

Race, Ethnicity, and Identity Politics in the Sixties

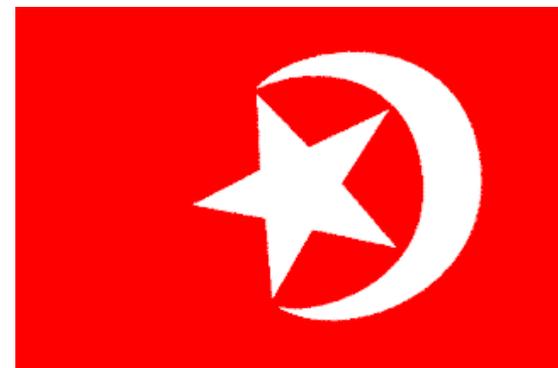
Identity Politics

In the 1960s American increasingly identified themselves as part of national communities that did not depend on proximity or interdependence, but on self-identification

Black Nationalism

Nation of Islam

- Founded in Depression era Detroit.
- In 1960 there were 69 congregations in 27 cities.
- Advocated a race-conscious version of traditional American work ethic: self-reliance, the patriarchal family, avoidance of drugs, alcohol, premarital sex, and buying on credit.



Malcolm X

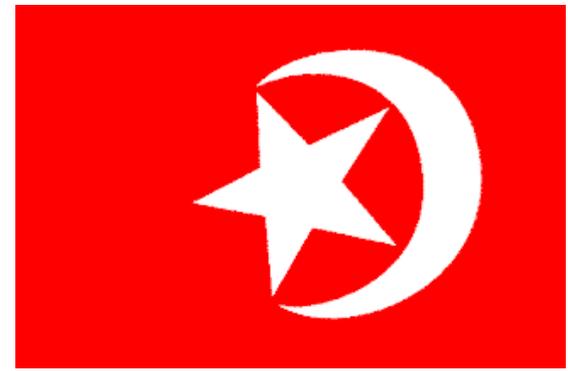
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- Broke with Elijah Muhammad in 1963 and expressed a growing universalism after his hajj
- Assassinated February 21, 1965.



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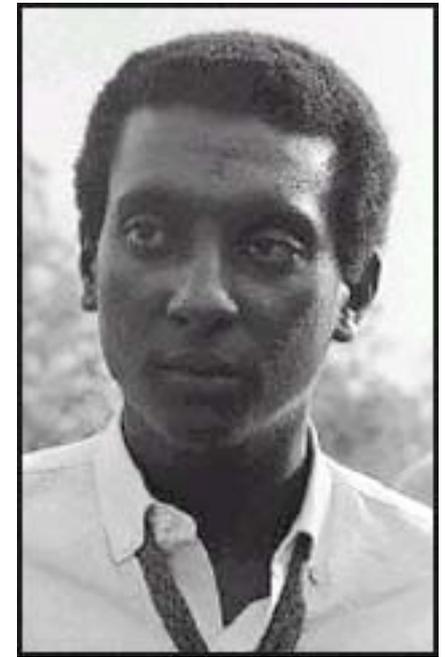
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Black Power

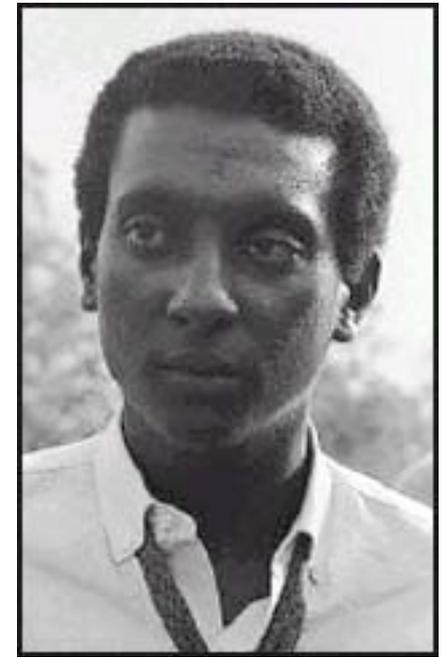
- SNCC leader **Stokely Carmichael** used phrase “Black Power” during 1965 Selma march.
- With **Charles Hamilton** wrote *Black Power* (1967)
- Rejected assimilation and moved away from the coalition with liberal whites.
- Psychological liberation was the first goal of Black Power.



