

Antiracism Reading List

Antiracism (General)

How to Be an Antiracist (2019) by Ibram X. Kendi. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. Instead of working with the policies and system we have in place, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it. Equal parts memoir, history, and social commentary.

Stamped from the Beginning (2017) by Ibram X. Kendi The National Book Award winning history of how racist ideas were created, spread, and deeply rooted in American society. In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history.

So You Want to Talk about Race (2018) by Ijeoma Oluo In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

The Fire Now: Anti-Racist Scholarship in Times of Explicit Racial Violence (2018) by Beth Kamunge (Editor); Christina Sharpe (Foreword by); Azeerat Johnson (Editor); Remi Joseph-Salisbury (Editor); George Yancy (Afterword by) This collection carries on James Baldwin's legacy of bearing witness to racial violence in its many forms. Its chapters engage with a wide range of contemporary issues and debates, from the whiteness of the recent women's marches, to anti-racist education, to the question of Black queer studies and queer intersectionality.

From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation (2016) by Keeang-Yamahtta Taylor In this stirring and insightful analysis, activist and scholar Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor surveys the historical and contemporary ravages of racism and persistence of structural inequality such as mass incarceration and Black unemployment. In this context, she argues that this new struggle against police violence holds the potential to reignite a broader push for Black liberation.

The Making of Black Lives Matter (2017) by Christopher J. Lebron A condensed and accessible intellectual history that traces the genesis of the ideas that have built into the #BlackLivesMatter movement in a bid to help us make

sense of the emotions, demands, and arguments of present-day activists and public thinkers.

Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower (2018) by Brittney Cooper So what if it's true that Black women are mad as hell? They have the right to be. In the Black feminist tradition of Audre Lorde, Brittney Cooper reminds us that anger is a powerful source of energy that can give us the strength to keep on fighting.

Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People about Race (2017) by Reni Eddo-Lodge Exploring issues from eradicated black history to the political purpose of white dominance, whitewashed feminism to the inextricable link between class and race, Reni Eddo-Lodge offers a timely and essential new framework for how to see, acknowledge and counter racism. It is a searing, illuminating, absolutely necessary exploration of what it is to be a person of color in Britain today.

Stay Woke: A People's Guide to Making All Black Lives Matter (2019) by Tehama Lopez Bunyasi; Candis Watts Smith The essential guide to understanding how racism works and how racial inequality shapes black lives, ultimately offering a road-map for resistance for racial justice advocates and antiracists.

Black Skin, White Masks (1952) by Frantz Fanon; Charles L. Markmann (Translator) A major influence on civil rights, anti-colonial, and black consciousness movements around the world, *Black Skin, White Masks* is the unsurpassed study of the black psyche in a white world. "[Fanon] demonstrates how insidiously the problem of race, of color, connects with a whole range of words and images." -- Robert Coles, *The New York Times Book Review*

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor (2020) by Layla F. Saad *Me and White Supremacy: A 28-Day Challenge to Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* leads readers through a journey of understanding their white privilege and participation in white supremacy, so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on black, indigenous and people of color, and in turn, help other white people do better, too. The book goes beyond the original workbook by adding more historical and cultural contexts, sharing moving stories and anecdotes, and includes expanded definitions, examples, and further resources.

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism (2018) by Robin DiAngelo White people in North America live in a social environment that protects and insulates them from race-based stress. This insulated environment of racial protection builds white expectations for racial comfort while at the same time lowering the ability to tolerate racial stress. This

book explicates the dynamics of White Fragility and how we might build our capacity in the on-going work towards racial justice.

White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide (2016) by Carol Anderson From the Civil War to our combustible present, acclaimed historian Carol Anderson reframes our continuing conversation about race, chronicling the powerful forces opposed to black progress in America. Anderson pulls back the veil that has long covered actions made in the name of protecting democracy, fiscal responsibility, or protection against fraud, rendering visible the long lineage of white rage.

White People and Black Lives Matter: Ignorance, Empathy, and Justice (2019) by Johanna C. Luttrell This book interrogates white responses to black-led movements for racial justice. It is a philosophical self-reflection on the ways in which 'white' reactions to Black Lives Matter stand in the way of the movement's important work. It probes reactions which often prevent white people from according to black activists the full range of human emotion and expression.... Johanna C. Luttrell encourages different conceptions of empathy and impartiality specific to social movements for racial justice, and addresses objections to identity politics.

