

Government
Intervention
Against Civil
Rights
Movements

Thesis

Government intervention has changed significantly since the era of the Civil Rights Movement, but the underlying strategies remain essentially the same. Clearly targeted direct action has decreased, but the reliance on discrediting, disrupting, and undermining movements still persists.

Origins of the Black Panther Party

- Huey Newton and Bobby Seale
- Police brutality
- Differences from mainstream movements
- Marxism

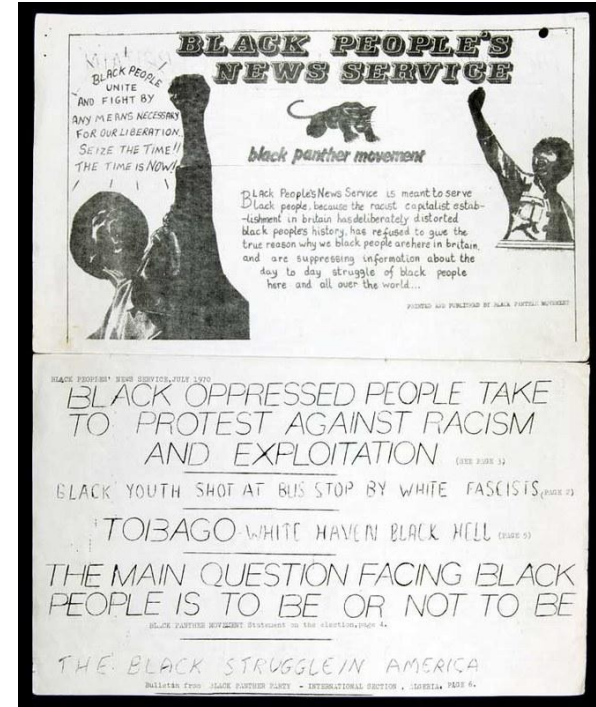


10 Point Program

- Freedom and self-determination
- Full employment
- End to capitalist “robbery”
- Housing
- Comprehensive education for all
- Free health care for all oppressed groups
- End to police brutality
- End to wars of aggression
- Freedom for all incarcerated African-Americans
- “[L]and, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice, peace and people’s community control of modern technology”

Cultivating a Community

- Justice and equality for all oppressed groups
- Global aspirations
- Expecting members to look out for all other members
- Spreading their ideology through *The Black Panther*
- Creating a unified front to combat injustice

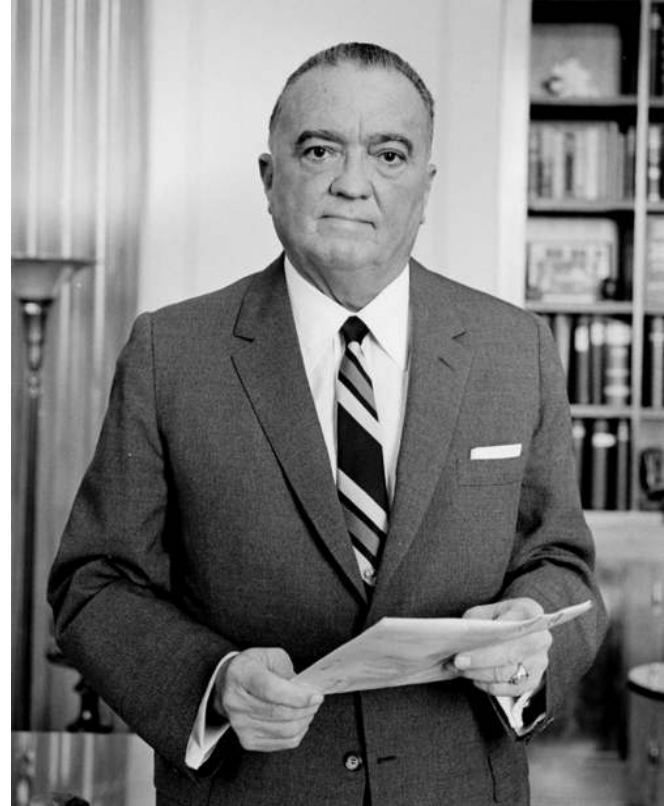


Social Programs

- Free Breakfast Program
- Fed more than 20,000 children in 1969 alone
- By 1971, 36 cities had a breakfast program
- 13 People's Free Medical Clinics provided free aid to all in need
- The Party also did medical research
 - Sickle-Cell Anemia → effects 1/500 African Americans

Government Response

- COINTELPRO
- Intensive FBI involvement
- Surveillance
- Undercover operatives
- Assassinations
- Sowing division



Modern Government Intervention Against BLM

- Top-down federalization of protest-prosecutions
 - Increased assertion of federal jurisdiction
 - Federal charges brought when state charges were available
 - 92.6% of cases had equivalent state charges
 - In 88% of these cases, federal charges had more severe penalties
 - Charge “stacking” in 25.8% of cases
 - 20.6% of cases involved inchoate offenses
 - Arson (32.21%) was the most commonly brought charge
 - Included conspiring to commit arson by possessing a molotov

Further Modern Efforts

- Attacks against image
- Painting protestors as “violent radicals”
- Simultaneous anti-mask protestors labelled “very good people”
- Majority of charges brought were non-violent
 - Government continued violence focused rhetoric

Direct Actions

- FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force
 - Partnerships between FBI and other law enforcement
- Modern COINTELPRO
 - Less espionage, more direct
- Operation Legend
 - Another multi-agency partnership used to combat protests
 - Originally intended to address violent crime
- Federal forces used to quell protests

Questions?

Comments? Concerns? Conundrums? Queries? Inquisitions?
Insights? Profundities? Revelations? Etcetera?