

## **Black Panther Party (1966-1982)**

Originally named the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, this U.S. political party was founded in 1966 in Oakland, California by Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton. Drawing from socialist and Black nationalist ideologies, this revolutionary party focused on promoting Black power through self-determination, economic self-sufficiency, and the armed protection of African American communities, particularly those in urban areas. Its Ten Point Platform and Program advocated for the freedom of the Black community and for reforms in employment, housing, education, and policing. While commonly known for its bold resistance to police brutality, the party also instituted “survival programs” to address inequalities faced by urban Black communities, offering free school breakfasts, sickle cell anemia testing, political education classes, and other initiatives to support Black communities. The party was targeted by the FBI’s counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) as a domestic threat, and its membership dwindled by the early 1970s due to FBI interference and internal disputes among the leadership.

### Citations:

“Black Nationalism.” *Civil Rights Movement in America: From Black Nationalism to the Women's Political Council*, edited by Peter Levy, and Peter B. Levy, ABC-CLIO, LLC, 2015. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ndlib-ebooks/detail.action?docID=2007442>.

“Black Panther Party.” *Civil Rights Movement in America : From Black Nationalism to the Women's Political Council*, edited by Peter Levy, and Peter B. Levy, ABC-CLIO, LLC, 2015. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ndlib-ebooks/detail.action?docID=2007442>.

“The Black Panther Party.” *National Archives*, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, 2020. <https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/black-power/black-panthers#bpintro>.