

NATION OF ISLAM

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| Malcolm Little rejected his name as a slave-owners' name. As he had no knowledge of his African name, he went by the name Malcolm X. | Nation of Islam is practical and religious. Its aim is to support the physical and spiritual lives of African American Muslims. | Nation of Islam seeks to support African Americans in business and education as well as through religious guidance. |
| Malcolm Little joined Nation of Islam. He had been involved in crime, drinking and fighting. He adopted a clean, peaceful way of life after becoming Muslim. | Elijah Muhammad was jailed in 1942 for refusing to fight in World War II. Many Nation of Islam members also opposed joining the US military. | Elijah Muhammad called for a separate nation for black Americans, guided by the religion of Islam. |
| Black Americans faced such poverty and exclusion, some believed their only hope to live a dignified life was to live separately. | On Hajj Malcolm X prayed and worshipped with Muslims from all over the planet. He understood the equality of all humans under God | Many African Americans, brought as slaves, would have been from Muslim regions of Africa and would have been Muslim. |
| Nation of Islam was started in 1930 in the United States by Wallace Fard Muhammed. | The second leader of Nation of Islam was called Elijah Muhammad. | Malcolm X became a popular and powerful leader of Nation of Islam. |
| American society was deeply divided. Black Americans were impoverished, with poor housing and schooling, few job prospects and faced hatred and violence from white American society. | Martin Luther King, an African American Christian preacher who fought for black rights, argued that white and black American communities had to learn to live with each other. | Initially Malcolm X supported black and white separation. However after he returned from Hajj in 1964 he began to argue that black and white Americans must live harmoniously together. |
| 1930 | 1942 | 1964 |