

## BOOK REVIEW

### **The Last Year of Malcolm X**

*The Evolution of a Revolutionary*

BY GEORGE BREITMAN

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**Reviewed by:** M.M. Jackson, Jr., Atlanta university library Headline of Review (if any)

This is the second book on Malcolm X written by George Breitman. In this one, Mr. Breitman tries to document the fact that Malcolm X did change his philosophy and position on black nationalism a year or so before his assassination. Mr. Breitman maintains, that after Malcolm's break with the Black Muslim leader Elijah (Poole) Muhammad in 1964 and upon becoming an orthodox follower of Islam, he was beginning to evolve into a true revolutionary and internationalist. Mr. Breitman goes to some length to prove that Malcolm in his last year recognized the merits of socialism and was indeed sympathetic toward the aspirations of the socialists. In fact, during this transition period, Malcom X stated, more than once, that he intended to collaborate with labor unions, socialists, and any others dedicated to eliminating injustices to the Negro. After his death, one can only speculate as to whether Malcolm X would have made a true contribution to the case of the Negro in this country. Mr. Breitman has more than adequately documented speeches, interviews, and writings of a charismatic leader to prove his point—Malcolm X was not merely a leader of black men, he was emerging as a leader of all men. This book will serve as an excellent companion to the Autobiography of Malcolm X (LJ, January 1, 1966) and Malcolm X Speaks(LI, December 15, 1965). Recommended for academic and public libraries.