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A new feeling of unity: decolonial Black Power in the Dutch Atlantic (1968-1973)

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Propositions

1. Activists in the Dutch Atlantic aligned themselves with the Black Power movement to pursue a decolonial future built on transnational networks of racial solidarity, cooperation, and unity.
2. This internationalist approach placed Black Power advocates in a unique position within the anticolonial movements of the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, and the Netherlands, setting them apart from reformists and nationalists.
3. Black Power activists in the Dutch Atlantic identified with different organizations and ideological traditions in the broader movement, thus creating diversity even within local Black Power spaces.
4. Although Black Power groups in the Dutch Atlantic clearly adopted the rhetoric, ideology, and symbolism of foreign Black Power actors, they consistently interpreted and adapted these to suit their own causes.
5. The history of Black Power in the Dutch Atlantic confirms scholars' previous argument that, in the Caribbean context, Black Power was deeply intertwined with decolonization.
6. At the same time, the Dutch Atlantic story challenges previous statements that Black Power in the Caribbean and the United States were separate movements, as Black Power activists in the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, and the Netherlands were primarily interested in and connected to those in the United States.
7. The history of Black Power in the Dutch Atlantic also complicates scholarship on anticolonialism in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, suggesting that Antillean and Surinamese independence movements were less homogenous than has often been assumed.
8. This history simultaneously shows that greater attention should be given to the transnational histories of the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname to break through the national and imperial frameworks that continue to dominate the scholarship today.
9. Archivists committed to the digitization of primary sources should be recognized as saints of the pandemic-era doctoral candidate, allowing us to stick to our research schedules despite long-term travel restrictions.
10. Paradoxically, no research practice is quite so satisfying as opening a dusty box of hand- and typewritten documents thousands of miles from home, ready to be shared with the world for the first time.