

# Multimodal Project: The connection between Fred Hampton and Molefi Asante on the Empowerment of Black Identity, and the Importance of Promoting Black Power.



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# Historical Figure: Fred Hampton “The People Have to Have the Power”

- ★ Hampton (August 30, 1948–December 4, 1969) was an activist for the NAACP and the Black Panther Party, also a great speaker for the black community. He believes that slavery is the primary cause for racism due to its intention to gain money and profits off of the slaves, the black people. Because of that, he understood the oppression that the black community faced, as he stated, “we know that Black people are most oppressed. And if we didn’t know that, then why in the hell would we be running around talking about the Black liberation struggle has to be the vanguard for all liberation struggles” (Hampton, 5)
- ★ In 1969, the Chicago police launched a carefully planned raid against the Panther headquarters and murdered Hampton, where 99 shots were fired in his apartment



## Hampton View on Black Identity

- Hampton advises the black communities to realize the society that they are living in because that society has been robbing their power, voices, and freedom for a very long time. He understood the white society was created to rip the black communities off since from the beginning (slavery), therefore, they have to unite and fight for their positions in society. Even though the black communities are the minority, through unity, they can fight in a revolutionary way to earn the roles they deserve in society. He encourages the black communities to observe everything based on reality, how they are being treated by the white government and white neighbors. As he mentions on page 458 in the textbook, *Let nobody turn us around*, “We’re not into metaphysics, we’re not idealists, we’re dialectical materialists. And we deal with what reality is, whether we like it or not”

# Who is Molefi K. Asante

- Asante is the founder of the theory of Afrocentricity, a poet, a professor and chair department of African American Studies at Temple University. He is recognized as one of the ten most widely cited African Americans and is honored as a History Maker with an archival interview in the US Library of Congress. He published about 77 books, the most recent are Dramatic Genius of Charles Fuller, African American Traditions, Facing South to Africa, The History of Africa 2nd Edition, As I Run Toward Africa. He has written more than 550 articles and essays for journals, books and magazines

“ It is not enough to know; one must act to humanize the world.”

# Asante on Afrocentricity: View on Black Identity

- ❖ “The Afrocentrists would look to the questions of location, control of the hegemonic global economy, marginalization, and power positions as keys to understand the underdevelopment of African people.”  
(Asante) Asante emphasises the importance of black identity and how black people should re-assert a sense of agency in order to achieve sanity and power. He talks about Afrocentricity, which basically means that African people need to be central to their history and values, and not let a white person steal that role from them. Therefore, he encourage black people to look at information and see history from the black perspective, as opposed to what we have been told since the beginning by the white europeans or white Americans. He believes that in order for black people to achieve sanity, they have to be the subjects in expressing their history, culture, ideas and values
- ❖ Since Africans are the originators and participants, they will tell the story accurately, therefore, they need to use their voices and take part in the dominant group, not just the white person
- ❖ He believes that looking at current situations, experiences and places, the Africans can understand what is happening around them, analyze it, and be able to make changes to achieve power, equality, and autonomy

# Connection between Asante and Hampton's View

Both Asante and Hampton understood the value of using reality judgment to make final decision. They understood the importance of promoting black identity and using their voice to make changes. They understood that black people have to realize it is their time to now make changes and use their power to gain back roles that were stolen from them, to use a black perspective to understand the things that they are actually facing. The white man has the right and freedom to tell their stories, to own lands, to have fair trials in court, while the black cannot. As Asante proposes, black people needs to be central to their history, while Hampton deeply influenced the black community to see the reality that they live in. As he said, revolution is nothing but like having a sore on your body and then you put something on that sore to cure that infection. Similarly, in order to cure the infection in the black communities that Hampton discussed, we have to start to own and relate to our history and take position in all aspects of it. As Asante said in his article, "the Afrocentric method requires the scientists to focus on accurate notations and recording of space and time." This means that using that afrocentric method, we have to judge the lives of black people from reality, seeing and understanding what is really happening.

“The only way that anybody can tell you the taste of a pear is if he himself has tasted it.” We have to really use our perspective to see reality because if not, then who can actually tell our history accurately. Hampton fought for the black liberation, for the black communities to have their rights in a place their call home and at a place they fought so hard for. He demanded the black communities to unite together, use the reality they face as a cause to fight for changes in their lives and in their communities. Through his great communication skills and character, he made the black communities understand, together they have a great power and can stand in position as the white man.



Power to the people



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