

# The Tie that Binds: Black Liberation *Dr. Martin*

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In the 1960's, the world watched as a southern black preacher in America organized Black in a fight against social injustices. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shook the nation with his fight for equality by inspiring and motivating Blacks to fight for their civil rights.

Dr. King is renowned as one of the greatest peacemakers of our time. He understood the worldwide suffering of Black people. In his last days, he made known his opposition to the Vietnam War. He advocated black empowerment while standing alongside Kwame Ture and Stokley Carmichael. Further, in those last days, speeches he made were followed by riots. His calls for freedom were not only directed toward Blacks living in America but Blacks all over the world. The day before he was assassinated he delivered a stirring speech in Memphis, Tennessee in which he exclaimed that Blacks, “° [Whether] in Johannesburg, South Africa . . . or Memphis, Tennessee — the cry is always the same — ‘We want to be free.’”. Dr. King gave his life for what he believed to be true. His uncompromising fight for the civil rights of Blacks in America inspired other oppressed Blacks throughout the world to fight for their freedom.

It is hard to say which movements and political happenings at the time and thereafter were directly affected by Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement in America. However, it is safe to say that he was an inspiring and motivating figure in the fight for black liberation. During the years following the Civil Rights Movement, Black empowerment and nationalist movements swept throughout the world. For instance, in South Africa, a young medical student, Steven Biko, formed a black nationalist movement in direct opposition to the racial and apartheid policies implemented in South Africa. In Brazil, impoverished young Black Brazilians held a series of protest “parties” that advocated black nationalism, racial uplift, collective consciousness, and political cooperation. Collectively, the parties became known as the Black Soul Movement. Music and literature from Black Americans were circulated at these parties. The musical lyrics and written words emphasized the similarities of struggle amongst various African descendent populations, despite the differences in language and culture. In America, two men, Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton formed the Black Panther Party in response to the improv-

# movement After *Luther King*



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erished and unfair social conditions of Black Americans.

Divide and conquer is the science of war and oppression that has been used by the “majority” global powers since slavery to control Blacks as a nation. We fight amongst ourselves based on our present linguistic, cultural, and regional differences. When, in reality, there should be no disputes, but rather unity and brotherhood as preached by Dr. King. Before there was a Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti, or America, we were Black. Before we were Jamaicans or

Panamanians we were Black. After these places are gone, we will still be Black.

The struggle for freedom continues today. Racial profiling and police brutality are all too real and poverty levels are still high amongst Blacks in the United States, Caribbean, and Latin America. Worldwide, Blacks suffering continues today much in the same way it did during slavery; however, it is

worse in some regions than others. As descendents of Africans, we must break the chains and come together in unity based on our ties. The fight for black liberation is not confined to a village, city, state or country. It is not confined to any particular religious or political system. The fight for black liberation is worldwide. Once the global black community awakes to the fact that we are one nation of Blacks, we will no longer be oppressed. In the spirit of Dr. King’s fight for civil rights and equality, all Blacks have a responsibility to fight for liberation wherever social injustice and oppression against Blacks exists.