



Malcolm X: The Last Speeches

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"Any kind of movement for freedom of Black people based solely within the confines of America is absolutely doomed to fail. "Speeches and interviews from the last two years of his life.

Malcolm X: The Last Speeches Details

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From Reader Review Malcolm X: The Last Speeches for online ebook

Rambox says

Certain themes repeat: empowerment through segregation, anti-miscegenation, black nationalism as a response to white nationalism etc. How can one say Malcolm X was wrong? How can one deny that his anger and reaction to white supremacy was legitimate? And yet, somewhere between X's powerful angry truth and King's naively optimistic 'arc of history,' (destroyed by Coates) lies Baldwin (who embodies Gramsci's 'pessimism of the intelligence, optimism of the will'). It is fascinating how the question of love towards one's oppressor comes up repeatedly between all these African American thinkers. X says he will never love the white man, who cannot love blacks. Baldwin understands this and speaks to it, while also recognising there must be some point after anger. It can become a trap. We do not forgive our oppressors for their sake, because they deserve our love. No, we forgive them for ourselves. To move beyond the lie they have chosen to create that we are opposites at war. Why should they alone get to decide? Because they have the guns? Guns be damned. There is power, also, in choosing how one reacts to oppression. For X, loving whites is submission. For Baldwin, what he calls love can also be a kind of opposition.

Ian says

I read this for a class a few years ago, and honestly, if you're turned off by Malcolm X's politics from early in his career, this book will change your mind. It did mine.

He's older, and he's mellowed out a bit. It's basically him preaching justice and equality the whole time, and how everyone can be equal if we treat each other that way.

I keep looking at it and thinking "I don't need to keep this, I probably won't read it again" but I can't bring myself to get rid of it. I really need to re-read it, and it's a great reference to have around.

MGMaudlin says

As someone who is white, if I wonder how I would think about race if the roles were reversed, Malcolm X sounds right.

Photovy says

Go to the source! Even within these last speeches, he evolves on his view of whites, Africa, and the civil rights movement.

Ishraq says

Dear brother Malcolm,

I'm known for writing to the dead so don't panic, as they say, always trust the dead as they will never change their minds! You see, I've been listening to your speeches before I sleep, and the excitement and thriller from listening to these prevented me from sleeping, thank you O_o, and actually listening to you with this enthusiasm has just brought lots of thoughts and memories to what is happening to the black community yet again in the US.

Lets catch up a little, I went to Harlem last year, had dinner in a fancy Swedish restaurant in central Harlem and listened to a Jazz band all night long. It was really nice, surrounded with people from all colors, enjoying a late night breeze in your neighborhood, it didn't bring back any memories of you! people are not the same anymore and despite that I could see the old poor buildings surrounding the place, yet it just felt that these building are the ones out of place not us!

Years had passed by and I don't think much have changed my brother, in Ferguson Missouri 2014, they - and I mean the police - killed young Michael Brown - yup a teenage black fella - claiming that he resisted his arrest and was shot 12 times! 12 times bro! and boom, riots have erupted all over the place. Later on, Black Lives Matter, a social movement calling for freedom and justice for all black lives has born to fight all kinds of racism and misconduct against black people specially at the police force.

"Hands up, don't shoot" was the motto used, I was blessed to attend a session on this movement last year at Philadelphia university, and to tell you this, same discrimination and false accusation and racism is still performed on us Muslims as well. You see, when the riots in Ferguson erupted and the police fired eye-tearing gas, people of Gaza and Palestine tweeted to the young people how to fight and protect themselves against these tears :) same mentality bro, they kill you first then they question your body!

I used to hang out with some friends at the "Broadway district" after class. It is full of young blacks (I don't like to say black or people of color and so forth, we all are the same but I'm using this just to demonstrate how racism is rooted in the American culture). I guess there were certain neighborhoods that were very poor looking but I was walking with no fear, didn't hear a single word from these guys. However, an old white guy walking in this neighborhood once he saw me, he called me "F**King Muslim"! I laughed! and they wonder why people of different race and color do not feel safe around them, not the other way around actually! even at the airport, I was subjected to extra checking procedures just for wearing a hijab, and my other Arab companions passed smoothly!

Nevertheless bro, your words are still echoing, "I'm for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice, no matter who it's for or against." and "I believe in the brotherhood of man, all men, but I don't believe in brotherhood with anybody who doesn't want brotherhood with me. I believe in treating people right, but I'm not going to waste my time trying to treat somebody right who doesn't know how to return the treatment."! Amen to that my brother, May your soul rest in peace Shaikh Malek, the real Shaikh of Harlem!

Julia says

An excellent choice to read this as an audiobook. Malcolm X is a great speaker and his speeches are still relevant today, although I don't agree with everything he says.

Christy says

Malcolm X teaches us there will be an ultimate struggle for human equality in the world but it will be about wealth and poverty, not about the color of the skin.

