

RACIAL EQUITY BIBLIOGRAPHY

“The Way Out is Back Through”

Only through knowing our history can we free ourselves from the way our history shaped us.

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow; Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: New York Press, 2012.

“We have not ended racial caste in America,” says Michelle Alexander, “we have merely redesigned it.” Alexander demonstrates that, by targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. Several study/discussion guides for purchase as well as available for free download available here: <http://newjimcrow.com/study-guides>.

Anderson, Carol. *White Rage*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2016.

Carefully linking historical flashpoints when social progress for African Americans was countered by deliberate and cleverly crafted opposition, 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.

Anzulda, Gloria. *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. Aunt Lute Books, 4th Edition, 2012.

Ball, Edward. *Slaves in the Family*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1999.

A descendant of a slave-holding plantation family in South Carolina, Edward Ball writes about the history of his family and the realities of the horrors of slavery. The book is well-researched and based on interviews with descendants of former Ball slaves across the country.

Baptist, Edward E. *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*. NY: Basic Books, 2016.

Chapter titles: 1. Feet, 2. Heads, 3. Right Hand, 4. Left Hand, 5. Tongues, 6. Breath, 7. Seed, 8. Blood, 9. Backs, 10. Arms. Using that body imagery, Baptist tells a story about how capitalism and the story of slavery intersected to use the black body to build the American economy. A powerful read! Baptist's explanations of economic systems were explained in an understandable fashion and the dehumanization of the people who built the economy through their hard work were personalized in stories.

Barndt, Joseph. *Dismantling Racism: The Continuing Challenge to White America*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, MN, 1991.

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West*. New York: Owl Books, 1970.

A classic text about the history of the struggles of the western Native American nations to maintain their lands and way of life that finally met its end around 1890. The many Native leaders who stood up for their people, who fought, negotiated, joined forces, etc. tells a compelling story of standing for identity and cultural preservation. The massacre at Wounded Knee was a sad day in American history.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. New York: Spiegel and Grau, 2015.

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. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

Cone, James. *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2011.

*In this book, James Cone recognizes this profound paradox of the cross and argues that the cross ought to serve as the paradigmatic symbol through which one can talk about being both black and Christian in America. In *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, Cone does this systematically and reflectively, simultaneously looking backwards and forwards, offering a resting place for black America to leave its burdens and providing a path for a better, more united America. Free downloadable study guide available from the United Methodist Church:Tree.*

Desmond, Matthew. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. New York: Broadway Books, 2016.

Matthew Desmond followed the lives of eight families in Milwaukee as they encountered the life-faltering impacts of evictions, inadequate housing, disrepair of rental housing and the spiral of poverty and evictions that keep people trapped in a cycle of housing insecurity.

DiAngelo, Robin. *White Fragility: Why It's so Hard for white People to Talk About Racism*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2018.

Talking about racism is hard for most "white" people. Emotions are quickly triggered—usually anger in defense of denial of racism as personal and/or systemic and structural -- or tears that interrupt the conversation and draw attention to soothing the distressed white person. Robin Deangelo pushes the reader beyond that to listen to the voices not heard and engage in action that can transform our structures that maintain racism.

Douglas, Kelly Brown. *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2015.

In Part One of her her book, Kelly Brown Douglas gives an overview of the Anglo-Saxon myth and the making of property and "stand your ground" rights, the objectifying of the black body from chattel to dangerous and criminal and the impact of the Manifest Destiny doctrine. In Part Two, she looks at faith, the justice of God and prophetic testimony. An insightful and compelling read for people of faith!

Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2014.

A 400 year history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples and how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the U.S. empire. There were numerous nations who resisted and fought to maintain their way of life in the face of the expanding empire of the United States. The Doctrine of Discovery, promulgated by the Church, undergirded the subjugation of indigenous peoples.

Giddings, Paula. *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*. New York: Bantam Books, 1984.

Paula Giddings tells the stories of numerous strong Black women and their impact. Among them are Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod Bethune, Mary Church Terrell, Rosa Parks, Shirley Chisholm, Fannie Lou Hammer and many more!

Harris, Paula and Doug Schaupp. *Being White: Finding our Place in a Multiethnic World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Paula Harris and Doug Schaupp write from a distinctly Christian perspective about being white and privileged. They talk about their own personal journeys in faith and discovery of their white privilege.

Harvey, Jennifer. *Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2014.

This book is designed for Christians as we grapple with understanding reconciliation. Dr. Harvey argues that before reconciliation is possible in race relationships in this country, reparations need to be made. Her discussion of The Black Manifesto and James Forman and the National Committee of Black Churchmen presentation of demands to Protestant denominations is not well-understood church history.

Harvey, Jennifer. *Raising White Kids: Bringing up Children in a Racially Unjust America*. Nashville, TN: United Methodist Publishing House, 2017.

Jennifer Harvey presents a readable book with practical suggestions for raising white children in a racially unjust society. She offers examples of her own struggles as a parent in making choices in child-raising that bring awareness of injustice in a developmentally sensitive manner.

Howard, Gary. *We Can't Teach What We Don't Know: White teachers, Multiracial Schools*. New York: Teachers College Press, 1999.

Gary Howard's book, though written in 1999 remains current in discussing the need for teachers to educate themselves to teach to students with a different cultural background than theirs and recognize the validity of all cultures and the mandate of the teacher to do the work to learn how to relate to the students in the classroom.

Irving, Debby. *Waking Up White: and finding myself in the story of race*. Cambridge, MA: Elephant Room Press, 2014.

*For twenty-five years, author Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationship. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us. This book is a good entry point for those wanting to begin this deeper conversation.*

Kendall, Frances E. *Understanding White Privilege: Creating Pathways to Authentic Relationships Across Race*. New York: Routledge, 2nd edition, 2013.

