

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY FOR SELF DEFENSE



After WWII, shipbuilding and automobile industries went into decline, leading to layoffs and racially-charged economic competition. By 1966, Oakland took center stage in the Black Liberation Movement when two college students, Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton, formed the Black Panther Party (BPP) for Self-Defense to challenge the ongoing police brutality inflicted upon the city's African-American residents who made up a third of the population.

The Party was active between 1966 and 1982, with numerous chapters in major cities, including international chapters in Britain and Algeria. At its inception, the BPP's core practice was "cop watching." However, BPP quickly expanded to advocate for other social reforms and established a ten-point program as a set of guidelines that states its ideals and ways of operations. Among its initiatives, the Panthers held voter registration drives, sickle-cell testing centers, legal aid clinics, and clothing drives. Most notably, BPPP organized a breakfast program for children and free food giveaways for families and the elderly. The Panthers fed more than 20,000 children nationally in 1969. By 1971, at least 36 cities had a breakfast program. The Panthers created Freedom Schools in nine cities, including the noteworthy Oakland Community School, led by Ericka Huggins from 1973 to 1981. These activities provided concrete aid to low-income communities and drew continued support.



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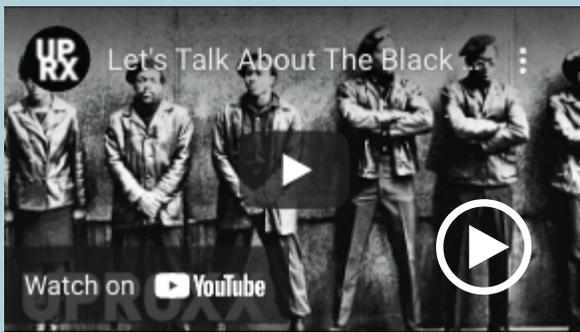
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The Birth of the Black Panther Party (2 min)



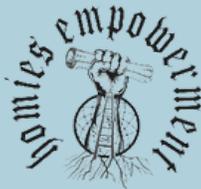
Let's Talk About the Black Panther Party (2 min)



Ten Point Program (5 min)

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SOURCES

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