I had his famous saying on a framed poster with large, pencil drawing of his face hung over my couch for over a decade and when my grandpa visited once said he could hardly sleep knowing who was looking down upon him from the wall.

David says

I can certainly see why many white Americans feared the rhetoric of brother Malcolm. I don't think his history was accurate on many points, and neither was what was generally understood about our own past correct either. You can some moderation in his speech. The audio version of this collection lacks any attribution of time or place. Sometimes you can infer from information provided in the speech itself. His post Haj period was so short that I've always been curious to see where that fertile mind might have taken him.

Lizzie says

I do not agree with everything that Malcolm X has to say but his voice is powerful and I appreciate why he says the things he said. I think he is wrong about some things but I listened with understanding how violently and heinous black people have been treated in this country so I took no issue with his opinions. Some of the speeches are from 1965 and it strikes me as utterly dismal that his statements about police and white America and welfare workers contain truths that are still present fifty-one years later.

thecatchmeifyoucan says

2004: AMAZING!!! Monumental read. Do yourself a favor and read these speeches.

2014: The last speech in this book was given five days before his death on February 21, 1965, yet it remains so relevant. In 2014 I can read the words in this book and gain a better understanding of what is happening in America because barely anything has changed. This book is a must read for all black people in America and for all white allies. Reading this book fanned the flames of the fire in my belly.

Rosalyn Leigh says

definitely not for the weak-minded. based on the way the speeches were organized you can see that malcolm wasn't always verbally 'militant' he definitely changed how he felt about the country over the years and his speeches gradually demonstrate how he instead felt about the world

Bridget says

For my thoughts: Bridget Blogs Books

Aaron Wilson says

what else do you need, wisdom from the fire of the civil rights movement.

Sparrow says

The title is a bit deceptive -- though the book does contain two speeches from Malcolm's last week, it begins with two newly-discovered talks from 1963 (two years before his death) and two interviews from 1964.

The startling clarity of Malcolm's thought emerges from one fact: he's never lying. Last Speeches makes you realize that the gaseous vagueness ever-present in politicians' prose is a form of deceit -- what today we call "deniability." This book is so precise, and funny, that it functions as inspirational literature -- even for rightwingers. Whatever your personal slavery is, Malcolm teaches you to break your shackles. Here's one quote (from Rochester, February 16, 1965):

"So we're not against people because they're white. But we're against those who practice racism. We're against those who drop bombs on people because their color happens to be of a different shade than yours."

My father (who was then 94) paged through Last Speeches at a brunch place in Windsor Terrace called Brooklyn Commune, and decreed, "He signed his death warrant!" In other words, after the Nation of Islam bombed Malcolm's house in Queens, he revealed the inner depravity of Elijah Mohammed. Malcolm knew he wouldn't survive, but to the end he told the truth.

aloveiz says

Charles Manson deserves martyrdom more than Malcolm X. Look it up.

Donna Davis says

If you read The Autobiography of Malcolm X, the most widely-read of the books about Malcolm, you will get an idea of the general development of his self-education in prison, and of his attraction to, and eventual prominence in, the Nation of Islam. This volume, in contrast, shows the speeches he made when he broke with the Nation of Islam and decided that the struggle for racial equality was tied to class struggles, and that this meant that people who were not Black could still be part of the fight that he believed was necessary. It shows his attraction to socialist ideas, and these are speeches that were not published until recently, when his widow found them buried amongst a lot of other things in storage, and called the publisher she wanted to distribute these ideas. For those who are seeing a big difference between his earlier speeches and the ones published here, it is not hypocrisy, it is development. It takes a lot of integrity for someone who is famous and controversial to admit he has been in error, and explain what his new viewpoint is, and why he has changed his way of thinking. If you don't read this book, you will not know the whole evolution of the ideas and political program embraced by Malcolm X over the span of his life.

Autumn Joi says

I read this book a long time ago, and I am glad to have taken the time to read it again -- especially since I have gained a better understanding of the wisdom and knowledge in his words. I have so much admiration for Malcolm X as a man and a leader; there are so many who quote his words, but do not even attempt to live up to his character. It is a true travesty that his life was cut short just when he was forming his own organization; I can't help but wonder what that would have led to and the impact it would have had on the black community. It is also interesting to see, through these few speeches and interviews, the shift in his views and beliefs within the last few years of his life. Although he never wavered in his belief that the black community should stand up and fight for respect, rather than turn the other cheek and allow ourselves to be brutalized. I do not know what it is like to have blind faith in something, but I can understand what it must have felt like to be deceived by someone he trusted and admired. Rather than hide behind his pride, he instead chose to speak the truth in spite of the damage to his image or any other consequence -- for that he will always have my utmost respect. I think this book should be required reading. He does not get the credit he deserves for his role in the Civil Rights Movement.

Lakeesha J. says

It was good read this man's speeches. It gave me more of a picture into his thought process and I was able to research more into what he was referring to. I think that I would suggest this reading though after reading his autobiography.
