

# Malcolm X



# **Malcolm X**

A Historical Reader

Edited by

**James L. Conyers, Jr.**

and

**Andrew P. Smallwood**

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James L. Conyers, Jr.  
Andrew P. Smallwood

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Malcolm X : a historical reader / edited by James L. Conyers and Andrew P. Smallwood.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-0-89089-228-2 (alk. paper)

ISBN-10: 0-89089-228-8 (alk. paper)

1. X, Malcolm, 1925-1965. 2. Black Muslims--Biography. 3. African Americans--Biography. I. Conyers, James L. II. Smallwood, Andrew P. III. Title.

BP223.Z8M35 2008

320.54'6092--dc22

[B]

2007045340

CAROLINA ACADEMIC PRESS

700 Kent Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27701  
Telephone (919) 489-7486  
Fax (919) 493-5668  
[www.cap-press.com](http://www.cap-press.com)

Printed in the United States of America

*We dedicate this volume to the memory and spirit of*

*Mrs. Jacqueline Irene Pierce-Conyers (1961–2006)*

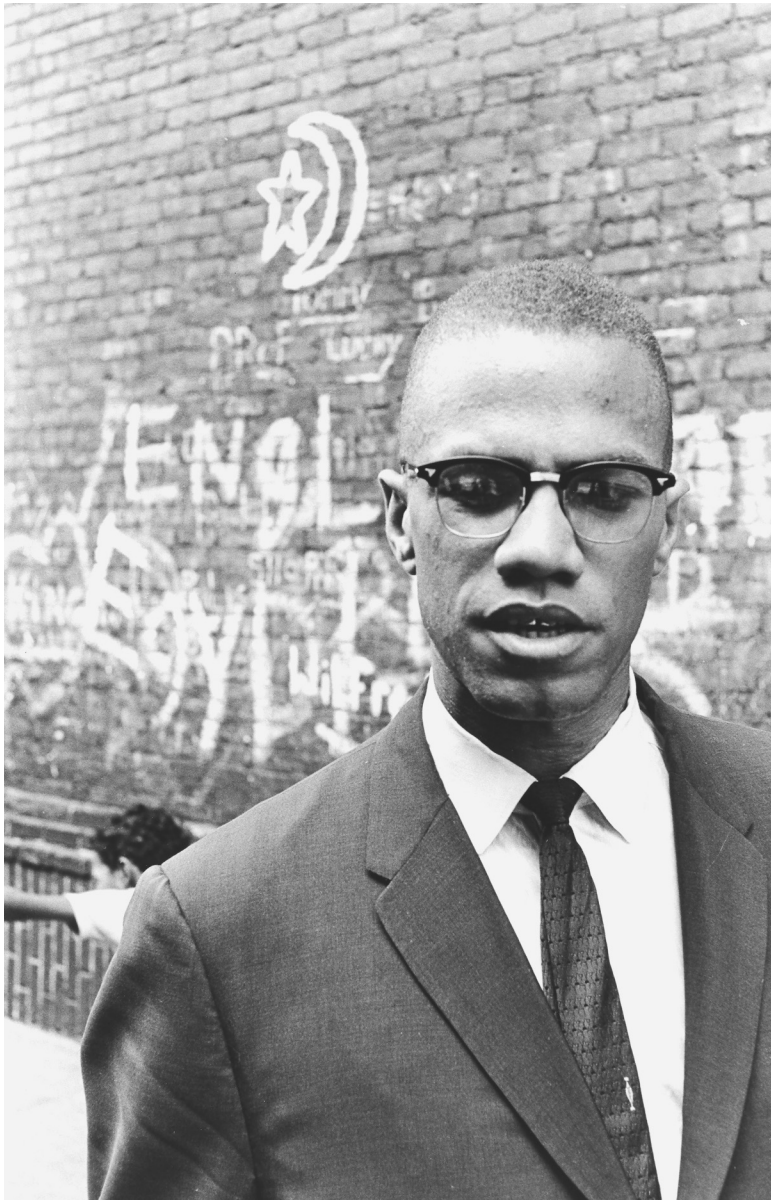
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Malcolm X. Courtesy of LOOK Magazine, December 1969.