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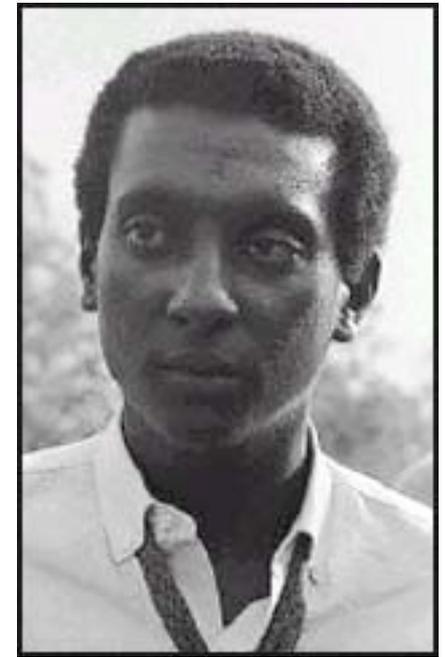


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Stokely Carmichael



In 1969 Carmichael emigrated to Guinea with his singer wife Miriam Makeba and took the name Kwame Ture in honor of Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Sékou Touré of Guinea.

Cultural Nationalism

- Ron Karenga and others advocated a spiritual back-to-Africa movement
- interest in Swahili, Kwanzaa, Black Studies programs
- popularization of African dress and natural hair styles.
- Tremendous outpouring of African-American literature and art.



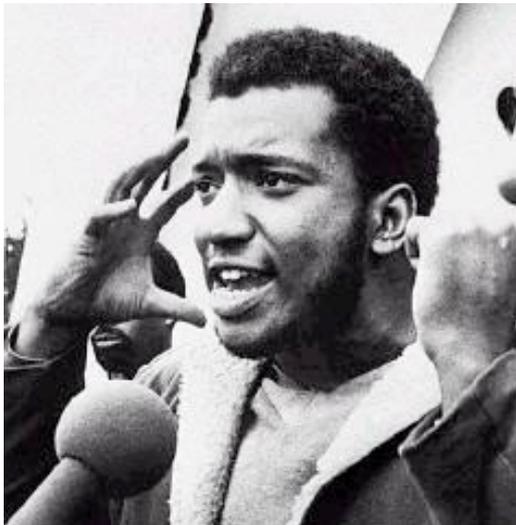
Ron Karenga

Black Panthers

- Founded in Oakland, California as multi-racial, class-based movement opposed to cultural nationalists.
- **Bobby Seale** and **Huey Newton** believed “our fight is a class struggle and not a race struggle.
- **Fred Hampton’s** 1969 murder in police raid exemplifies the violent effort to eliminate the Black Panthers.



Bobby Seale and Huey Newton



Fred Hampton

Hispanic Consciousness

- In 1964 Congress refused to extend the *bracero* system, which had begun in 1942 as a kind of guest worker program.
- 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act made Spanish “acceptable” in public schools and provided federal aid to develop bilingual programs.

Cesar Chavez

- Hispanic parallel to Martin Luther King Jr.
- National Farm Workers Association combined ethnic, religious, and union loyalties.
- Used boycotts and hunger strikes to win some concessions from growers.
- Chávez Day (March 31) is an official holiday in eight states



Presidential candidate Bobby Kennedy joins César Chávez as he breaks his hunger strike in 1968

Reies Tijerina

- Hispanic parallel to Malcom X
 - Founded Alianza Federal de Mercedes and helped found La Raza Unida Party, first U.S. third part to be formed on ethnic lines
 - Fought to reclaim land taken from Mexican nationals by Anglos in 19th century.
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- Led direct action raids against government offices and became known as the “Robin Hood of New Mexico.”
 - Was scornful of assimilationist strategies of middle-class “Tío Tomases.”

