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*by* S J

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**Submission date:** 03-Aug-2021 10:28AM (UTC-0400)

**Submission ID:** 1627344518

**File name:** African\_American.edited.docx (25.5K)

**Word count:** 986

**Character count:** 5221

**AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

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## Task 1

The Letter from Birmingham by Reverent Martin Luther King focused on presenting a clear and comprehensive message to the audience concerning moral accountability to break unjust laws. Therefore, Luther expressed that using direct action is the best way to wait for possibly justice to appear through the courts. For instance, King states that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" thus, the letter accounted for all events that happened in his life, especially in Birmingham, which was the most unjust city in America<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, he approached racial segregation and civil rights differently because he concentrated on treating all individuals. After all, the blacks had suffered more segregation based on their race. For instance, there are more cases of police brutality, a lot of unresolved bombs in negro religious places and homes, and unjust courts. King participation in civil rights was that a law could be unfair if it is imposed on minorities<sup>2</sup>. However, this letter created a constructive tension hence aiding in the black power movement.

On the other hand, the Autobiography of Malcolm X had several similarities and differences with Martin Luther King's letter. Malcolm X concentrated on providing his life story, including the traumatic childhood because of racism and prison for burglary<sup>3</sup>. The message presented to the audience was to inform the blacks to accept themselves and stop copying the whites. A similar message presented with that of Martin Luther is how racism has dehumanized the blacks. They are viewed as fewer individuals, and they all work to change the perceptions in all methods and ensure racial equality. Nevertheless, the difference between the two is that Malcolm X worked on ensuring the blacks attain their self-respect and live their lives hence

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther King, Jr. Pages 630-650

<sup>2</sup> Martin Luther King, Jr. Pages 630-650

<sup>3</sup> Malcolm X, Pages 660-670

playing a significant role in black power movements. Martin Luther wanted to ensure equality among the two races, and every individual can obtain what the other person of another race can.

## **Task 2**

The new negro movement, which emerged in the early 1920s, changed the view of African Americans, and it provides them with the opportunity to change their purpose and pursuits from the old negro. The main goal of the new negro movement was to weaken the differences between the white and the Black. This movement was developed to deal with the cultural movement to stop slavery, dilemmatic society and institutional racism. On the other hand, the black power movement started as a radical program in the 1960s. The black power movement concentrated on racial pride, partisan and cultural institutions, and economic enablement. Therefore, the goal of black artists in the new negro movement is to use art as propaganda to enhance and promote African Americans. Those in the Black Power Movement's goal were to accept their Black race and use art to express themselves.

The goals and objectives of black artists have differed in different ways in the New Negro movement and Black Power Movement. In the New Negro Movement, the forced united to assist in developing the new negro in the 1920s that enhanced a transformed sense of communal pride, artistic creativity and liberal politics and economic liberation. During the new Negro movement, more Black artists presented themselves through American Magazines and publishing books. Dubois claimed that all art is propaganda and thus needs to work by enhancing and uplifting African Americans. The artist started to use their art to advocate for their race and

promote the realization between Black and white. Only the black artists can explain beauty when Dubois states that "we who are dark can see American in a way that white cannot."<sup>4</sup>

The black artist in Black Power Movement had different goals and objectives. Their goals were to develop an art, literature that can fight for Black individuals' freedom with great strength. Therefore, Amiri Baraka came up with the poem "Black Art" in 1965 after Malcolm X assassination. This provided a chance for many people to use art to express themselves, and they wanted to create a black poem that symbolized a black world. The black artist was called through Amiri Baraka poem to stand up for their Black artist and not copy the white poets<sup>5</sup>. The artist should use their skills and make readers experience the author's message; for instance, Baraka states that "let there be no love poems written until love can exist freely and cleanly."<sup>6</sup>

The goal of black leaders and organizations during the New Negro movement was to settle the prehistoric racial prejudices. Therefore, leaders such as Marcus Garvey initiated Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) organization to devote it to racial pride and commercial independence and create a free Black nation in Africa<sup>7</sup>. Another organization created was 1 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to eliminate discrimination and discernment in housing, voting, and employment.

The goal of black leaders and organizations during the Black Power movement was to create advancement in the black population and champion their rights while eliminating racial injustices. A leader such as Martin Luther King was a social activist championing equal human

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<sup>4</sup> W.E.B. DuBois "Criteria for Negro Art"

<sup>5</sup> Amiri Baraka, Pages 686-690

<sup>6</sup> Amiri Baraka, Pages 686-690

<sup>7</sup> Marcus Garvey, "Declaration of the Rights of Negro Peoples of the World," Pages 468-477

rights for black people<sup>8</sup>. Moreover, Black Panther Party was formed by three college students who were intended to watch officers' behavior in the Oakland police department and eradicate police brutality in the region<sup>9</sup>. Similarly, the Black Art movement created cultural institutions that could present the message of black pride<sup>10</sup>. Finally, leaders such as Malcolm X worked to ensure they end the historical oppression and supported black authority, self-defense and economic liberation.<sup>11</sup> Moreover,<sup>12</sup>the development of the Kerner Commission was to examine the causes of the current outbreak of race insurrections.

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<sup>8</sup> Martin Luther King, Jr. Pages 630-650

<sup>9</sup> The Black Panther Party, Pages 680-685

<sup>10</sup> Amiri Baraka, Pages 686-690

<sup>11</sup> Malcolm X, Pages 660-670

<sup>12</sup> The Kerner Commission, Pages 691-705

## **Bibliography**

Amiri Baraka, Pages 686-690

Malcolm X, Pages 660-670

Marcus Garvey, "Declaration of the Rights of Negro Peoples of the World," Pages 468-477

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