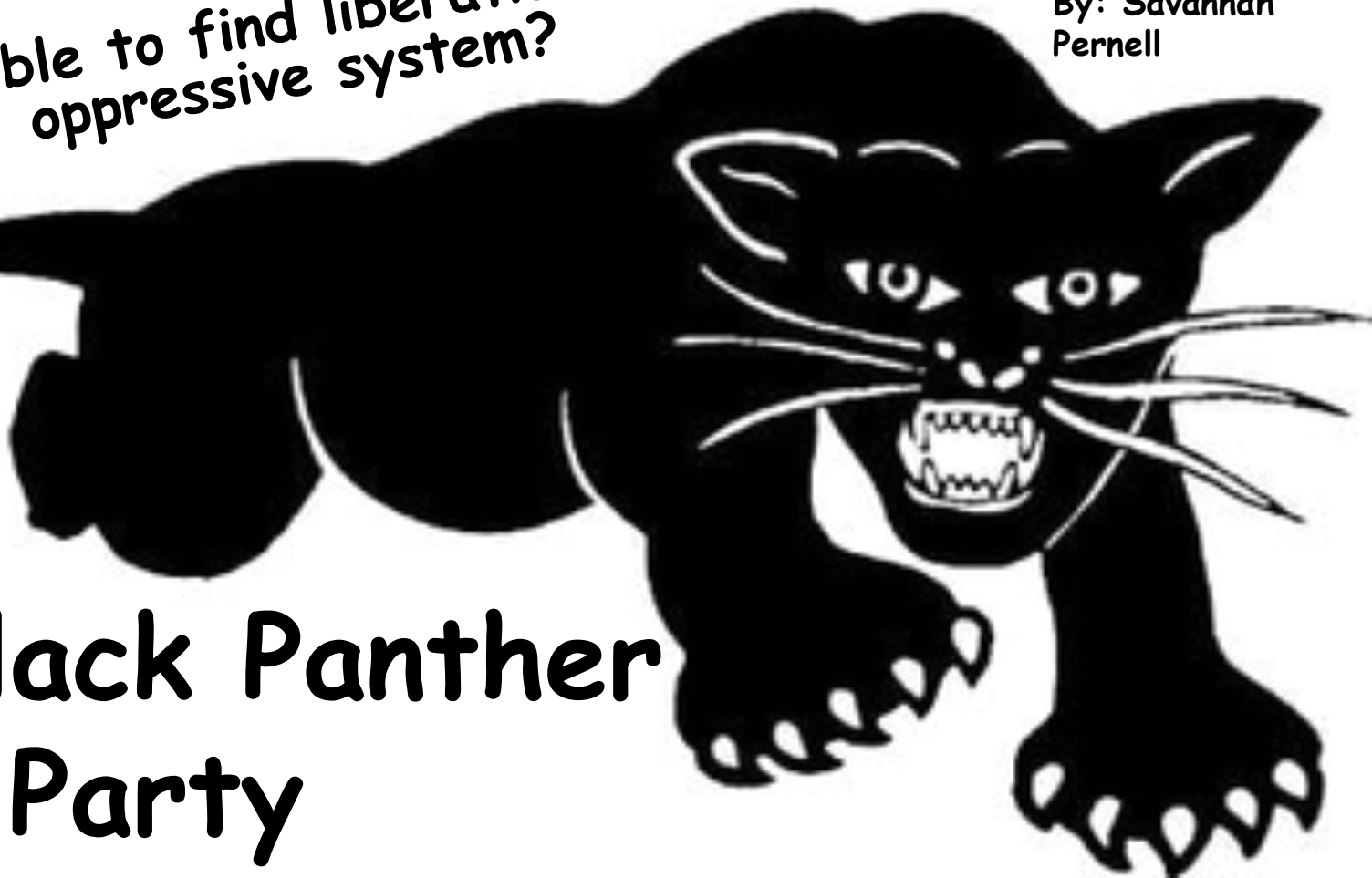


Is it possible to find liberation within an
oppressive system?

