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Auszug aus:

Speech Analysis: "I have a dream" (Martin Luther King)

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Martin Luther King, "I have a dream" (August 28th, 1963)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, "I HAVE A DREAM"

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity.

But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition.

In a sense we have come to our nation's Capitol to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check; a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check - a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have of Democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. 1963 is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must

Solutions

1. Sum up the content of the speech.

In his introduction, Martin Luther King (MLK) refers to the Emancipation Declaration signed by Abraham Lincoln. However, even a hundred years after the signing this declaration, many African Americans are still victims of segregation policies; King wants to voice his criticism against the current state of affairs.

In the following part, King makes a reference to the Declaration of Independence which ought to guarantee the same rights to all Americans, including African Americans. He criticizes that this has not been the case and demands that African Americans should have the right to freedom, justice and security. The uprising of African Americans is not a temporary phenomenon. Nevertheless, he then calls for caution: The Civil Rights Movement should be a violent struggle. It ought to be dignified and disciplined, and include white citizens as well; according to King, their destiny and freedom is tied to that of African Americans.

Martin Luther King goes on to criticize police violence against African Americans as well as racial segregation in motels and hotels. He demands that social mobility for African Americans so they can improve their living conditions; they must have a right to vote and must make use of that right.

Now King wants to raise the spirits of his audience and once more refers to the Declaration of Independence; he articulates a vision for a future society in which African American citizens will be able to enjoy their rights.

Finally, he expands on his vision in which American will be a ‘symphony of brotherhood’. He quotes from a patriotic American song; only if America can stand up to its ideals of freedom it can be a great nation. His speech ends with the optimistic exclamation: ‘we are free at last!’



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