

This week's topic was the Black Panther Party. The meeting started with 5 short videos on Malcolm X and the Black Panthers. Although Malcolm X predates the height of the Black Panther Party, his teachings largely inspired early black nationalism. The second and third video contained a speech given by Malcolm X after an episode of police brutality resulted in the death of one black muslim and the injury of many others. His points on the hatred of blackness, even from the inside out, resonate with the later increase in black pride that gave way to the Black Panther party. The next two videos were on the Black Panther Party. The first speech highlighted ideas of educational importance for black people and the erasure of history leading to the continuation of a racist society. They call for an end to police brutality, which is particularly relevant today as many of these calls are still echoed decades later. The second video was a series of short interviews of Black Panther members. One compared black people to any immigrant or colonized people, being that they have few rights and are overwhelmingly dominated by the white majority. The group then discussed how the Black Panther party funded many community organizations and charities that focused on the poor and disenfranchised black communities. The party was also more centralized than it was nationwide, gathering attention that would have usually been reserved for much larger organizations. We concluded by considering the notion of blackness and the impact that different ideologies have had on the development of culture.