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**The Black Panthers Party**

Reading the *Liberation, Imagination, and the Black Panther Party* by Kathleen Cleaver and George Katsiaficas. I discovered many things about the Black Panther party, and learned more about their background and their underground activities. In addition while researching the authors of such an appealing book I learned that it could not have been written better with knowledgeable activist. Kathleen Neal Cleaver is a female of color with a long history and a very interesting biography. She was born in 1945 in Memphis, Texas to a privilege family at the time. Both her parents had achieved higher education, something that was very rare at the time. Her father had a degree in Sociology and her mother had acquired a Masters degree in mathematics. Later on while growing up Cleaver’s father joined the Foreign Service and had the opportunity to travel and go to various countries. After some time Cleaver attended a Quaker school near Philadelphia. From there on she attended Oberlin College. She then decided to move to San Francisco to join the Black Panther Party, where she began as a secretary and took a bigger role later on within the party and became a big spokesperson for the group. The second Coe-signer George Katsiaficas, is a Caucasian man that also contributed much support in activism, even though he did not take part in the Black Panther Party, he was a big activist for the for the anti-war in Vietnam. Mr. Katsiaficas was truly a big player in the activist world that he was even in the FBI list to be arrested.

The book contained a lot of information over the Black Panther Party and its beginning. At the beginning the Black Panther group was mostly an underground group, which was composed of various members, some whom were veterans of the Vietnam war and were train to fight. These members were very valuable in the tactical aspect. However the government saw a threat and intervened, there was a lot of FBI agent that managed to infiltrate, this placed a lot of pressure in the party and made their idealism change. With time the Black Panther Party became more of a party of awareness. Even though they continue to be an intimidating group, they did show a presence of strength. You could also see that they really captivated their slogan of “Black Power”. The party also accepted women as recruitment. Though the women were treated badly at times it surely took a lot of courage from a women to be in a group like the Black Panthers. I believe that this was a big window of opportunity for women. This gave them the opportunity to show the rest of the world how powerful they were.

In my opinion I believe that this book did a great job portraying the role of the Black Panther Party and the strength that they gave the black community. Aside from this I believe it was very necessary to have a group like this because it gave pride to the people, but it also gave the white community a wake up call.