

# POWER TO THE GRASSROOTS

By RICK HOPTON



## PART IV CULTURE, SUB-CULTURE AND BLACK SELF-GENOCIDE

Last week we discussed the fact that African's who are now African-Americans were brought to this country to be used as economic commodity, and at the same time to perpetuate the image-through the slave trade — of Black people being sub human. Through this understanding we found that Africans were used as the physical backbone for an enormous business venture launched by Europe in the midst of social, economic, and political decadence.

During the early periods, the Africans were in physical bondage; today we find that the same African — now an African-American — in mental bondage; which we find to be a much more disastrous evil. At the time of physical bondage we found the white man committing physical and mental genocide upon the African-American, and today, after being psyched into believing we're free, we find the African-American committing genocide upon himself. They took the chains off our ankles, because they realized that we still have chains around our minds.

### BLACK SELF-GENOCIDE

What has changed for the African-American since the so called Emancipation Proclamation? We are still being used as a commodity! Last hired, and first fired! We are helping the very "culture complex" that was built to destroy African (Black Man) pride and affinity. We will if we don't move now, go down in history as the only people unaware and conditioned enough to commit self-genocide.

### HOW DOES ONE COMMIT SELF-GENOCIDE?

Self-genocide can be committed in many ways. Self-genocide is committed when a group with the same cultural affinity as another group (African people) alienate from one another. We commit self-genocide when we fail to accept our true cultural heritage, (Africa), and the knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs, and any other capabilities which are a part of that heritage. We commit self-genocide when we let ourselves go along with white America's racist program that has been keeping us Static for 350 years.

We commit self-genocide when we play the divide and conquer game — for the white man — against our own African-American people. We commit self-genocide when we neglect to do reading and research about ourselves to find out things, such as, white European's studied in African universities and acquired much scientific knowledge about the universe from African scholars and philosophers. We commit self-genocide when we believe that the African people needed the European to survive, when it was in reality — the European who needed the African.

We commit self-genocide when we accept, perpetuate, and force ourselves to identify with a European-American pseudo culture; a pseudo culture that gives us great promises and compromises, but never any meaningful results for the masses of African-Americans. We are committing self-genocide when we accept the words Negro and colored, etc. as an ethnic identity.

We commit self-genocide when we let the European-American (white America) condition our minds to the point where he can sit back and watch us destroy ourselves — just as he now finds himself being destroyed, by that very "circle" he himself initiated.

It is a proven fact, that, without an emotion of physically indentifiable cultural affinity and/or heritage it becomes impossible too perpetuate any given ethnic group. The Jewish people in this country give economic aide by supporting Israel in the Arab-Israel war, thereby helping Israel become a stronger nation — which in turn makes the Jews in this country a stronger social entity. This must also be the role of the African-American. We must work for the growth of our original culture and country, and not — which we are now going — work toward its stagnation.

We have been working to be white; to accept and condon white values; we have been working for the liberation of white America, and not for the true liberation of ourselves and our black brothers throughout the world. What we don't seem to realize, is that, we are helping the racist institution — by accepting their values and mode of living — who intended, from the beginning, to make Black inferior to white. African-American's in the United States will not be free until our mother country (Africa) is free and independent of colonial domination and exploitation; because we are all a part of that "Complex cultural whole"; and whatever happens to African's affects African-American's and visa versa. We must identify with the continent of Africa as a whole — the country or nation-state is irrelevant; we are all Black, and we are all oppressed; that is the only criteria necessary for fusion.

We are here for the same reason the European-American is here. We must be as they are, the technological satellite for our mother country. The European-American in the United States is said to be the most technologically advanced white on the planet earth; if that is true, the African-American must be the most technologically advanced black on this planet. Why don't we use this technology to help our African brothers, rather than for the success of our white oppressor's.

With the vast knowledge that black people have in this country we must create our own system, that will counteract the "institutionalized racism" confronting us every day; we must have our own cultural affinity and identity, and not accept false concepts or stigma's directed toward our people, without first, researching the matter in question. White America forced us into a cultural situation that was not our's by choice; they made us what they wanted us to be — a commodity used to perpetuate a European "Culture complex" — a commodity that we must refuse to be any longer.