

A WORD OR 2

Mba Mbulu, Editor

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“Black Nationalism is the only real solution for Black People in the United States.”

White Power, Black Mediocrity

During a stretch of time when people in the rest of the world were concentrating on how to better exploit their own resources, white countries were concentrating on developing militaries and strategies that would enable them to take other people's resources by force. White countries took much of Africa, Asia and the Americas, to name a few. In each of these areas, those whose resources were stolen and who themselves were abused, began to resist the white countries-- with varying degrees of success.

In Asia, in the 20th century, Mao led a revolution that put the Chinese in control of China. Mao's "Red Communist" revolution did not last, but China, now following a capitalist path, is in control of its destiny. The same occurred in North Korea and VietNam. In the Caribbean and South America, Cuba, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia are doing what they can to follow a socialist path, and, as such, have taken or are trying to take control of their destiny. In Africa, several countries took steps toward independence in the 1950s and 1960s, but presently only in Zimbabwe can one find a pulse that is indicative of that surge forward. And in the in the United States of America, Black Power raised its head during the same time period, but its pulse is also difficult to detect today.

Why is white power being forced into the background in parts of Asia, the Caribbean and South America, but reigns as supreme as ever in Africa and North America? It is clear that mediocrity has come to epitomize and symbolize so called Black leadership, but can the same be said of the masses of Black People in the United States and Africa?

As far as Black People in the United States are concerned, I think that is closer to the truth than We want it to be. In the last 50 or so years, Our potential for mediocrity has tended to dominate Our potential for greatness. That is because, in Our foolish desire to "integrate" with white whatever, We conceded that everything of value should be controlled by white power advocates. When a people gives up the responsibility of defending itself, educating itself, feeding itself, keeping itself healthy and fit, cloth-

ing itself, etc., that people can't do anything but sink into mediocrity. Black People in the United States sank into and have become comfortable with mediocrity; one "advantage" being that it keeps Us from having to challenge white power in meaningful ways.

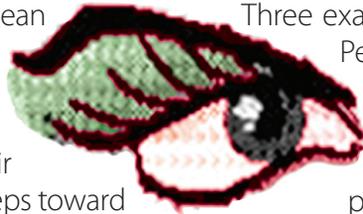
Mediocre people tend to look for the "easy" way out. Once African Americans determine something will be difficult and risky to accomplish, they start proclaiming that it can't be done [meaning Black People can't do it]. The "easy" way out is to function within an existing construct that is non Black and try to make somebody else's constitution or structure work for Black People. African Americans also expend valuable time and energy dealing with issues that are not worthy of Our attention just yet.

Three examples stand out today. One involves Black People's desire for economic power.

There is only one way Black People in the United States can experience economic power, and that is by developing an independent economic system. That was not too

much to ask of Haitians led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, Cubans led by Fidel Castro, or Venezuelans led by Hugo Chavez, but it seems to be too much to ask of so called African Americans. African Americans need to develop an independent Black Power Economics System, but African Americans prefer to try to wiggle within the white power capitalist context. That's a quite mediocre response, particularly in light of the fact that the push toward greater poverty is what is driving white power capitalism today. In some countries, up to 80% of the population lives in poverty. Since that has been brought about elsewhere, white power capitalism can make it happen in the United States. That is exactly what they have in mind insofar as Black America is concerned.

Yet, African Americans insist on maintaining their mediocre white power dominated economic course. It doesn't seem to faze them that, after all of these decades of "Black" capitalism, African American businesses receive only 40 of every 10 thousand pennies generated by the United States economy. It doesn't seem to faze them that Black People have less economic power now than they



had in the 1890s. We have become the equivalent of a one trick pony; seemingly incapable of wanting to learn something new or different. Instead of working to build an independent Black Power Economics System, African Americans perform that one trick and expend time, energy and resources attacking “immigrants” who white America prefers to employ and compensate. That is a reaction mediocre people tend to revert to.

Only mediocre people step into a fight that they have nothing to gain from. Even if Black People in the United States fought a labor battle against “immigrants” and won, We would not gain a thing because white power, not immigrant power, is what is generating Black People’s economic woes. Why expend time, energy and resources fighting a fight that We have nothing of note to gain from, when We can strike out against those who have systematically attacked Us and stifled Our development? Only a mediocre people would get caught up in a costly fiasco when a fight that could produce tangible results for Us can be made instead.

The “take the easy way out” shortcoming is also evident when it comes to so called religion. Some of the most intelligent and committed Brothers I know opt to move from one white power religion (Christianity) to another white power religion (Islam), when it would be much better if they adopt a traditional African religion or tailor a religion that addresses the needs of Black People. I have been making this point to Black People for nearly 40 years, but they seem to have a preference for joining what is well established, even if someone else controls it. They can come up with a million reasons why their choice is the right choice, but the bottom line is this: they opt out of an independent Black solution. If they should ever have to choose between Black People and Islam, they will choose Islam every time. They don’t believe in Black Power, but their erroneous perception of Islam enables them to believe in Islam.

In the 1970s I wrote that the Blacks who claimed Christianity as their religion are capable of seeing Christianity for what it actually is. Blacks who opt into Islam don’t seem to have that same capability. When aware, intelligent and committed Brothers opt to move from the religion controlled and manipulated by one white slave master to that of another white slave master, when both of those religions are anti Black unity, and when other options exist, then mediocrity is dominating Us to the max.

Before I close, I’ll go back to the point where I mentioned mediocre Black leadership.

Black People in the United States have not produced a

single national “leader” of quality in more than 50 years. That demonstrates how mediocre We have become. Unfortunately, that revelation seems to be true of Africa as well. The ones who could have become great (Malcolm, Lumumba, Nkrumah, Sekou Toure, Amilcar Cabral, to name a few) either crumbled under the pressure or couldn’t escape being assassinated. Tshaka Zulu would not have crumbled under the pressure, and Castro, plotted against as much as anyone, avoided assassination and stood up to the pressure on Cuba’s terms. Additionally, a few assassinations should not stop a genuine revolution. When Toussaint L’Ouverture foolishly walked into what he knew was a white power trap, Jean Jacques Dessalines stepped into the void and continued the march to freedom and self government. Even to this day, after all they have been forced to endure, the Haitian people remain committed to total independence and self government. I can’t make the same statement with as much conviction when it comes to African Americans.

People who want to be free have to make some difficult decisions, and each and every one of those decisions should put more and more distance between them and their former abusers. In the 1960s, Jamaica was faced with the same choices Cuba was faced with, but unlike Cuba, Jamaica did not choose to break with white power. It was an understandable but gutless decision, and Jamaica’s people are paying a dear price for that failure. The same was true of South Africa. Winnie Mandela was true to Our cause; that is why she was silenced. Instead, Nelson Mandela was brought out of white power’s prison to do white power’s bidding. Mandela and his successor, Thebo Mbeki, have served white power well, and Africans are suffering the consequences.

Sekou Toure wrote that one of Africa’s biggest enemies is the Africans who are ready and willing to serve white power. If a Lumumba is assassinated, no one emerges to take his place, but there are millions of replacements for those stool pigeons who serve the interests of white power. This is true of Blacks in the United States of America as well. Because We are not trying to build anything of merit, We don’t produce the energy that is required to do so. We are producing mediocre energy right now, and that mediocre energy is producing mediocre responses and mediocre “leaders.” We can change that energy very quickly by seeking independence. That includes working to build a Black Power Economics System, attacking white power and making examples of Blacks who do not represent Us appropriately.



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