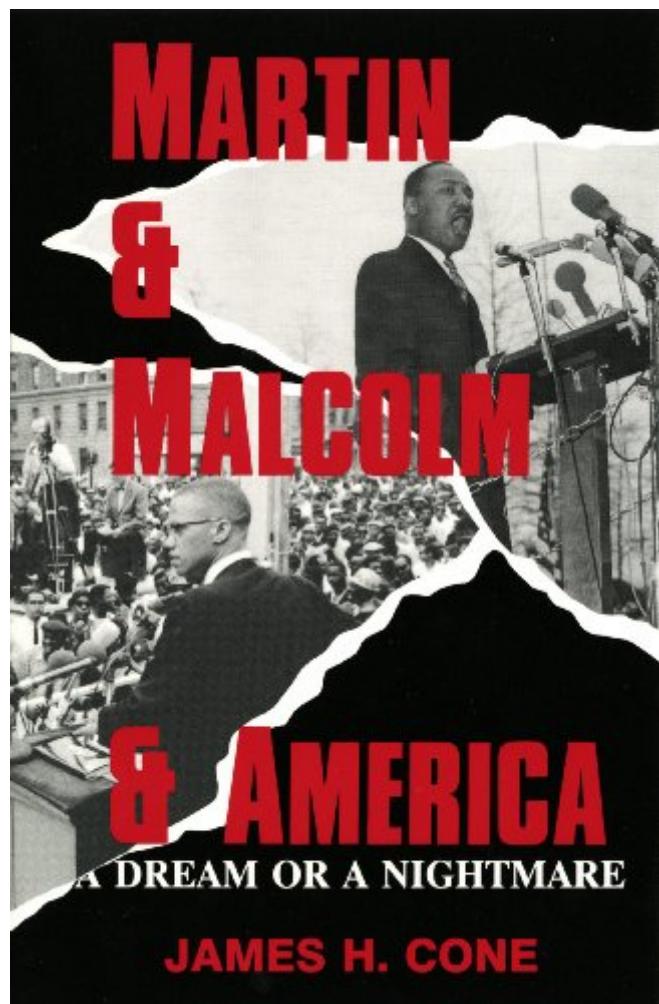


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# Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream Or A Nightmare



## **Synopsis**

Cone compares King's view of America as "a dream . . . as yet unfulfilled," with Malcolm's view of America as a realized nightmare, unexpectedly revealing two men whose visions were moving toward convergence.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

James Cone's "Martin & Malcolm & America" is a fascinating contrast of the lives, experiences, and thoughts of two icons. It is written in a style that recalls good investigative journalism as it maps out the tumultuous times in which the two lived. The philosophies of Malcolm and Martin, often portrayed as polar opposites in the media, are grounded in certain similarities. Both based their viewpoints on their religious traditions, believed that God was on the side of the poor and oppressed, and both held a passionate belief in the dignity of black lives. Both philosophies were formed in spite of the fact that they lived in an age when the institutions that ruled America either neglected the dignity of blacks, or ignored civil rights issues altogether. The lives of Malcolm and Martin were quite different, however. Martin was raised in an upper middle class family in Atlanta, the descendant of slaves whose father and grandfather both became prominent preachers. His life afforded him a great education -- at Morehouse, Crozer Theological Seminary, and Boston University. His family was

close knit. Malcolm, by contrast, saw his father murdered by white supremacists and his mother abused by the social service agencies, which eventually institutionalized her. Malcolm ended up in the foster care system and eventually went to prison for petty crime. There, he came to value the importance of education, and read voraciously. Introduced by his brother to the Nation of Islam, he had a powerful conversion experience in prison. After his release, he became second in command to Elijah Mohammed, the religion's leader. Both Martin and Malcolm spent their time working to improve the quality of black lives.

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