**Malcolm X**

- One of the most influential & polarizing leaders of the Civil Rights era

- Has been the subject of many documentaries, movies, and books

- Known for fiery speeches and radical views



Early Life

- Born Malcolm Little May 19, 1925

- His father was an outspoken Baptist minister and follower of Marcus Garvey

- Family was forced to move several times because of threats from the KKK

- In Lansing, MI the Little home was burned down and his father was killed

- His mother later suffered from a mental breakdown and was put in an asylum



- He was a very good student, but left school as a teacher told him he could never be successful as a black man

Life on the East Coast

- Malcolm moved to Boston to live w his aunt

- Worked on a train and was able to travel the country

- Ended up in Harlem where he became a hustler, working in gambling, prostitution, and narcotics

- Eventually arrested for burglary and sentenced to 10 years in prison

Incarceration

- Malcolm spent his time studying and reading books

- His brother Reginald visited him and taught him about the Nation of Islam and *Elijah Muhammad*



- Muhammad taught that white society kept AAs from empowering themselves socially & politically

- Malcolm became a follower and changed his surname from Little to X, as Little was a slave name

Nation of Islam

- Malcolm became the spokesperson for the NOI

- Opened new mosques in cities such as Detroit and Harlem

- Became a media favorite because of fiery speeches



Split from NOI

- It became known that Muhammad had multiple affairs

- Malcolm felt betrayed by someone he considered a living prophet

- NOI eventually “silenced” him

- Malcolm left NOI and formed the Muslim Mosque, Inc.

- That year he made a *pilgrimage* to Mecca that changed his life

- Returned with a new outlook

His Demise

- NOI despised X bashing their faith

- Malcolm always travelled with bodyguards because of assassination attempts

- FBI followed him closely, even attempting to plant a bomb in his car

- Feb. 21, 1965 he was shot 15 times while speaking



- 3 men found guilty of murder were also NOI members