

Martin Luther King und Malcolm X: Have their Dreams Come True?

Teacher Seminar, 24 April 2009

Speaker: Priv. Doz. Dr. Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson, LMU

Organizer: Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, B.A.Z. Amerika-Haus

More than four decades after their violent deaths, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X still stand out as the two main heroes of the black struggle for freedom and equality in the 20th century. King has become the icon of peaceful integration and his ideal of a color-blind society is still shared by most Americans as the best way to overcome racial problems. In recent years, however, the more radical positions of Malcolm X have become increasingly popular especially among urban black youth. In today's seminar we will trace the roots of Martin's and Malcolm's beliefs and the development of their political agenda, discuss their accomplishments and failures as well as their political and cultural legacy, especially with regard to the question of black identity and race relations in the United States today.

Introductory Literature: Malcolm X with Alex Haley, *The Autobiography* (1965); Martin Luther King, Jr., *Stride Toward Freedom* (1958); James H. Cone, *Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or a Nightmare* (1993); Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson, *Gegenspieler: Martin Luther King – Malcolm X* (2007).

9 – 10:30 a.m.

- Brief historical survey of the roots of Integrationism and Black Separatism as opposite strategies of black advancements before WW II
- Malcolm X's rise to the head of the Nation of Islam and his role-model function for the Black Power Movement
- King's rise to the head of the CRM, his major accomplishments and failures
- Coming Together? Human Rights as a common goal of both men at the end of their lives
- Time for Questions

10:30 – 11 a.m.

- Coffee break

11 – 11: 45 a.m.

- Audio and video material illustrating certain aspects of Malcolm X's and Martin's public life and work (speeches, rallies etc.)
- Brief comments on and discussion of these materials

11: 45 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- Has the Dream Com True: What is the legacy of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King (especially with regard to the state of the Black Community today and of American race relations today)?
- Time for Questions