

RICHARD AOKI



Richard Aoki (1938-2009)

Richard Aoki was a “sansei”, third-generation Japanese-American, who became one of the founding members of the Black Panther Party (BPP). Richard spent years as a child in a WWII Japanese American concentration camp. This experience led to much resentment with how people of color are treated in the United States. He grew up in West Oakland and served eight years in the U.S. military. The U.S. military attempted to enlist him for another eight years but he saw it as a trap.

He came back to Oakland, attended Merritt College, and reconnected with old friends from his neighborhood. One of his friends was a BPP founding member, Bobby Seale. Richard became intimately involved in the founding of the Party and contributed the first two firearms. He was Minister of Field Operations and trained Black Panthers in tactics dealing with the police.

His leadership made a significant impact on individuals and groups in the contemporary Asian American Movement. Richard's contributions to the groundbreaking organization Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA) and its involvement in the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) student strike led to the formation of ethnic studies at U.C. Berkeley. Above all else, Richard Aoki's life demonstrates the incredible dedication to justice one man has had and how the lessons of solidarity, commitment, and discipline can carry on from one generation to the next.



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Richard Aoki speaks at Third World Liberation Front conference in 1969 (90 secs)



Aoki (95 min)



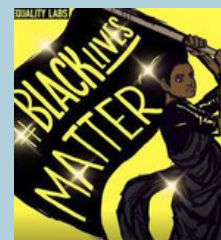
Don't Believe the Hype | Hard Knock Radio Interview with Bobby Seale, by Davey D and Anita Johnson



Aoki Supporters, Including Kathleen Cleaver, Call FBI Claims 'a Distortion' | Colorlines

RELATED ACCOUNTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Below are links to programs that serve the Black community here in the bay! Check them out!



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SOURCES

Mary. "My Comrade, RICHARD AOKI." San Francisco Bay View, 23 May 2019, sfbayview.com/2012/08/my-comrade-richard-aoki/.

"Richard Aoki." Asians Art Museum's Samurai Blog, asiansart.wordpress.com/tag/richard-aoki/.