

SEEKING RESTORATION -- SESSION 8

THE COLOR OF COMPROMISE -- CHAPTER 11

The Fierce Urgency of Now

Tisby points out, “The reluctance to reckon with racism has led to a chasm between black and white Christians in theology, politics and culture.”

The Arc of Racial Justice

Action items fit into three broad categories,
“The ARC (Awareness, Relationships,
Commitment) of racial justice helps distinguish
different types of antiracist actions.”

Awareness of issues and people

- Watch documentaries re: racial history in the U.S.
- Diversify your social media to include racial and ethnic minorities
- Access websites and podcasts created by racial and ethnic minorities
- Do an internet search about a particular topic instead of always asking your black friend to explain an issue to you

“A Public Religion Research Institute study revealed that in a one-hundred-friend scenario, white people had just one black friend, one Latinx, and one Asian friend. In that same scenario, black people had eight white friends, two Latinx friends, and zero Asian friends.”

Action steps to develop interracial relationships include:

- Start with people you know
- Find new places to hang out
- Join a sport, club, or activity with people who are different

Action steps for developing a lifelong commitment to racial justice include:

- Create something. Write a blog post. Host a forum. Write a song or poem. Write a sermon. Write a book. Get feedback from a person of a different racial or ethnic background who is willing to help
- Join an organization that advocates for racial and social justice
- Donate money to organizations that advocate for racial and social justice
- Speak with candidates for elected office and ask their views of racial justice and the policies they advocate
- Vote

Reparation(s)

Just a reminder (as if we need one), “The idea goes against politically conservative ideas of small government and low taxes.” This is not simply to address effects of slavery but also Jim Crow.

2011 study -- a typical white household has 16x the wealth of a black household

2014 report -- for every dollar in a white household, a black household has less than seven cents

Rev. Duke Kwon, a Presbyterian minister, distinguishes between reparation and reparations. “The former refers to the principle, and the latter refers to the practice. In terms of the principle, reparation simply means repair. Injustice obligates reparation. Reparation is not a matter of vengeance or charity, it’s a matter of justice.”

Rev. Kwon also distinguishes between “civic reparations” dealing with government policies and institutions (e.g., U.S. government payments to Japanese American victims of WWII internment camps) and “ecclesiastical reparations,” where churches make payments.

Take Down Confederate Monuments

Bree Newsome climbed up the flagpole in front of the state house in South Carolina State Capitol to take down the Confederate flag. **Mississippi** just changed its flag to remove the Confederate flag embedded in the Mississippi state flag. The statue of J.E.B. Stuart was removed from **Monument Avenue in Richmond**.

Learn from the Black Church

“In many white Christian contexts theology produced by racial minorities comes with an assumption of heresy and heterodoxy.” The text notes, most popular Christian songs focus on victory and joy but have a dearth of lament and sorrow. Black theology can teach American churches how to rejoice as well.

Start Freedom Schools and Pilgrimages

“Education must lead to liberation.” In the 1960s activists started Freedom Schools to teach people at the grassroots level about civil rights and methods of protesting for change. Experiential learning is key and in that vein the author encourages pilgrimages as spiritual ventures such as to the National Civil Rights Museum as well as the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

Make Juneteenth a National Holiday

Doing so would:

1. Highlight freedom
2. Commemorate one of the most important events in U.S. history
3. Remind us how far we've come and how far we have left to go

Participate in the Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement

Rev. William J. Barber of North Carolina has called for a third reconstruction, following the first (immediately after the Civil War) and the second reconstruction of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Three current areas being addressed: criminal justice reform, combating ongoing segregation, and fighting for voting rights.

Publicly Denounce Racism

“Too many Christian leaders refuse to use their platforms to publicly speak against racism.”

How important will racism be in the upcoming presidential election?

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome

Establishing Strong Leadership

“The African American community can no longer afford to have their collective voice silenced with a single shot! We can’t look to a few individuals to provide guidance and direction. We must begin to look to ourselves for leadership.”

