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Engw 102-23

September 13, 2019

Critical Response to Malcolm X excerpt

I actually thought this question was very interesting, especially from the Malcolm X side and I wanted to talk about it in class. I first wanted to start with how Malcolm viewed Black people worshipping the Christian faith. Saying that the slave owners taught them they have to do certain things to even possibly be saved. Malcolm essentially says that Black people have been brainwashed into worshipping this white God and Jesus as a means of suppression and assimilation. Maybe not necessarily a white, blonde hair, blue eyed Jesus but just the religion as Black people had seen it. This goes along with of course his conversion to Islam, and change in mindset. And to not forget the fact that Islam was adopted in pre-colonial Africa, long before Christianity even began its influence. Now what I'm alluding to is, we all know the instrumental connection to spirituality in the Black community throughout our time in America. This is often seen as a key element in Black people's push for freedom and equality. Here is where King comes in with his charismatic speech, often utilizing faith and analogies from the Bible. So I feel it as a question more directed towards the majority of Blacks and how they feel about Malcolm coming with this brainwashing view, to something that has been so influential in our culture. And this question strikes me, and made me think as well, as I have started to become more religious since I started attending Howard this fall. Starting with King, he uses religion as a place to connect with the Christian clergy by using metaphors and analogies from the Bible in his

Letter from the Birmingham Jail. I feel like King in his other speeches and writings more often uses faith in a more majestic way than he did in the letter, where the letter has a more sarcastic tone. Not saying it's bad or anything, just something I noticed. Initially in Malcolm's biography, religion does not seem to be a very large part of his life. He only really mentions his own religious conversion/awakening once he is in jail and after his release. In the expert, he does not really talk about his own religion and how it influenced him and his values, but he forces the point of the Black brainwashing through Christianity. I could see that as a point of inquiry. Regarding the next question, as we all know their key ideals for how to cure the Black plight weren't exactly on the same line. With King preaching non-violence, purification of hate towards the white man, and the ability to turn the other cheek. Once again, often pointing to the Bible and the actions of Jesus. That violence is not going to stop violence. Malcolm, on the other hand, did not see this purification as effective and also advocated Black self-defense, and pursuing freedom through black separation rather than integration. I see his view as the fact he has lost hope in the ability to work with White people and realizes that to thrive as a people we must do what is necessary on our own. Whereas King wanted to work with Whites to bring about change regarding racial justice. Through both of their writings, we have seen that they, both want what's best for their people, however they see different avenues to get there. I think that it is very important to analyze both of their philosophies, especially as being a Black person. It shows you the importance of thinking critically and can possibly even change your own views.