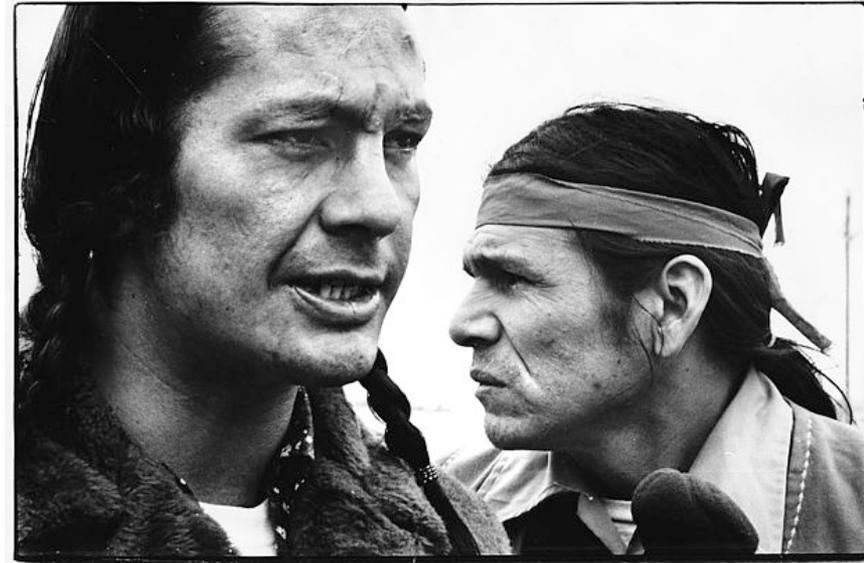


Native Americans

- By 1960 native Americans were the poorest ethnic minority.

Vine Deloria, Jr.

- National Congress of American Indians rejected assimilation and embraced a process of cultural independence.



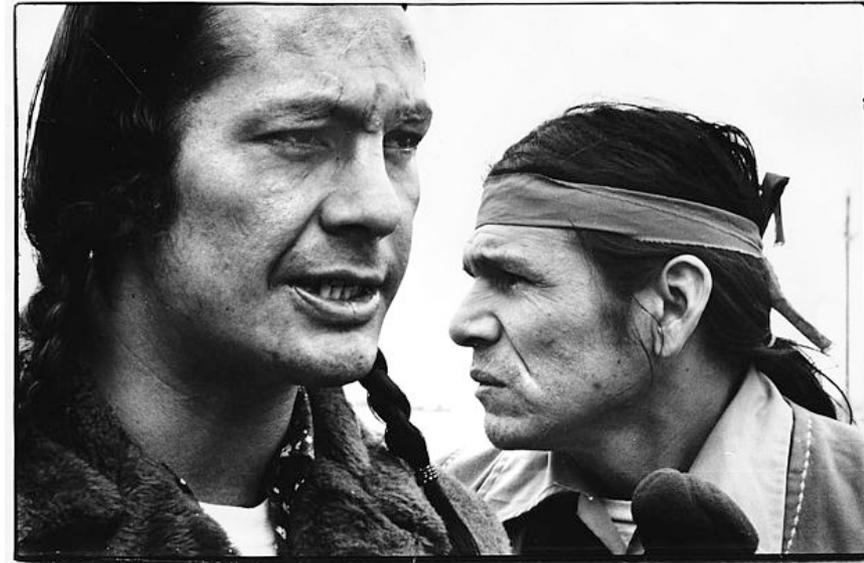
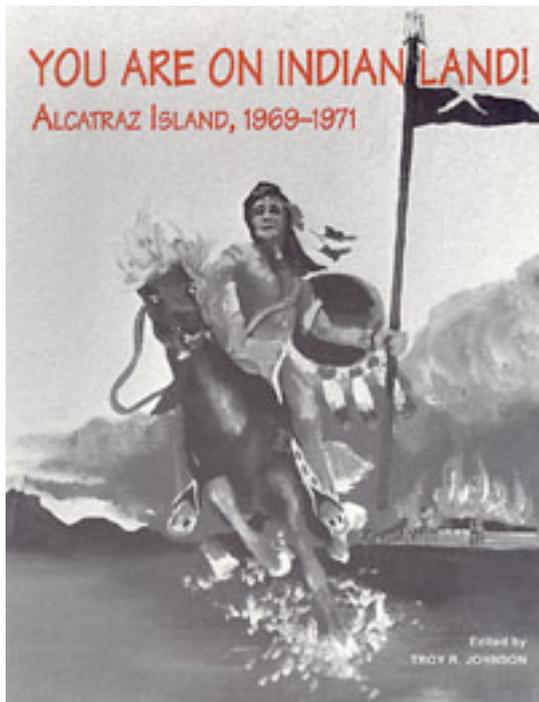
Dennis Banks and Russell Means



- Dennis Banks and Anshinaabe and Russell Means an Ogala Sioux were young men who challenged the conservative leadership of the older chiefs
- American Indian Movement emulated the Black Panthers' confrontational militancy.