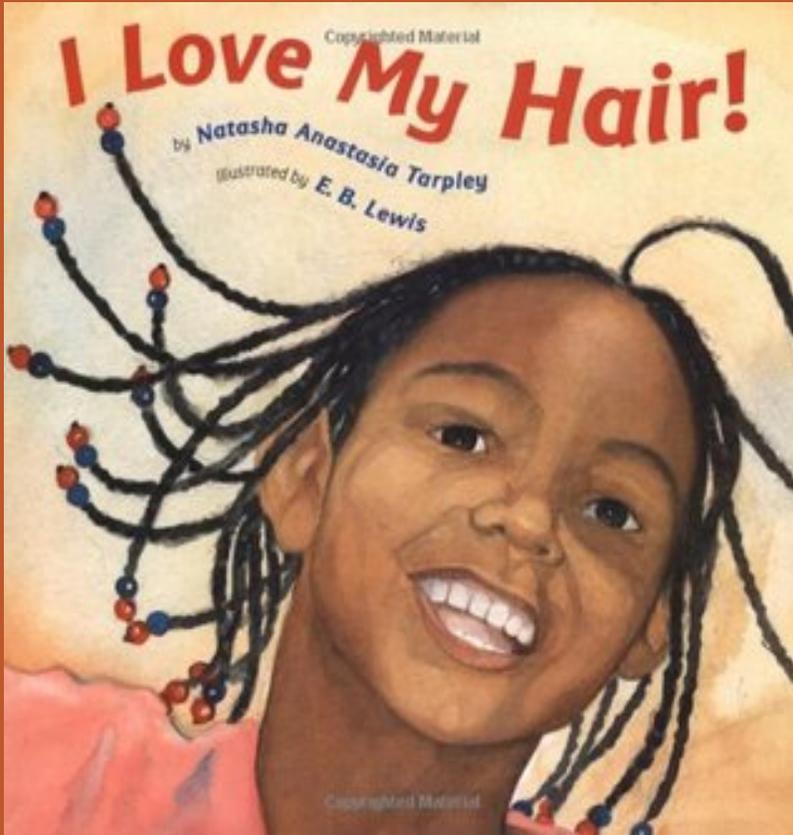
“Sadly, a fair number of our youth as well as adults are ignorant of many of our most important leaders.”

What's Really Working?

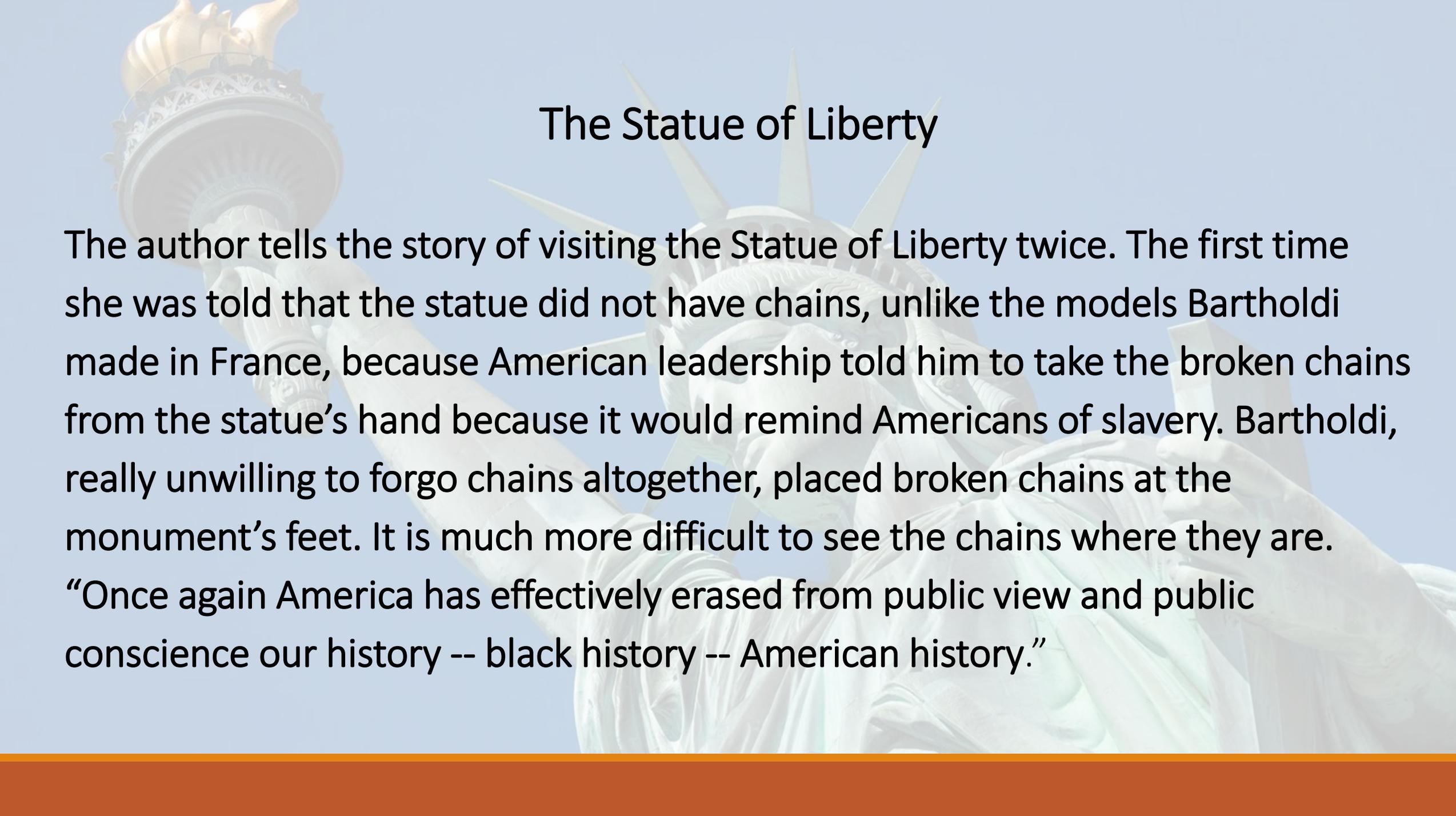
In attempting to understand what works in serving African Americans, the author, Dr. Joy Degruy, assigned her graduate students to examine a number of programs. “Each program was able to produce statistically significant, positive, measurable results. Here is what the data they gathered revealed about the elements of programs that have been successful in working with African Americans:

