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# From Peace to the Panthers: PRC Engagement with African-American Transnational Networks, 1949–1979

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*Past & Present*, Volume 218, Issue suppl\_8, 1 January 2013, Pages 233–257,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/pastj/gts042>

**Published:** 17 April 2013

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The image of a globe divided into ‘blocs’, ‘camps’, ‘systems’, or even

'worlds' is familiar to histories of the Cold War. Less common are studies which focus on transnational relations spanning the gulf between the Soviet Union and United States of America, and rarer still are accounts exploring patterns of exchange between the US and socialist Asia. This article focuses on an overlooked chapter in the history of Cold War contact between the US and the People's Republic of China—trips to the PRC made by African-American dissidents, peace activists, and black nationalists and internationalists during the 1950s and 1960s.

Thanks to recent attention to the Cold War 'battle for hearts and minds' in Asia, it is now well-established that the PRC was not closed off to influences from the US and its allies during this critical period in global geopolitics.<sup>1</sup> On the contrary,...

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