

Archives Unbound: Federal Response to Radicalism in the 1960s



Archives Unbound

Archives Unbound answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise small collections of primary source material. This new online resource digitises the most sought-after microfilm collections from Gale and Primary Source Media, capturing defining moments in history. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale digital collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.

Federal Response to Radicalism in the 1960s

This collection is sourced from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Library and covers the years 1956-1971. It allows scholars to explore the internal organization, personnel and activities of some of the most prominent American radical groups and their movements to change government and society. An intuitive platform makes it all cross-searchable by subject or collection.



This resource sheds light on internal organization, personnel, and activities of some of the most prominent American radical groups and their movements to change American government and society. This collection supports a wide variety of courses in the study of U.S. history, cultural studies, radical politics and social movements.

Federal Response to Radicalism in the 1960s provides valuable information and reference materials on the most influential individuals, groups and activities of a critical era in American history including:

COINTELPRO: The Counterintelligence Program of the FBI

The FBI Counterintelligence Program file contains details of the bureau's attempts to "expose, disrupt, and neutralize" groups that J. Edgar Hoover perceived as threatening to national security. The material in this file, spanning COINTELPRO's existence from 1956 to 1971, is especially valuable for the view it offers of the U.S. political climate in the 1960s. The file is organized in sections that reflect the bureau's interests, among them:

- The Communist Party of the USA
- Black nationalist "hate" groups
- White "hate" groups
- The Socialist Workers Party
- Cuban groups supporting Fidel Castro
- FBI File on Abbie Hoffman

Features:

- Intuitive searches that deliver organised results
- Highlighted keywords to facilitate research
- Flexible and accessible for the 24-hour researcher
- Subject-specific collections support multidisciplinary research in history, political science, hard science, ethnic studies and more
- Active publishing schedule, with multiple collections added annually
- Highly targeted at 5,000 to 200,000 pages per collection

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Abbie Hoffman's energetic activism earned him a reputation as an agitator and an effective voice for America's counter culture of the 1960s. He attracted the attention of the FBI through his disruptive and dramatic demonstration at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. He was associated with most major radical groups of the 60s, including:

- The Black Panthers
- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- The Socialist Workers Party (SWP)
- The Youth International Party (YIP) - which Hoffman cofounded in 1968
- FBI File on the Black Panther Party, North Carolina

Documents in this file, spanning the years from 1968 to 1976, are mainly surveillance reports and investigative and legal memoranda, but also include:

- Black Panther Party publications
- Transcriptions of speeches by black militant spokespersons
- Digests of FBI phone intercepts at party headquarters
- Internal Black Panther Party records and correspondence

FBI Files on Malcolm X

Malcolm X, one of the black militant movement's most controversial figures, joined the Black Muslims while serving a prison sentence and, on his release in 1952, became a minister in Elijah Mohammed's Nation of Islam. Later breaking with his group, he converted to orthodox Islam and founded the Organization of Afro-American Unity. The FBI opened a file on Malcolm X in 1953 and continued surveillance until his assassination in 1965.

FBI File: MIBURN (Mississippi Burning)

In the summer of 1964, civil rights advocates Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Earl Chaney were working in rural Mississippi and were abducted and killed by local Ku Klux Klan members. Their murders were among the first to be tried under the new Civil Rights Act. This file includes bureau letters, memoranda and prosecuting reports on the case.

FBI File on Muslim Mosque, Inc.

Founded by Malcolm X after his break with the Nation of Islam, Muslim Mosque, Inc. was a politically-oriented movement affiliated with the orthodox Islamic religion. The file contains memoranda by Special Agents in Charge and supporting documentation.

FBI File on the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU)

Organized by Malcolm X after his break with the Nation of Islam, the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) was under surveillance from its establishment until it dissolved in the 1960s. This file contains memoranda by FBI agents with supporting documentation.