- Having a champion supporter
- Building strong relationships
- Culturally relevant curriculum materials
- Positive racial/ethnic identity development
- Starting work when they are young
- Parental/family involvement
- Commitment and support of administrators and leaders
- Community involvement
- Program Consistency and longevity
- Providing achievement opportunities or wins for participants
- Follow up and on-going evaluation

Good Hair?



In 2009 Chris Rock produced the film *Good Hair*, and the head writer of *Sesame Street* created a Muppet out of concern for his Ethiopian daughter's feelings about her hair. In 2003 Natasha Tarpley published a book entitled *I Love My Hair* that the author implied taught the author's granddaughter to love her hair.

The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored image of the Statue of Liberty. The statue is shown from the waist up, holding the torch in her right hand and the tablet in her left. The crown with its seven spikes is prominent. The entire image is set against a light blue background.

The Statue of Liberty

The author tells the story of visiting the Statue of Liberty twice. The first time she was told that the statue did not have chains, unlike the models Bartholdi made in France, because American leadership told him to take the broken chains from the statue's hand because it would remind Americans of slavery. Bartholdi, really unwilling to forgo chains altogether, placed broken chains at the monument's feet. It is much more difficult to see the chains where they are. "Once again America has effectively erased from public view and public conscience our history -- black history -- American history."

“Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever”
(Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1781). “Upon this ‘total emancipation’ hoped for and still yet to be realized, depends the welfare of America.”

Myths about Civil Rights

Myth #5 Black Power was a violent uprising that opposed the principles of civil rights

Reflect: Many leaders within the Black Power Movement had been deeply involved with the nonviolence movement. Why do you think that leaders shifted their strategies?

What are some common objectives of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Movement?

What is the Black Power Movement?

Vanessa Taylor

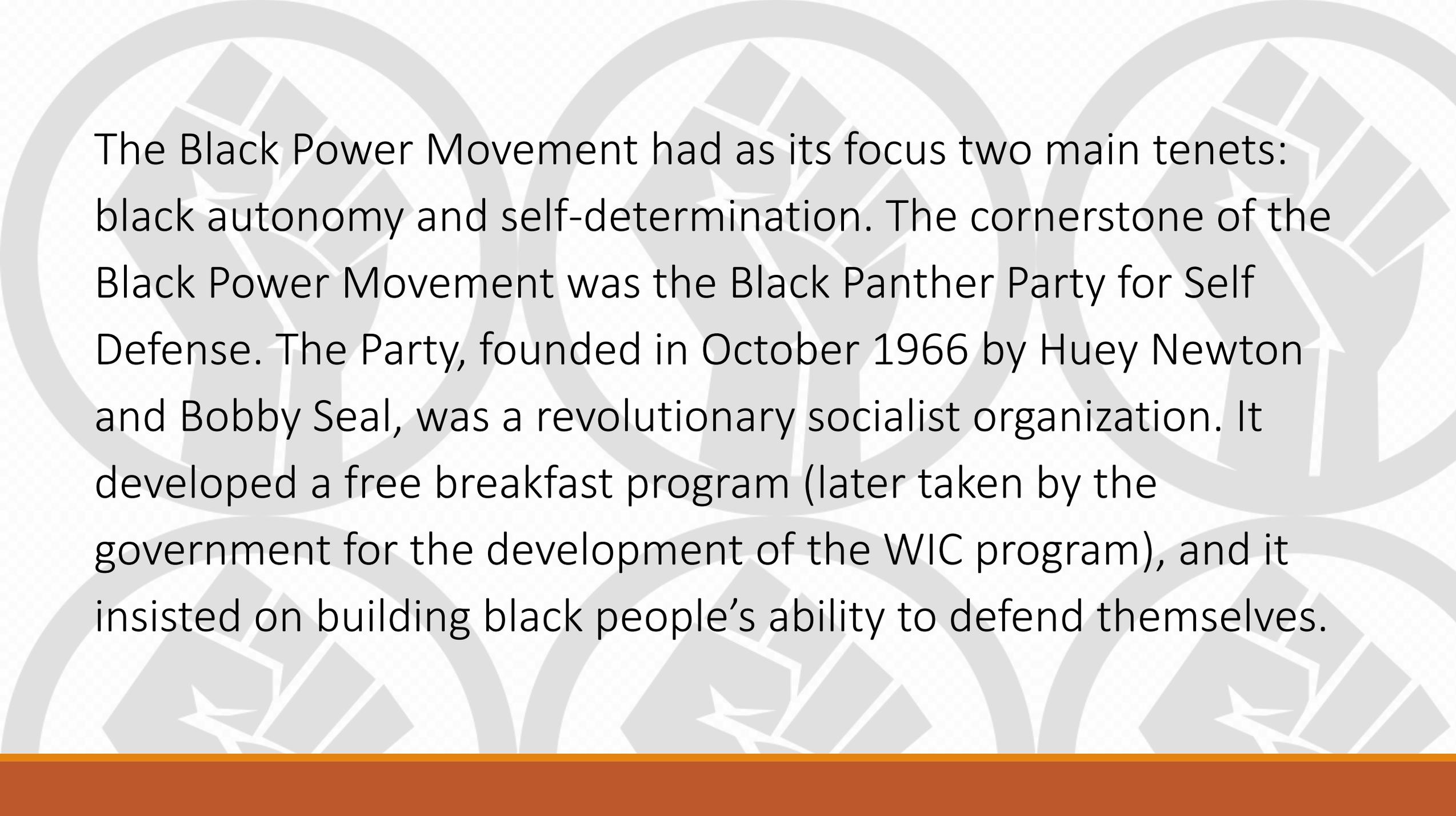
The term Black Power refers both to a political slogan popularized between the 1960s and the 1980s, as well as the various ideologies aimed at achieving self-determination for black people.