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**The Black Panther
Party**



Biography



★ ORIGINAL NAME: BLACK PANTHER PARTY FOR SELF-DEFENSE

★ FOUNDED: OCTOBER 15, 1966, IN OAKLAND, CA

★ FOUNDED BY: HUEY P. NEWTON, BOBBY SEALE, ELBERT HOWARD

★ REASON FOR STARTING: TO PATROL BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS AND PROTECT BLACK RESIDENTS FROM POLICE BRUTALITY, THE PARTY LATER DEVELOPED INTO A REVOLUTIONARY GROUP THAT PUSHED FOR THE ARMING OF ALL AFRICAN AMERICANS,

★ BLACK WOMEN SPOKE OUT, GAINED MORE RECOGNITION, AND HELPED TO POWER THE MOVEMENT.

★ REASON FOR DISBANDING: PROGRAMS RAN BY THE FBI WANTED TO BREAK UP THE PARTY. THE FBI HAD A SECRET PROGRAM TO TRY TO BREAK IT UP. THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY WAS ONE OF MANY DIFFERENT GROUPS THAT WERE TARGETED BY THIS FBI-LED PROGRAM. THEY WERE CALLED THE 'GREATEST THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY, AND THE FBI USED ANY MEANS REQUIRED TO DEMOLISH

"THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT WAS EXPANSIVE. IT WAS ABOUT TRANSFORMING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. IT WAS NOT SIMPLY ABOUT ACQUIRING CIVIL RIGHTS WITHIN A FRAMEWORK THAT ITSELF WOULD NOT CHANGE."



The Black Panther Party's oppressive system(s) were

- ★ Racism
- ★ Police brutality
- ★ The Prison and Judicial System
- ★ Violence

“You cannot fight racism with racism. You have to fight it with solidarity.”

Oppressive System(s)

The Black Panther Party experienced racism daily from the government trying to break them up

The Black Panther Party Also experience police brutality when 2 members of the party were shot and killed while sleeping after police fired their guns 90-99 times and left others severely injured.

Black Panther members were locked up for crimes that police had little to no evidence of. And were given brutal sentences

The Black Panther Party experienced Violence from the government because “the force was “heavily armed and wearing flak jackets.” The panther members they came after had no record of criminal violence.



The Search For Liberation

To try to find liberation, The Black Panther Party:

- ★ Confronted politicians
- ★ Challenged the police
- ★ Protected black citizens from brutality.
- ★ Created community service programs - called "survival programs" and provided food, clothing, and transportation.
- ★ They linked the African American liberation movement with liberation movements in Africa and Southeast Asia.
- ★ They campaigned for prison reform
- ★ Held voter registration drives
- ★ Opened free health clinics in a dozen cities serving thousands who could not afford it
- ★ Created Freedom Schools in nine cities

"We don't hate nobody because of color. We hate oppression."



"The racist dog policemen must withdraw immediately from our communities, cease their wanton murder and brutality and torture of black people, or face the wrath of the armed people."



Did They Find Liberation?

Although the Black Panther Party was able to get liberation for some things and make some changes and raise awareness, They ultimately did not find liberation

- ★ The FBI declared the Black Panthers as a communist organization and an enemy of the United States government and they were called "One of the greatest threats to the nation's internal security." So the FBI did everything in their power to break up the group
- ★ The FBI exploited existing rivalries between black nationalist groups.
- ★ The FBI also worked to dismantle the Free Breakfast for Children Program and other community social programs instituted by the Black Panthers.
- ★ During the early 1970s, The Black Panther Party was weakened by external attacks and legal problems and rapidly declined as a political force.
- ★ The Black Panther Party officially disbanded in 1982.



"There is an entire generation of young people who know nothing about how viciously the FBI attacked The Black Panther Party, and why."



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