

# Nation of Islam

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.
<b>1930</b>	<b>1942</b>	<b>1964</b>