After the shooting of James Meredith, Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael) of SNCC declared: “This is the 27th time I have been arrested and I ain’t going to jail no more! The only way we gonna stop them white men from whippin’ us is to take over, what we gonna start sayin’ now is ‘Black Power!’”

This slogan is an alternative to the more temperate “Freedom Now” used by SCLC. (A reminder that Frederick Douglass tells us that power concedes nothing without struggle.)

Young black people, tired of the too slow pace of the Civil Rights Movement, looked for more powerful tactics.

Malcolm X -- bring about the freedom of the people by any means necessary

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The Black Power Movement had as its focus two main tenets: black autonomy and self-determination. The cornerstone of the Black Power Movement was the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. The Party, founded in October 1966 by Huey Newton and Bobby Seal, was a revolutionary socialist organization. It developed a free breakfast program (later taken by the government for the development of the WIC program), and it insisted on building black people's ability to defend themselves.

The Black Power Movement influenced culture generally with such movements as the “Black is beautiful” statement encouraging black styles to be expressed, and through development of journals, magazines and other publications by writers such as Nikki Giovanni and Audre Lorde. The Movement lives on in the Black Lives Movement even though the Black Power Movement itself went into decline in the late 1970s due to the relentless persecution of those involved.

The Black Panther Party articulated a Ten Point Program, the first part of which entitled “What We Want Now!” states:

1. We want freedom. We want the power to determine the destiny of the Black Community
2. We want full employment for our people
3. We want an end to the robbery by the capitalists of our black and oppressed communities
4. We want decent housing, fit for the shelter of human beings
5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present day society
6. We want all Black men to be exempt from military service
7. We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people
8. We want freedom for all Black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails
9. We want all Black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their Black Communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States
10. We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace

Later the demand for exemption from military service is replaced by a demand for free healthcare

Guidelines for Being Strong White Allies

Paul Kivel

What People of Color Want from White Allies

Respect us

Listen to us

Find out about us

Don't make assumptions

Don't take over

Stand by my side

Provide information

Don't assume you know what's
best for me

Resources

Money

Take risks

Make mistakes

Don't take it personally

Honesty

Teach your children about racism

Talk to other white people

Speak up

Interrupt jokes and comments

Don't ask me to speak for my
people

Your body on the line

Persevere daily

Basic Tactics

1. Assume racism is everywhere, every day
2. Notice who is the center of attention and who is the center of power
3. Notice how racism is denied, minimized, and justified
4. Understand and learn from the history of whiteness and racism
5. Understand the connections between racism, economic issues, sexism, and other forms of injustice
6. Take a stand against racism
7. Be strategic “attack the source of power”
8. Don’t confuse a battle with the war
9. Don’t call names or be personally abusive
10. Support the leadership of people of color
11. Learn something about the history of white people who have worked for social justice
12. Don’t do it alone
13. Talk with your children and other young people about racism