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# Preface

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The idea and task of taking on the topic of examining the life and work of Malcolm X is stupendous and encyclopedic. Nonetheless, as we compiled records and communiqué, our knowledge grew, posture advanced, swagger oscillated, and we became reflexive of ourselves and of Africana history and culture, with regard to space, place and time. Simply put, we understood with humility and spirit that this volume was to make a singular contribution to the larger ongoing body of literature on the topic of Malcolm X.

Indeed, Malcolm X is studied inside canons within the humanities, social sciences, and professions. Yet, very few scholars have been able to locate the subject as human—African diasporan and equally important, posit ideas and analyses within the framework of a global Pan Africanist—Afrocentric symmetry.

Subsequently, creative space, energy, time, and forward progressive motion has softened contemporary domestic and international bipartisan social forces, to tolerate the political philosophy of Malcolm X. Endurable is the perquisite to explain the subject as an enigma, hostile Black man, or sometimes as a kickback radical. To many, this allows the subject of Malcolm X to be appealing, whereas, scholars can capriciously existentialize his lasting contributions.

Consequently, far from the illusion of Malcolm X being a reactionary protagonist—he was a scholar who evoked a pro-active and assertive pose. In this sense, he was able to review an issue and then offer a reflexive analysis, pertaining to the direct and indirect cause and consequence of a dispatch. This inquiry entrapped long and short term outcomes to political and economic designs confronting Africana phenomena on a global and national level. Phrased another way, his probes were saturated in appraising patterns of the creation and consequences of subordinate group status (i.e., the oppression of Africana people on a global and continental basis).

As we have congregated this assembly of essays, which amass this volume, our objective and liturgy is simple and straightforward. First, to challenge scholars in the discipline of Africana Studies to organize, prepare, and comport audits on Africana leadership of the nineteenth and twentieth century. Certainly, the idea of reclamation is aesthetically historic and incumbent to examining agency and sovereignty of African people. Second, espouse the necessity for implementation of Afrocentric meta-theories, to describe and evaluate Africana phenomena. Lastly, engage the requisite for scholars to exercise interdisciplinary tools and research methods for triangulating the: nexus, retention, and cultural milieu of Africana prodigies.

In conclusion, we have enjoyed numerous social outings to brief and debrief about the social construction of this text. Even more important, with loyalty, respect for the sacredness of the HOUSE, advocacy of brotherhood-sisterhood, and our love for people of African descent, we have been blessed to see our ideas become a published re-

ality. In memoriam and libation, we evoke the name of El Hajj Malik Shabazz and the countless other Africana leadership figures whose shoulders we stand on. So shall it be said—**AGOO-AMEN (response for attention)**.

**YAA ASANTEWAA, YIMHOTE, NKRA!**

Dr. James L. Conyers, Jr., University of Houston

Dr. Andrew P. Smallwood, Austin Peay State University

# Acknowledgments

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When I think about the passage of time since the inception of this project, I am reminded of one of many sayings used in the Smallwood household, this one that my mother used to share with us stand out: “The more things change the more they remain the same.” As a young child I never fully grasped what this meant and yet it stayed with me over the years and now with the completion of this project I am reminded of my mother’s words. Much has changed in the world and yet there are some things that remain constant. One of constants, is the power of people who at their best help to inspire us to achieve our goals and ultimately our dreams. There have been various individuals, we have come in contact with during the course of this project, whose influence and contributions whether directly or indirectly have been helpful to completing this project and we would like to acknowledge them at this time. We start here with our family members:

From the Conyers family: Mrs. Agnes Conyers, James L. Khalfani Sekou Conyers, III, Fredrick Kamau Abotare Conyers, Chad Anthony Hawkins, Gwen Woods, Khalis Woods, Shaheed Woods, and Khalil Amir Woods. From the Smallwood family: Mr. David P. Smallwood and Mrs. Grace E. Smallwood, Mr. Lawrence D. Smallwood and Mr. Mark C. Smallwood, Shomari Smallwood, Lauryn Smallwood and various uncles, aunts, cousins and family friends.

