobby-and-huey/)

Bourgeois: Describing middle or working class people, typically to refer to their materialistic values

Brainwash: The act of pressuring someone to adopt perceivably different beliefs, often by forcible means

Bureaucratic: A system of government in which important decisions are usually made by state officials rather than elected representatives

Capitalism: An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for a profit rather than by the state

Ceasefire: A temporary stop in a war in which both sides agree to suspend aggressive actions

Ché: Ernesto "Ché" Guevara was an Argentine Marxist who was a major figure of the Cuban Revolution



Chicago riots: After the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., riots in black urban areas began in U.S. cities

Coalition: A coalition forms when two or more persons, groups, states, political parties, etc. agree to have a temporary partnership to achieve a common goal

Communism: A system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their abilities and needs

Comrade: A colleague or fellow member of an organization

Condone: To accept or approve behavior

Conscious: Aware of and responsive to one's surroundings

Conspiracy: A secret plan by a group to do something harmful

Coon: A racial slur against black people

Corporate media: Mass media production dominated by corporations

Crackers: A racial slur against white people

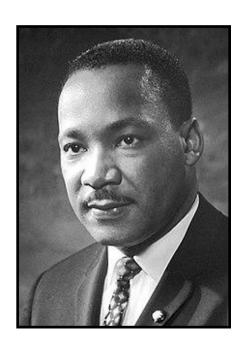
Dr. Martin: Reference to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin Luther King Jr.)

Eldridge Cleaver: An American writer and political activist who was an early leader of the Black Panther Party

Expendable: Of relatively little significance, able to be easily destroyed

Exploitation: The act of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work

Falter: To lose strength or momentum





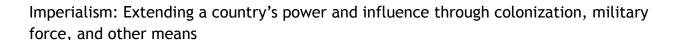
Florsheims: A shoe brand in the United States

Futility: Pointlessness

Garfield Park: A park located in Chicago https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garfield_Park (Chicago)

Gentrification: The process of renovating and improving a house or district so that it conforms to a middle class standard

Ghetto: A part of a city, especially a slum area, generally occupied by minority groups



Jackanapes: A cheeky person

Jargon: Special words or expressions that are difficult for others to understand

Job discrimination: Job discrimination is a form of discrimination based on race, gender, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity by employers

John Sinclair: An American poet, writer, and political activist from Flint, Michigan. A founder of the White Panther Party (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sinclair_(poet)

Judas: One of the 12 disciples of Jesus; Judas betrayed Jesus by revealing his identity to the crowd who had come to arrest him

Klansmen: Members of the Ku Klux Klan, a secret organization dedicated to reasserting white supremacy through terrorism

Kwame Ture: A prominent organizer in the Civil Rights movement



Lanin: A stratovolcano on the border of Argentina and Chile

Lamar Smith: An American Republican politician who serves as a congressman for the 21st district of Texas

Liberation: The act of setting someone or a group of people free from oppression

Loot: Steal goods from a place, typically a war or riot

Lumpen: Uninterested in revolutionary advancement

Malcolm: Reference to Malcolm X, an American Muslim human rights activist. He was a courageous advocate for the rights of black people. (http://malcolmx.com/biography/)

Manic: Showing wild, deranged excitement and energy

Mao: Mao Zedong was a Chinese communist revolutionary

Marx: A German philosopher, economist, etc. who believed in socialism and that in capitalist societies social revolutions will always happen

Marxist-Leninist: An adaptation of Marxism which led to the first successful communist revolution

MC5: An American rock band from Lincoln Park, Michigan

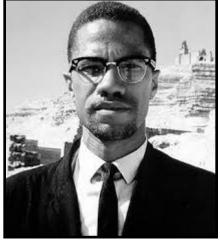
Medgar Evers: An African American civil rights activist in Mississippi (https://www.biography.com/people/medgar-evers-9542324)

Metaphysical: Highly abstract

Militant: Favoring confrontational or violent methods in supports of a political or social cause

Mozambique: A southern African nation

(https://geology.com/world/mozambique-satellite-image.shtml)







NAACP: An acronym for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; it is a civil rights organization formed in 1909

Oppressive: Inflicting harsh and authoritarian treatment

Oral Lore: A form of human communication in which knowledge, art, ideas and cultural material is received, preserved and transmitted orally from one generation to another



Pigs: A derogatory term for police officers

Prime minister: An elected head minister of a sovereign of state

Proletariat: Working-class people, regarded collectively

Pulaski: A special hand tool used in wildland firefighting

Racist: A person who shows or feels discrimination or prejudice against people of other races or believes that one race is superior to another

Radical: Far-reaching; departing from tradition

Rainbow Coalition: A coalition active in the late 1960s and early 1970s, founded in Chicago, Illinois by Fred Hampton, William Fesperman, Jack Boykin, Bobby Joe McGinnis, and Hy Thurman

Reparation: The action of making amends for wrong one has done

Revolution: A major change in society; generally a forcible overthrow of a government in favor of a new system

Rhetoric: The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing

Separatist: A person who supports the separation of a particular group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or gender

Slaughter: Killing in a cruel or violent manner, typically in large numbers



Socialism: A political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community as a whole

Solidarity: Unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest

Squalor: The state of being extremely dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of poverty or neglect

The Happy Hunting Grounds: The indigenous American people referred to the afterlife as the happy hunting grounds

The Lumpen: The Lumpen was a Black Panther Party revolutionary singing group (https://www.colorlines.com/ articles/black-panther-party-had-funk-band-called-lumpen)

Treaty: A formally concluded and ratified agreement between states

Trigger happy: Ready to react violently, especially by shooting

Ultimatum: A final demand or statement of terms, the rejection of which will result in retaliation

Vamp: To repair or improve something

Vanguard: A group of people leading the way in new development or ideas, or a position at the forefront of new developments or ideas

Verdict: A decision or an issue of fact in a civil or criminal case; an opinion or judgement

White Panther Party: The white panther party was a far left, anti-racist, white American collective affiliated with the Rainbow Coalition

White supremacy: The racist belief that if one is white he or she is inherently superior