In 1953, the Federal Bureau of Investigations collected and released an extensive report on Malcolm K. Little, more commonly known as Malcolm X. The FBI gathered that Little was a registered member of the Communist Index. A summary of a letter, from Little to an undisclosed person, within the bureau’s report says, “Tell [redacted] to get in shape. It looks like another war. I have always been a communist. I have tried to enlist in the japanese army last war, now they will never draft me or accept me in the U.S. Army. Everyone has always said [redacted] Malcolm is crazy so it isn't so hard to convince people that I am.” Among this information, observations on his race, build, weight, marital status, place of employment, medical history, marijuana use, facial hair and even his social security number. His criminal history was disclosed in the report, as well as his affiliation with what was known at the time as the “Muslim Cult of Islam”. Now, if this file can reveal to us anything other than general knowledge of Malcolm Little, it is the fears and concerns of the FBI at the time of the investigation. This investigation took place during one of the most prominent “Red Scares” of the 20th century, the Cold War era of the United States was starting to get footing.

This document, through it’s repeated focus on Little’s association with the communist party, reveals a government agency wrapped in the throws of an anti-communist America. The main target of the U.S. at this time was preventing the spread of communism, and any indication of that idealism on American soil was sought out, and snuffed out if deemed a threat. The Communist Party was the most clear and direct threat to capitalist America in a post World War Two era. The information gathered about Little is only partially pertinent to the bureaus fears. The two reasons the FBI sought out Malcolm X were his communist beliefs, and his following of the Muslim religion. Because of these associations, the FBI easily judged X as a possible threat to the government. While this could have been true, the FBI simply assessed his threat to the country based solely on the organizations he chose to side with. They judged him unfairly for who he was. This reveals several common prejudices of the time, not only within our government but in our society at the time as a whole. He was profiled as a threat for his communist connections. He was also labeled a cultist for his religious beliefs. An argument can even be made about the common prejudice against him being an individual of color.

America and the FBI’s prejudice affected how Little’s religion was represented. During the 50’s, Islam was presented as a cult instead of a religion. Although he was listed as a member of the cult of Islam, this did not seem to affect how the FBI listed Little’s profile. Prejudice plays a fairly sized  role in the investigation on Little. This file is just one example that represents the priorities of the FB,I and the prejudice in American society of that time that time.