11 APUSH Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Bedar

Civil Rights Movement

**MLK “Letter from Birmingham Jail” vs. Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet”**

Directions:

1. Read each document carefully and actively.
2. Fill out the chart below in bullets (one bullet per box should be one particularly powerful quote that speaks to you)
3. Read the quotes from both figures below

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **“Letter from Birmingham Jail,” MLK Jr.** | **“The Ballot or the Bullet,” Malcolm X** |
| 1. What is the context of this document? (i.e. where does the Civil Rights Movement stand currently)? |  |  |
| 2. What are his goals? |  |  |
| 3. What methods does he say blacks should use to achieve these goals? |  |  |
| 4. What are his feelings about white people? |  |  |
| 5. What are his feelings about America? |  |  |

**QUOTES**

“I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today – my own government.”

—King, 1967

“I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values.”

—King, 1967

"There is a magnificent new militancy within the Negro community all across this nation. And I welcome this as a marvelous development. The Negro of America is saying he's determined to be free and he is militant enough to stand up."

—King, 1963

”[D]on't let anybody frighten you. We are not afraid of what we are doing... We, the disinherited of this land, we who have been oppressed so long, are tired of going through the long night of captivity.”

—King, 1955

“Black men have slammed the door shut on a past of deadening passivity.”

—King, 1968

King’s statement on Black Power (Chapter 29 of Autobiography) “There is a concrete, real black power that I believe in. I don’t believe in black separatism, I don’t believe in black power that would have racist overtones, but certainly if black power means the amassing of political and economic power in order to gain our just and legitimate goals, then we all believe in that. And I think that all white people of good will believe in that.”

**Malcolm X quotes**

“You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.”

—Malcolm X, 1965

“We can never get civil rights in America until our human rights are first restored. We will never be recognized as citizens until we are first recognized as humans.”

—Malcolm X, 1964 “I believe in human beings, and that all human beings should be respected as such, regardless

of their color.”

—Malcolm X, 1965

“It is a disgrace for Negro leaders not to be able to submerge our “minor” differences in order to seek a common solution to a common problem posed by a common enemy.”

—Malcolm X, 1963 “I have been convinced that some American whites do want to help cure the rampant racism which is on the path to destroying this country.”

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**Malcolm X quotes**the law, respect everyone; but if someone puts his h

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—***Malcolm X, 1964***

More Malcolm X Quotations (On King)

<http://www.cmgww.com/historic/malcolm/quotes.html>

* “He got the peace prize, we got the problem.... If I'm following a general, and he's leading me into a battle, and the enemy tends to give him rewards, or awards, I get suspicious of him. Especially if he gets a peace award before the war is over.”

“I'll say nothing against him. At one time the whites in the United States called him a racialist, and extremist, and a Communist. Then the Black Muslims came along and the whites thanked the Lord for Martin Luther King.”

“ I want Dr. King to know that I didn't come to Selma to make his job difficult. I really did come thinking I could make it easier. If the white people realize what the alternative is, perhaps they will be more willing to hear Dr. King. Dr. King wants the same thing I want -- freedom!”