

One of the tragedies of the struggle against racism is that up to now there has been no national organization which could speak to the growing militancy of young black people in the urban ghetto. There has been only a civil rights movement, whose tone of voice was adapted to an audience of liberal whites: it served as a sort of buffer zone between them and angry young blacks. None of its so-called leaders could go into a rioting community and be listened to. In a sense, I blame ourselves—together with the mass media—for what has happened in Watts, Harlem, Chicago, Cleveland, Omaha. Each time the people in those cities saw Martin Luther King get slapped, they became angry; when they saw four little black girls bombed to death, they were angrier; and when nothing happened, they were steaming. We had nothing to offer that they could see, except to go out and be beaten again. We helped to build their frustration.

For too many years, black Americans marched and had their heads broken and got shot. . . . After years of this, we are at almost the same point—because we demonstrated from a position of weakness. We cannot be expected any longer to march and have our heads broken in order to say to whites: "Come on, you're nice guys." For you are not nice guys. We have found you out.

An organization which claims to speak for the needs of a community—as does the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee—must speak in the tone of that community, not as somebody else's buffer zone. This is the significance of black power as a slogan. For once, black people are going to use the words they want to use—not just the words whites want to hear.

—Stokely Carmichael, "What We Want," essay in
The New York Review of Books, September 22, 1966

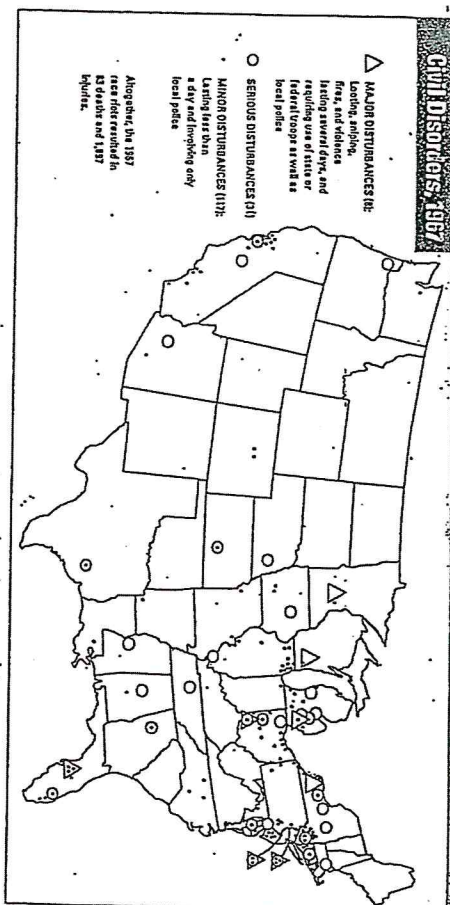
1. Who wrote this essay?
2. In what year was the essay written?
3. According to the author why are young African-Americans angry?
4. What organization does the author support?
5. According to the author what is the significance to the phrase "black power"?

6. Are there any phrases today that cause as much passion and controversy as "Black Power"?

-What is it?

-Why is it powerful?

This map plots 156 civil disorders, or race riots, that were studied and classified by the Kerner Commission. Use the map to complete this section. Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)



1. How many deaths resulted from the 1967 race riots?
 - a. 5,002
 - b. 1,587
 - c. 696
 - d. 83
2. What does a small dot on the map stand for?
 - a. a major disturbance
 - b. a serious disturbance
 - c. a minor disturbance
 - d. no disturbances
3. According to the map key, which of the following is not involved in a "major disturbance"?
 - a. looting
 - b. fires
 - c. violence
 - d. picketing
4. Which region had only one major disturbance?
 - a. Northeast
 - b. Midwest
 - c. South
 - d. West
5. Which region of the country was most affected by civil disorders in 1967?
 - a. Southwest
 - b. Southeast
 - c. Northwest
 - d. Northeast

6. Based on what you have learned, why were the majority of civil disorders & riots occurring in the locations on the map?