

Martin luther king v. malcolm x

Sociology



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Alan Mason Period 8 Martin Luther King v. Malcolm X Martin Luther King has been known for using peace to help him get equality among all people but especially African-Americans. He was not the type of leader that resorted to violence in order to get the equality that he fought for. King has been known for moving people by the use of his speeches like King's I Have a Dream and I've Been to the Mountaintop speeches. King shows through these speeches that even though he was determined to get equal rights for every African-American, he was only going to stick to subtle, nonviolent ways like court cases, protest, and boycotts.

This philosophy is the exact opposite to Malcolm X, another Civil Rights Leader, who thought that African Americans should not waste their time on protest and boycotts (Document 7). Malcolm, like King, was not in favor of violence but believed that African Americans should by all means use violence to protect themselves when they "attacked by racists" (Document 9). But, Martin Luther King's philosophy was more beneficial for the African-American community than Malcolm X's because the effort that he put into his nonviolent philosophy made gaining rights more successful and more meaningful.

Martin Luther King showed that he had the better philosophy compared to Malcolm X because of his stance on violence. One way King upheld his beliefs was through protest. King said in his Our God Is Marching speech, "We are on the move now. The burning of our churches will not deter us. We are on the move now. The bombing of our homes will not dissuade us" (Document 4). So protesters, including King himself were having their homes burned down for protesting for what they believe is right. In March of 1965

King and other protesters walked in order to raise awareness of the need for a Voting Right Act. This Act was passed later that year.

But even though they achieved their goal for voting right does not mean that the protesters did not receive opposition for their actions. Mass arrest, police attacks, and state troopers blockading all occurred throughout the walk. If King chose to fight back then that could have either delayed getting the Voting Right Act approved, or it may have been felt that African-Americans did not deserve to get the Act approved. But King just showed by obtaining from violence you can still get what you want. Martin Luther King showed that there were other ways to fight for what you want aside from fighting itself.

King did this by using boycotts and strikes. He said, "There is nothing quite so effective as refusal to cooperate economically with the forces and institutions." King realized that one of the ways he was going to get American to give them the rights that African-Americans wanted was by disrupting the flow of money that was going into the Caucasian shops. This meant by not buying from places that do not offer jobs for African-Americans then those businesses would see how much they needed the African-American community, even if it meant having to hire African-American workers.

Malcolm X did not agree with boycotts and strikes he said, "We have to learn how to own and operate the businesses of our community and develop to be involved in picketing and boycotting other people in other communities in order to get a job" (Document 7). But this idea completely went against

the philosophy of being together not separate. If this would have happened then the country would have always been separate and things would have never been equal.

Martin Luther King has been known for using his words instead of his fist when it comes to defending what he and many thousands of others believed to be correct. King once said in his I Have a Dream speech that he had a dream that "former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood... They will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character... We will be able to work together, pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to climb up for freedom together" (Document 2).

King fought for African Americans' rights by using his words. He told the people of his desires for an equal and fair life where people could live in harmony with each other and not be judged by their skin tone. He thought of a time where there would be no more separate but equal as were stated prior, people would be able to "work together... And go to jail together." (Document 2) So by using his speeches where thousands of people came to listen to him talk, he moved a nation to be in favor of his reasoning's.

In conclusion, Martin Luther King's philosophy was more beneficial for the African-American community than Malcolm X's because the effort that he put into his nonviolent philosophy made gaining rights more successful and more meaningful. King kept up with his no violence idea by participating in other things that got America's attention like protest, boycotts and speeches. King strives to achieve equality and because of his hard efforts he has

succeeded in more ways than one to help African-Americans get the same civil rights as Caucasian Americans.