I would also like to acknowledge various colleagues for their collegiality and general assistance and support: We would also like to acknowledge other individuals for their support: Dr. Julius Thompson, Dr. Gerald Davis, Dr. William Nick Nelson, Mr. Zane Corbin, Mr. Anthony Robinson, Mr. James Jamison, Ms. Beth Johnson, Dr. Shawn Donaldson, Dr. Melanie E. Bratcher, Dr. Gerald Horne, Dr. John Antel, Dr. John Rudley, Dr. Molefi Kete Asante, Dr. Abu Abarry, Dr. Jay Katsley, Dr. Clara Meek, Dr. James B. Stewart, Dr. Sundiata Cha Jua, Dr. Shawn O. Utsey, Mrs. Angela Williams Phillips, Mrs. Sheneka Stewart, Dr. Robert L. Harris, Dr. James Turner, Dr. Phyllis M. Cunningham, Dr. Harold Cheatham, Dr. Leila V. Moore, the late Dr. Earl E. Thorpe, Dr. Arthell Sanders, The late Dr. Ernest Mason, Mr. Lawrence W. Young, The Friends of African American Studies at the University of Houston, Dr. Sherry Hoppe, Dr. Bruce Speck, Dr. James Diehr, Dr. Dewey Browder, Dr. Alvin Hughes, Dr. Richard Gildrie, Dr. Thomas Dixon, Dr. Michelle Butts, faculty in the History Department at APSU, Dr. Dwonna Goldstone, Dr. Jill Eichhorn, Dr. Karen Sorensen, Dr. Gail Robinson-Oturu, Dr. Dixie Dennis, Mrs. Debbie Shearon, Mrs. Pam Allen, Mrs. Tonya DeShon, Mr. Lantz Biles, Mr. David Davenport, Mr. Phil Petrie, Mr. Richard Jackson, Ms. Carol Bennett, members of the African American Staff and Faculty Organization at APSU, faculty in the College of Arts and Letters at APSU, Mrs. Eileen Cummings, Mr. Lacy DeBerry, Mrs. Daphne Dunston-Wharton, Dr. Kevin Jones, Mr. Gary Crumpler, Mr. Lyndon Perkins, Mr. Brian T. Davis, the former Ms. Vanessa Heyward, Ms. Althea Greene, Dr. Don-Terry Veal, Dr. Wilodean Burton, President Timothy Hall, Prof. Joyce Hargrove, Dr. David

Kanervo, Dr. George Pesley, Dr. Charles Pinder, Dr. Mark Michael, Dr. Jeffrey Mirel, Dr. Elwood Robinson, Dr. Brenda Scales, Dr. Brenda Shaw, Dr. Gregory Zieren, Ms. Karenthia Barber, Ms. Adrienne Brown, Mrs. Dennie Burke, Mrs. Patricia Dunston, Mr. William A. Dunston Jr., Ms. Keisha Dunston, Ms. Helen Chin, Ms. Darlene Cooley, Ms. Jan DeJean, Ms. Denise Edwards, Mrs. Sandra Edwards, Mrs. Kathleen Evans, Ms. Theresa Flick, Ms. Gillian Furbert, Ms. Shelley Hicks, Mrs. Charlotte Jacque, Mr. David Johnson, Ms. Gina Johnson, Ms. Monica Johnson, Mrs. Sharon Johnson, Ms. Alicia Kincaid, Ms. Kimberly Maulsby, Mrs. Una Mulzac, Mrs. Betty Osborne, Ms. Tonya Pendleton, Ms. Darlene Roper, Ms. Debra Starks, Mrs. Terry Stringer-Damron, Ms. Lysa Teal, Ms. Terri Teelucksingh, Mr. John E. Thomas, Ms. Stefeni Thomas, Mrs. Michelle Tyndall, Ms. Dana Wade, Ms. Stacey Walker, Ms. Patricia Washington, Miss Deme Wharton, Miss Desne Wharton, Mr. Dimitros Wharton, Mrs. Murielle Wharton, Ms. Enid Wharton, Ms. Kember L. White, Ms. Stephanie White, Ms. Karoletta Woodhouse and if we left out the names of other individuals this was unintentional and we thank you as well.

Finally, we would like to thank many of our former students over the years and particularly those individuals from various walks of life whose, energy, enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity have been inspirational and serve to remind us that our work is not finished.