Native Americans



Dennis Banks and Russell Means



- Occupied federal property:

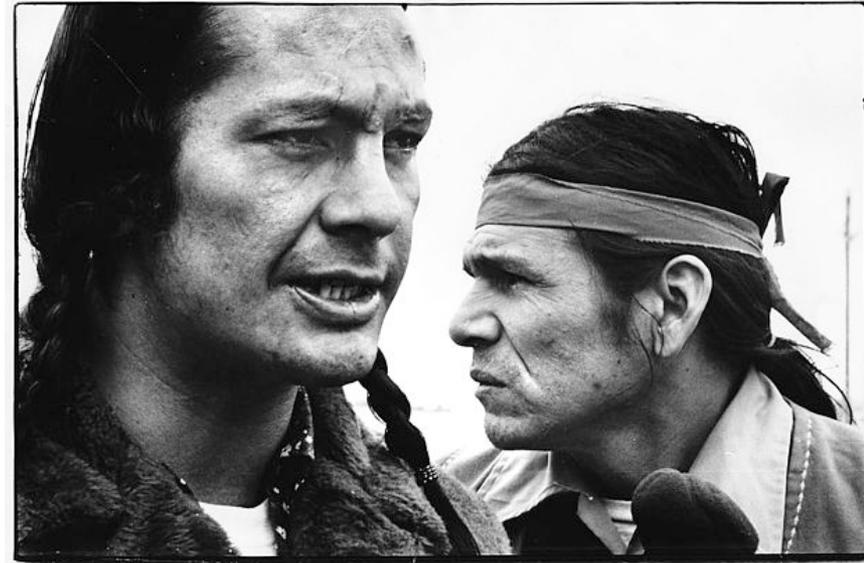
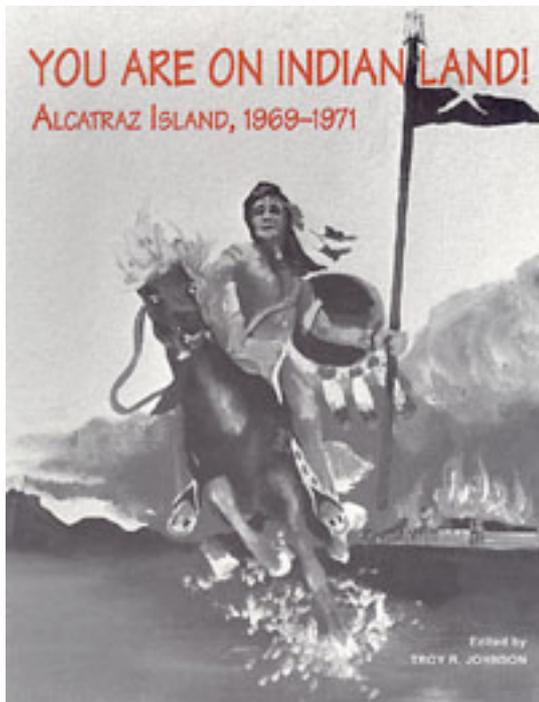
Alcatraz Prison for 19 months starting in 1969

Mount Rushmore in 1970

Bureau of Indian Affairs headquarters in Washington, D.C. in 1972.

- Three-month standoff at Wounded Knee in 1973.

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White Ethnics

Cicero, Illinois

- Violent resistance to Martin Luther King's efforts to integrate ethnic Chicago suburb.

George Wallace

- After losing as a racial moderate, Wallace race-baited his way to governorship of Alabama, promising "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!"
- The first politician to realize that race was national issue, Wallace entered 1964 Democratic primaries and won considerable support in Wisconsin and Maryland primaries.
- Founded American Independent Party to run in 1968. Won five states, including Arkansas, and 13% of the total vote.
- He spoke to widespread distrust of liberal reformers and deep sense of inequality.

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