

How to Be an Antiracist.

Kendi, Ibram X. 2019.

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism – and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of anti-racist ideas — from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities — that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

Barracoon: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo”.

Hurston, Zora Neale. 2018.

Hurston opens our eyes to the story of Cudjo one of the men aboard the last Black Cargo ship to arrive in the United States. He is one of the last-known survivors of the Atlantic slave trade.

Three Narratives of Slavery (African American).

Truth, Sojourner, et al. 2008.

Three memoirs of courageous black women (Sojourner Truth, Harriet Jacobs, and Mary Prince) vividly chronicle their struggles in the bonds of slavery.

Recommended Reading on Race in America for Becoming Beloved Community 2022

We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2017.

“We were eight years in power” was the lament of Reconstruction-era black politicians as the American experiment in multiracial democracy ended with the return of white supremacist rule in the South. In this sweeping collection of new and selected essays, Ta-Nehisi Coates explores the tragic echoes of that history in our own time: the unprecedented election of a black president followed by a vicious backlash that fueled the election of the man Coates argues is America’s “first white president.”

The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present.

Treuer, David. 2019.

In *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee*, Treuer melds history with reportage and memoir. Tracing the tribes' distinctive cultures from first contact, he explores how the depredations of each era spawned new modes of survival. It is the essential, intimate story of a resilient people in a transformative era.

I'm Still Here – Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness.

Brown, Austin Channing. 2018.

In a time when nearly all institutions (schools, churches, universities, businesses) claim to value “diversity” in their mission statements, *I'M STILL HERE* is a powerful account of how and why our actions so often fall short of our words. Austin writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice, in stories that bear witness to the complexity of America's social fabric—from Black Cleveland neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to the boardrooms at majority-white organizations.



Anti -Racism
committee

CHRISTIAN SLAVERY: CONVERSION AND RACE IN THE PROTESTANT ATLANTIC WORLD.

Gerbner, Katharine. 2019.

Could slaves become Christian? If so, did their conversion lead to freedom? If not, then how could perpetual enslavement be justified? In *Christian Slavery*, Katharine Gerbner contends that religion was fundamental to the development of both slavery and race in the Protestant Atlantic world. For slaveholders, Christianity was a sign of freedom, and most believed that slaves should not be eligible for conversion.

FOUR HUNDRED SOULS: A COMMUNITY HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICA, 1619-2019.

Kendi, Ibram X. and Keisha N. Blain. (Editors). 2021.

Four Hundred Souls is a unique one-volume "community" history of African Americans. The editors, Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain, have assembled ninety brilliant writers, each of whom takes on a five-year period of that four-hundred-year span. The writers explore their periods through a variety of techniques: historical essays, short stories, personal vignettes, and fiery polemics.

THE SOURCE OF SELF-REGARD: SELECTED ESSAYS, SPEECHES, AND MEDITATIONS.

Morrison, Toni. 2019. New

It is divided into three parts, the first is introduced by a powerful prayer for the dead of 9/11; the second by a searching meditation on Martin Luther King, Jr., and the last by a heart-wrenching eulogy for James Baldwin. In the writings and speeches included here, Morrison takes on contested social issues: the foreigner, female empowerment, the press, money, "black matter(s)", and human rights. She looks at enduring matters of culture: the role of the artist in society, the literary imagination, the Afro-American presence in American literature, and in her Nobel lecture, the power of language itself.

WHITE FRAGILITY – WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT RACE.

DiAngelo, Robin. 2018.

The New York Times best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

BEGIN AGAIN: JAMES BALDWIN'S AMERICA AND IT'S URGENTS LESSONS FOR OUR OWN.

Glaude, Jr., Eddie S. 2020. New

Begin Again is one of the great books on James Baldwin and a powerful reckoning with America's ongoing failure to confront lies it tells itself about race. Just as in Baldwin's "after times," argues Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., when white Americans met the civil rights movement's call for truth and justice with blind rage and the murders of movement leaders, so in our moment were the Obama presidency and the birth of Black Lives Matter answers with the ascendance of Trump and the violent resurgence of white nationalism. In these brilliant and stirring pages, Glaude finds hope and guidance in Baldwin as he mixes biography – drawn partially from newly uncovered Baldwin interviews – with history, memoir, and poignant analysis of our current moment to reveal the painful cycle of Black resistance and white retrenchment.

...for all of you are one in Christ Jesus

Galatians 3:28

MY TIME WILL COME: A MEMOIR OF CRIME, PUNISHMENT, HOPE, AND REDEMPTION

Manuel, Ian with foreword by Bryan Stevenson. 2021.

The inspiring story of activist and poet Ian Manuel, who at the age of fourteen was sentenced to life in prison. He survived eighteen years in solitary confinement – through his own determination and dedication to art – until he was freed as part of an incredible crusade by the Equal Justice Initiative.

RISING OUT OF HATRED: THE AWAKENING OF A FORMER WHITE NATIONALIST.

Saslow, Eli. 2019.

Rising Out of Hatred tells the story of how white-supremacist ideas migrated from the far-right fringe to the White House through the intensely personal saga of one man who eventually disavowed everything he was taught to believe, at tremendous personal cost.

STAND YOUR GROUND: BLACK BODIES AND THE JUSTICE OF GOD.

Douglas, Kelly Brown. 2015.

The 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin, an African-American teenager in Florida, and the subsequent acquittal of his killer, brought public attention to controversial "Stand Your Ground" laws. This book is an attempt to take seriously social and theological questions raised by this and similar stories, and to answer black church people's questions of justice and faith in response to the call of God.

CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS.

Wilkerson, Isabel. 2020.

Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

LOVE IS THE WAY: HOLDING ON TO HOPE IN TROUBLING TIMES.

Curry, Bishop Michael. 2020.

The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claim to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity.

THE DEAD ARE ARISING: THE LIFE OF MALCOLM X

Payne, Les and Tamara Payne. 2020.

This historic biography conjures a never-before-seen world of its protagonist, a work whose title is inspired by a phrase Malcolm X used when he saw his Hartford followers stir with purpose, as if the dead were truly arising, to overcome the obstacles of racism. Setting Malcolm's life not only within the Nation of Islam but against the larger backdrop of American history, the book traces the life of one of the twentieth century's most politically relevant figures "from street criminal to devoted moralist and revolutionary."

INVISIBLE MAN, GOT THE WHOLE WORLD WATCHING.

Smith, Michael Denzel. 2016.

An account of how, politically and culturally, the existing script for black manhood has been rewritten for the millennial generation.

THE SUM OF US: WHAT RACISM COSTS EVERYONE AND HOW WE CAN PROSPER TOGETHER

McGhee, Heather. 2021.

Heather McGhee's specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. She found a common root problem: racism. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. But how did this happen? And is there a way out?