

Abstract

The bachelor thesis „Malcolm X and his significance in the Civil Rights Movement” deals with life, ideology and philosophy of Malcolm X, representative of radical branch of African-American Civil Rights struggle. The work in its first part is based on Marcus Garvey’s nationalistic ideas of black pride and racial exceptionalism, which had an enormous impact on Malcolm during his childhood. In its second part it is based on incessant terror from supremacist groups and the pressure of white society. This all eventually ended up in breaking up of Malcolm’s family and it contributed to his criminal activity in the streets of New York, district of Harlem. Text also deals with Malcolm’s stay in prison, his acquaintance with ideology of Nation of Islam and his subsequent conversion to Islam and beginnings of his preaching career. Important passage is dedicated to comparison of thoughts and stands of Malcolm X with those of Martin L. King, often more respected representative of Civil Rights Movement’s moderate section. Later withdrawal from Nation of Islam and Malcolm’s pilgrimage to Mecca were both highly significant events in his life changing his attitudes, which continued to modify and develop until his premature death. Based on analyses of Malcolm’s life experience and thus his beliefs and attitude to the most delicate issues such as using of violence, separation from white society or black consciousness and pride, it evaluates not only his contribution and overall significance for black community in USA in 1950’s and 60’s but also his legacy for future generations.