

FEATURED PROJECT: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X MSE

The Autobiography of Malcolm X is widely regarded as one of the most important memoirs of the 20th century. As the most popular and accessible text on Malcolm X, *The Autobiography* has played a major part of the public's understanding of this charismatic political figure. However, while a great deal of the discourse around Malcolm X has centered on his importance as a political figure in the Black nationalist movement, the breadth of his legacy is much more complex. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* Multimedia Study Environment (MSE), produced in collaboration with the Center for Contemporary Black History (CCBH), delves beyond the written word to provide a comprehensive biographical study of Malcolm X. Professor Manning Marable, Director of the CCBH, served as the Executive Editor for the MSE.

The MSE provides the entire text of *The Autobiography* with links to original annotations that are divided into four different "lenses," or perspectives, through which a reader can examine and evaluate the social and historical context of *The Autobiography*. More than 400 critical annotations shed light on Malcolm X as a political figure, cultural hero, global citizen, and man of deep faith. The MSE also features a rich multimedia archive of primary source material that makes it a valuable resource for studying the life of Malcolm X, including:

- Original video interviews with Malcolm X's contemporaries, including Ossie Davis, Max Stanford and Abdul Abdur-Raazaq;
- Commentary and analysis by scholars Robin Kelley, Farah J. Griffin, and Louis DeCaro among others;
- A case file on the assassination of Malcolm X, including material that has not been readily available to the public before, ranging from images of the contents of his pocket the day he was shot to documents from the FBI and the New York Municipal Archives, as well as NYPD interviews with witnesses and suspects;
- Four video lectures by Professor Marable on the assassination; the Malcolm X-Alex Haley collaboration; Malcolm X and gender; and Malcolm X and politics.

All of the annotations and multimedia assets are cross-referenced and fully searchable, making the MSE a significant research tool for African-American scholarship.



Professor Manning Marable Director, Center for Contemporary Black History

"The Web site is much more than a reprint of an autobiography. With new information about a historical figure who bears great relevance today, it's what I call living history... utilizing history as a way of empowering people."

The Autobiography of Malcolm X MSE will be used in Professor Marable's Malcolm X seminar, as well as in Professor Dennis Dalton's Political Theory course and Professor Renee Cherow-O'Leary's Technology in Communications, among others. For more information, please contact CCNMTL at ccnmtl@columbia. edu.

For further reading, please see Moretti, Frank A., John Frankfurt, and David Miele, "Malcolm X: Digital Media in a New Age of Learning and Research," *Souls* 7 (1), 2005.