This is a good introductory book about understanding the importance of doing our personal work in understanding white privilege. That initial work is absolutely necessary in order to become authentic allies and have authentic relationships across racial lines.

Kendi, Ibram X. *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. NY, NY: Nation Books, 2016.

This book won a National Book Award for non-fiction in 2016. Kendi examines five intellectuals who influenced understanding of racist ideas in the United States and the arguments of assimilation and segregation.

Law, Eric H.F. *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1993.

Newton, Lina. *Illegal, Alien, or Immigrant: The Politics of Immigration Reform*. New York: New York University Press, 2008.

Painter, Nell Irvin. *The History of White People*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2010.

Nell Irvin Painter is an historian, retired from Princeton University. This is one of her several books on American history and identity. She traces masterfully the development of the concept of "white people" from early Greek thinking through the pseudo-scientific understanding of race in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to our present day.

Rothenberg, Paula S. *White Privilege: essential readings on the other side of racism*. New York: Worth Publishers, 2002.

This book discusses in invisibility of whiteness and how the concept of whiteness developed over time. It examines privilege of whiteness and its opposite oppression based on skin color get lived out in daily life.

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2014.

Bryan Stevenson is a lawyer and understands the workings of our justice system; he exposes how justice is meted out in ways that perpetuate racist history as well as classism. One of the "must read" books in the field of racial justice understanding.

Sullivan, Shannon. *Revealing Whiteness: The Unconscious Habits of Racial Privilege*.

Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2006.

This book examines how white privilege operates as unseen, invisible, even seemingly nonexistent, and suggests that because of this hidden mode of operation, something more indirect than and much different from conscious argumentation against white privilege is needed to combat it. It is a personal and self-searching book in which Shannon Sullivan interrogates her own whiteness and how being white has affected her.

Takaki, Ronald T. *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*. New York: Little, Brown, 1993.

In this book, Ronald Takaki recounts the history of the United States with the voices of people not heard in the stories of history generally taught. His story-telling offers a fresh perspective of stories from the multicultural peoples who have lived in this land.

Tatum, Beverly Daniel. "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" And Other Conversations about Race. New York: Basic Books, 1997. Epilogue, 2003
Beverly Daniel Tatum has written about the development of racial identity. She discusses how important establishing a sense of community is to forming an identity and navigating the system that perpetuates racist conceptions of people of color. An insightful read for "people of white" to address the need for self-examination and self-reflection.

Wallis, Jim. *America's Original Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2016.
Biblically rooted yet highly practical, this book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America. Free, six-week downloadable study guide can be ordered.

Wise, Tim. *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*. Berkeley, CA: Soft Skull Press. 2008, 2011.

Tim Wise has been on the speaker circuit and has written many books on the topic of white privilege. Start with this one and then move on to his other works. Tim grew up with childhood experiences that set him on a path for understanding white supremacist ideas and has followed that path in bringing the message to other "white" people.

Yancy, George. *Backlash: What Happens When We Talk Honestly about Racism in America*. London: Rowan and Littlefield. 2018.

In this book, George Yancy writes about the backlash he received from the letter he published in the New York Times on December 24, 2015, entitled "Dear White America." Much of the response he received was intense in its personal attacks on him and the lack of recognition of his intent to speak "truth in love" to his white fellow citizens. As a welcome balance to the vitriolic attacks, the last chapter chronicles some of the positive responses of thanks he also received.

Yancy, George . *Black Bodies, White gazes: The Continuing Significance of Race in America*. London: Roman & Littlefield. 2017.

George Yancy is a professor of philosophy at Emory University. His expertise is in race, whiteness and African American philosophy. In this book, Yancy writes about the contrast of embodied and real black persons and the perceptions/stereotypes of white supremacist ideology.

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States*. New York: Harper & Row, 1980.
Since its original landmark publication in 1980, A People's History of the United States has been chronicling American history from the bottom up, throwing out the official version of history taught in schools—with its emphasis on great men in high places—to focus on the street, the home, and the workplace. Known for its lively, clear prose as well as its scholarly research, A People's History of the United States is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of—and in the words of—America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, the working poor, and immigrant laborers. As historian Howard Zinn shows, many of our country's greatest battles—the fights for a fair wage, an eight-hour workday, child-labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights, racial equality—were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance. Covering Christopher Columbus's arrival through President Clinton's first term, A People's History of the United States, which was nominated for the American Book Award in 1981, features insightful analysis of the most important events in our history.

Fiction (Just to get you started!)

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngzi. *Americana*. NY, Alfred A. Knopf, 2016.

Baldwin, James. *If Beale Street Could Talk*. 1974.

Gyasi, Yaa. *Homegoing*. NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016.

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. NY, Harper Collins, 1965.

Jones, Tayari. *An American Marriage*. Chapel Hill, NC, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2018.

Mbue, Imbolo. *Behold the Dreamers*. NY, Random House, 2016.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. 1988.

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. 1970.

Whitehead, Colson. *The Underground Railroad*. NY: Doubleday Books, 2013.

Wright, Richard. *Native Son*. 1940.

Other Resources:

Link to the Emmy nominated documentary Unchained: Generational Trauma & Healing available on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/232024836>.

Article: Just Enough? Lutherans, Slavery and the Struggle for Racial Justice by Richard M. Chapman http://thecresset.org/2008/Trinity2008/Chapman_T2008.html.

“Anti-racism is Everyone’s Work” -- Article written by Ibram X. Kendi, author of Stamped from the Beginning

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/interview/antiracism-everyone-s-work>

Provided by the Racial Equity Ministry Team of the:



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