Towards the Other America: Anti-racist Resources for White People Taking Action for Black Lives Matter (2015) by Chris Crass As the Black Lives Matter movement has taken to the streets and courageous Black activists around the country have shaken the racist foundations of the country, there has been a groundswell of anti-racist action in white communities. With millions of white people questioning their assumptions about race, longtime and new white anti-racists have mobilized to declare "White Silence = Consent." This book is a call to action to end white silence and a manual on how to do it.

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies (2017) by Resmaa Menakem *My Grandmother's Hands* is a call to action for all of us to recognize that racism is not only about the head, but about the body, and introduces an alternative view of what we can do to grow beyond our entrenched racialized divide. Offers a step-by-step healing process based on the latest neuroscience and somatic healing methods, in addition to incisive social commentary.

History

The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism (2014) by Edward E. Baptist A groundbreaking history demonstrating that America's economic supremacy was built on the backs of slaves. Winner of the 2015 Avery O. Craven Prize from the Organization of American Historians Winner of the 2015 Sidney Hillman Prize.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States: (Re)Visioning American History (2014) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz Acclaimed historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire. Spanning more than four hundred years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative.

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration (2010) by Isabel Wilkerson Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life. Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history.

An African American and Latinx History of the United States (2018) by Paul Ortiz An intersectional history of the shared struggle for African American and Latinx civil rights Incisive and timely, this bottom-up history, told from the interconnected vantage points of Latinx and African Americans, reveals the radically different ways that people of the diaspora have addressed issues still plaguing the United States today, and it offers a way forward in the continued struggle for universal civil rights.

The Price for Their Pound of Flesh: The Value of the Enslaved, From Womb to Grave, in the Building of a Nation (2017) by Daina Ramey Berry The Price for Their Pound of Flesh is the first book to explore the economic value of enslaved people through every phase of their lives—including preconception, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, the senior years, and death—in the early American domestic slave trade. The book will have a major impact how we think about slavery, reparations, capitalism, nineteenth-century medical education, and the value of life and death.

Incarceration, Policing, Criminal Justice

The End of Policing (2017) by Alex Vitale This book attempts to spark public discussion by revealing the tainted origins of modern policing as a tool of social control. It shows how the expansion of police authority is inconsistent with community empowerment, social justice--even public safety.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness (2010) by Michelle Alexander; Cornel West (Introduction by) In a bold and innovative argument, a rising legal star shows readers how the mass incarceration of a disproportionate number of black men amounts to a devastating system of racial control. Despite the triumphant dismantling of the Jim Crow laws, the system that once forced African-Americans into a segregated second-class citizenship still haunts and the criminal justice system.

Chokehold: Policing Black Men (2017) by Paul Butler With the eloquence of Ta-Nehisi Coates and the persuasive research of Michelle Alexander, a former federal prosecutor explains how the system really works, and how to disrupt it. Cops, politicians, and ordinary people are afraid of black men. The result is the Chokehold: laws and practices that treat every African American man like a thug. In this explosive new book, an African American former federal prosecutor shows that the system is working exactly the way it's supposed to.

They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement (2017) by Wesley Lowery A deeply reported book that brings alive the quest for justice in the deaths of Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, and Freddie Gray, offering both unparalleled insight into the reality of police violence in America and an intimate, moving portrait of those working to end it.

Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement (2016) by Angela Davis; Frank Barat (Editor); Cornel West (Preface by) World-renowned activist and scholar Angela Y. Davis illuminates the connections between struggles against state violence and oppression throughout history and around the world. Reflecting on the importance of black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism for today's struggles, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles, from the Black Freedom Movement to the South African anti-Apartheid movement.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption (2014) by Bryan Stevenson A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice--from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time. Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Are Prisons Obsolete? (2003) by Angela Y. Davis Since the 1980s prison construction and incarceration rates in the U.S. have been rising exponentially. But these prisons house hugely disproportionate numbers of people of colour, betraying the racism embedded in the system, while studies show that increasing prison sentences has had no effect on crime. Angela Davis lays bare the situation and argues for a radical rethinking of our rehabilitation programmes.

Policing the Planet: Why the Policing Crisis Led to Black Lives Matter (2016) by Jordan T. Camp Combining firsthand accounts from activists with the research of scholars and reflections from artists, Policing the Planet traces the global spread of the broken-windows policing strategy, first established in New York City under Police Commissioner William Bratton. It's a doctrine that has vastly broadened police power the world over—to deadly effect.

***Hands up, Don't Shoot: Why the Protests in Ferguson and Baltimore Matter, and How They Changed America* (2017) by Jennifer E.**

Cobbina Cobbina draws on in-depth interviews with nearly two hundred residents of Ferguson and Baltimore, conducted within two months of the deaths of Brown and Gray. She examines how protesters in both cities understood their experiences with the police, how those experiences influenced their perceptions of policing, what galvanized Black Lives Matter as a social movement, and how policing tactics during demonstrations influenced subsequent mobilization decisions among protesters.

Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution, and Imprisonment

(2018) by Angela J. Davis Policing the Black Man explores and critiques the many ways the criminal justice system impacts the lives of African American boys and men at every stage of the criminal process from arrest through sentencing. Essays range from an explication of the historical roots of racism in the criminal justice system to an examination of modern-day police killings of unarmed black men.

***I Can't Breathe: A Killing on Bay Street* (2017) by Matt Taibbi** A work of riveting literary journalism that explores the roots and repercussions of the infamous killing of Eric Garner by the New York City police. Named one of The Ten Best Books of The Year by *The Washington Post*

***From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America* (2016) by Elizabeth Hinton** Challenging the belief that America's prison problem originated with the Reagan administration's War on Drugs, Elizabeth Hinton traces the rise of mass incarceration to an ironic source: the social welfare programs of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society at the height of the civil rights era.

***The End of Policing* by Alex S. Vitale (2017)** “*The End of Policing* combines the best in academic research with rhetorical urgency to explain why the ordinary array of police reforms will be ineffective in reducing abusive policing. Alex Vitale shows that we must move beyond conceptualizing public safety as interdiction, exclusion, and arrest if we hope to achieve racial and economic justice.”

Politics, Economics

***The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (2018) by Richard Rothstein** Richard Rothstein explodes the myth that America's cities came to be racially divided through de facto segregation--that is, through individual prejudices, income differences, or the actions of private institutions like banks and real estate agencies. Rather, *The Color of Law* incontrovertibly makes clear that it was de jure segregation--the laws and policy decisions passed by local, state, and federal governments--that actually promoted the discriminatory patterns that continue to this day.

Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism (2018) by Safiya Umoja Noble In *Algorithms of Oppression*, Safiya Umoja Noble challenges the idea that search engines like Google offer an equal playing field for all forms of ideas, identities, and activities. Data discrimination is a real social problem. Through an analysis of textual and media searches as well as extensive research on paid online advertising, Noble exposes a culture of racism and sexism in the way discoverability is created online.

Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-Create Race in The Twenty-First Century (2011) by Dorothy Roberts In this provocative analysis, leading legal scholar and social critic Dorothy Roberts argues that America is once again at the brink of a virulent outbreak of classifying population by race. By searching for differences at the molecular level, a new race-based science is obscuring racism in our society and legitimizing state brutality against communities of color at a time when America claims to be post-racial.

Education

Can We Talk About Race?: And Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation (2007) by Beverly Daniel Tatum. In separate essays, Tatum probes the impact of continued segregation in public schools--mostly the result of segregated neighborhoods--on classroom achievement; the difficulty of developing and sustaining interracial relationships in a society that practices silence on race; and the longer-term implications of continued segregation on a changing democracy with a growing nonwhite population. Tatum blends policy analysis and personal recollections as an educator and self-described "integration baby," born just after the momentous *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, into a cogent look at the forces that continue to separate the races and the urgent need to begin an honest dialogue.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? (1997) by Beverly Daniel Tatum (Introduction by) The classic, bestselling book on the psychology of racism--now fully revised and updated Walk into any racially mixed high school and you will see Black, White, and Latino youth clustered in their own groups. Is this self-segregation a problem to address or a coping strategy? Beverly Daniel Tatum, a renowned authority on the psychology of racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides.

For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood... and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education (2016) by Christopher Emdin Drawing on his own experience of feeling undervalued and invisible in classrooms as a young man of color and merging his experiences with more than a decade of teaching and researching in urban America, award-winning educator Christopher Emdin offers a new lens on an approach to teaching and learning in urban schools.

The Emperor Has No Clothes: Teaching about Race and Racism to People who Don't Want to Know (2010) by Tema Okun offers theoretical grounding and practical approaches for leaders and teachers interested in effectively addressing racism and other oppressive constructs. The book draws both on the author's extensive experience teaching about race and racism in classroom and community settings and from the theory and practice of a wide range of educators, activists, and researchers committed to social justice.

Teaching to Transgress (1994) by bell hooks In *Teaching to Transgress*, bell hooks writes about a new kind of education, education as the practice of freedom. Teaching students to "transgress" against racial, sexual, and class boundaries in order to achieve the gift of freedom is, for hooks, the teacher's most important goal.

Memoir, Biography, Poetry

The Fire Next Time (1963) by James Baldwin A national bestseller when it first appeared in 1963, *The Fire Next Time* galvanized the nation and gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement. At once a powerful evocation of James Baldwin's early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document.

Between the World and Me (2015) by Ta-Nehisi Coates In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis.

How We Fight for Our Lives (2019) by Saeed Jones From award-winning poet Saeed Jones, *How We Fight for Our Lives*—winner of the Kirkus Prize and the Stonewall Book Award—is a “moving, bracingly honest memoir” (*The New York Times Book Review*) written at the crossroads of sex, race, and power.

When They Call You a Terrorist (2018) by Patrisse Khan-Cullors; asha bandele; Angela Davis (Foreword by) A poetic and powerful memoir about what it means to be a Black woman in America--and the co-founding of a movement that demands justice for all in the land of the free. In 2013, when Trayvon Martin's killer went free, Patrisse's outrage led her to co-found Black Lives Matter with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi. Condemned as terrorists and as a threat to America, these women founded a hashtag that birthed the movement to demand accountability.

What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker: A Memoir in Essays (2019) by Damon Young From the cofounder of VerySmartBrothas.com, and one of the most read writers on race and culture at work today, a provocative and

humorous memoir-in-essays that explores the ever-shifting definitions of what it means to be Black (and male) in America.

Citizen (2014) by Claudia Rankine Claudia Rankine's bold new book recounts mounting racial aggressions in ongoing encounters in twenty-first-century daily life and in the media. The accumulative stresses come to bear on a person's ability to speak, perform, and stay alive. In essay, image, and poetry, *Citizen* is a powerful testament to the individual and collective effects of racism in our contemporary, often named "post-race" society. Award-winning poetry collection.

The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks about Race (2016) by Jesmyn Ward National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward takes James Baldwin's 1963 examination of race in America, *The Fire Next Time*, as a jumping off point for this groundbreaking collection of essays and poems about race from the most important voices of her generation and our time.

Men We Reaped (2013) by Jesmyn Ward Two-time National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward (*Salvage the Bones*, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*) contends with the deaths of five young men dear to her, and the risk of being a black man in the rural South.

Heavy: An American Memoir (2016) by Kiese Laymon In this powerful and provocative memoir, genre-bending essayist and novelist Kiese Laymon explores what the weight of a lifetime of secrets, lies, and deception does to a black body, a black family, and a nation teetering on the brink of moral collapse. Named a Best Book of 2018 by the *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, NPR, and more.

Other Titles

Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice (1995) by Paul Kivel

White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son (2004)
by Tim Wise

Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (2012) by Tim Wise

America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America (2015) by Jim Wallis

Beneath the Surface of White Supremacy: Denaturalizing U.S. Racisms Past and Present (2015) by Moon-Kie Jung

Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do (2019) by Jennifer L. Eberhardt

Dismantling Race in Higher Education: Racism, Whiteness and Decolonising the Academy (2018) by Jason Arday, Heidi Safia Mirza (Editors) about race issues in British education

Race Talk and The Conspiracy Of Silence: Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues on Race (2015) by Derald Wing Sue

The Possessive Investment in Whiteness (1998) by George Lipsitz

Superior: The Return of Race Science (2019) by Angela Saini

Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment is Killing America's Heartland (2019) By Jonathan M. Metz.

The Anger Gap: How Race Shapes Emotion in Politics (2019)
by Davin L. Phoenix

Policing Black Bodies : How Black Lives Are Surveilled and How to Work for Change (2017) by Angela Hattery

Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution, and Imprisonment (2017) by Angela J. Davis

Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect?: Police Violence and Resistance in the United States (2016)by Joe Macaré, Maya Schenwar, Alana Yu-Ian Price (Editors)