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History 101

Primary Source Assignment

Introduction

In the 1968 article titled, “Black People: Keep Your Guns,” authors, being members of The Black Panther Party, narrates various scenes and events that had occurred throughout communities within American society to educate readers on the atrocious reality forced upon Black Americans residing there during this time. (“Black People: Keep Your Guns”, 1968). Here, the article allows readers to, not only be exposed to the various hardships faced by Black Americans such as but not limited to, police brutality and kidnappings, but as well as educated on the various legal gun and federal laws concerning American society and the rules for one being a part of the Black Panther Party specifically. (“Black People: Keep Your Guns”, 1968). With the use of these narrations, facts, and illustrations portraying these ideals, the reality that Black Americans were forced to live in during the late 1960s is not only inferred but the positive mission of the Black Panther Party overall in support of helping these groups is further understood as well.

Evidence

Alongside the article, in the supporting 2016 video, “Black Panther,” published by US National Archives, one is further introduced to the ideals and stories narrated in the Black Panther Party article as well. (US National Archives, 2016). The video contains several members of the Black Panther Party advocating for equal and civil rights they believed all Black citizens living in America during this time were not only fair and just but deserved overall. (US National Archives, 2016). The video further illustrates the article’s point when discussing the Black army and America’s army system overall as well. Here, the idea that Black Americans should not fight in America’s international wars as there was already a civil war within America concerning these Black lives having human rights themselves. (US National

Archives, 2016). (“Black People: Keep Your Guns”, 1968). Thus, as one analyzes how the narrators suggest that through slavery and more, Black Americans essentially built and formed the ‘land of the free’ by that point of the 1960s, one gain further insight into the mission of the Black Panthers overall during this time. (US National Archives, 2016). From the police brutality illustrated, kidnappings of important Black Panther leaders mentioned, to the various members attending court hearings and trials of innocent minorities, provision of breakfast for Black children, and much more, readers are made aware of the Black Panther’s mission to uniform the Black minds of American society during this time. (“Black People: Keep Your Guns”, 1968). Additionally, the article’s clear goal was to educate both White and minority Americans on how that unity was needed because of the American hegemony powers that continued to target and use minorities without offering the same just rights as others, deemed ‘superior’, had during this time.

Conclusion

The end of the 1960s in American history today, indeed saw a period of social change in the realities believed and faced by minorities and White Americans living in various communities throughout. The 1968 article titled, “Black People: Keep Your Guns,” directly narrated to society during this time why this change needed to occur. From the clear illustration on page two that portrays how police officers are regarded as pigs for their dirty and nasty acts of beating, arresting, and murdering innocent Black and minority American lives to the joint discussion of African, Asian, and Latin American treatments condoned by the American government overall, the members of the Black Panther Party allow for readers to note the impact these acts had towards the realities faced and lived by these groups. (“Black People: Keep Your Guns”, 1968). It is where members of society can understand what the Black Panther Party was rioting and fighting for within American society during this time and how these illustrations led towards a positive change in American society overall as Black Americans gained various rights previously denied. (“Black People: Keep Your Guns”, 1968). One might still look to question the effects the party has truly had as police brutalities, illegal arrests and murders of innocent Black Americans

continue to take place daily in America today with no clear law or justice set in stone against these crimes. With these pieces of information presented in the primary source, alongside the historical facts, one has access to today, Black American society today employs similar strategies and makes small changes towards educating society on how this exists of Black Americans and what change needs to be done today.

References

“Black people: Keep your Guns”. (1968). *The Black Panther*. Retrieved from

https://files.libcom.org/files/Vol_II_No5_1968_2.pdf

US National Archives. (2016). Black Panther. *YouTube*. Video. Retrieved from

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrZIEMrVrw>