

# **Racial Justice Resources**

## **With a focus on blacks and whites**

This partial list is respectfully submitted by Tia Cross.

*(Updated March 20, 2019)*

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### **Books**

Titles with an \*: lend themselves to reading with a group - they are especially powerful.

“ “ \*\*: are well written and full of history unknown to many people.

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#### **I. Slavery and Black History**

***\*How the North Promoted, Prolonged and Profited from Slavery: Complicity*** by Anne Farrow, Joel Lang and Jennifer Frank. Despite the presence of enslaved people throughout the North during the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and into the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, their status as slaves has been largely erased. The words “slavery in the North” evoke ardent white abolitionists helping blacks to freedom along the Underground Railroad or gallant Union soldiers fighting for the emancipation of America’s enslaved. But, in fact, thousands of people were living and dying in slavery in New England – a system that was cruel everywhere it existed, whether in Mississippi or Massachusetts.

***\*\*Defining Moments in Black History: Reading Between the Lies*** by Dick Gregory. Dick Gregory was a provocative and incisive cultural force for more than fifty years. As an entertainer, he always kept it indisputably real about race issues in America, fearlessly lacing laughter with hard truths. As a

leading activist against injustice, he marched at Selma during the Civil Rights movement, organized student rallies to protest the Vietnam War; sat in at rallies for Native American and feminist rights; fought apartheid in South Africa; and participated in hunger strikes in support of Black Lives Matter. In this collection of thoughtful, provocative essays, Gregory charts the complex and often obscured history of the African American experience. An engaging look at black life that offers insightful commentary on the intricate history of the African American people, *Defining Moments in Black History* is an essential, no-holds-barred history lesson that will provoke, enlighten, and entertain.

**\*\**Barracoön: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo”*** by Zora Neale Hurston. In 1927, Zora Neale Hurston traveled to Plateau, Alabama, to visit eighty-six-year-old Cudjo Lewis, a survivor of the *Clotilda*, the last slaver known to have made the transatlantic journey. Illegally brought to the United States, Cudjo was enslaved fifty years *after* the slave trade was outlawed. *Barracoön* employs Hurston’s skills as both an anthropologist and a writer, and brings to life Cudjo’s singular voice, in his vernacular, in a poignant, powerful tribute to the disremembered and the unaccounted. This profound work is an invaluable contribution to our history and culture.

**\**The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*** by Edward E. Baptist. Americans tend to cast slavery as a pre-modern institution – the nation’s original sin, but isolated in time and divorced from America’s later success. To do so robs the millions who suffered in bondage of their full legacy. The expansion of slavery in the first eight decades after U.S. independence is what drove the evolution and modernization of our country. In the span of a single lifetime, the South grew from a narrow coastal strip of worn-out tobacco plantations to a continental cotton empire, and the U.S. grew into a modern, industrial and capitalist economy. Baptist provides meticulous, extensive, and comprehensive evidence that capitalism and the wealth it created, was absolutely dependent on the forced labor of Africans and African-Americans, which downplays culturalist arguments for Western prosperity.

***Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*** by Ira Berlin. “Knowing that a person was a slave does not tell everything about him or her. Slaveholders severely circumscribed the lives of enslaved people, but they never fully defined them. Slaves were neither extensions of their owners’ will nor products of the market’s demand. The slaves’ history – was made not only by what was done to them but also by what they did for themselves.” From the Prologue.

**\**Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America’s Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing*** by Dr. Joy DeGruy. From the beginning of American chattel slavery in 1619, until the ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1865, Africans were hunted like animals, captured, sold, tortured and raped. They experienced the worst kind of physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual abuse. Emancipation was followed by over a hundred more years of institutionalized subjugation through the Black Codes and Jim Crow Laws, peonage and convict leasing, domestic terrorism and lynchings. Today the oppression and violations continue – combined with the crimes of the past, resulting in further unmeasured injury. What are the impacts of all these ordeals on African Americans today?

***Denmark Vesey: The Buried Story of America's Largest Slave Rebellion and the Man Who Led It*** by David Robertson. In a remarkable feat of historical detective work, David Robertson illuminates the shadowy figure who planned a slave rebellion so daring that, if successful, it might have changed the face of the antebellum South. This is the story of a man who, like Nat Turner, Marcus Garvey, and Malcolm X, is a complex yet seminal hero in the history of African American emancipation. Denmark Vesey was a charismatic ex-slave--literate, professional, and relatively well-off--who had purchased his own freedom with the winnings from a lottery. Inspired by the success of the revolutionary black republic in Haiti, he persuaded some nine thousand slaves to join him in a revolt. On a June evening in

1822, having gathered guns, and daggers, they were to converge on Charleston, South Carolina, take the city's arsenal, murder the populace, burn the city, and escape by ship to Haiti or Africa. When the uprising was betrayed, Vesey and seventy-seven of his followers were executed, the matter hushed by Charleston's elite for fear of further rebellion. Compelling, informative, and often disturbing, this book is essential to a fuller understanding of the struggle against slavery.

***They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South*** by Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers. Bridging women's history, the history of the South, and African American history, this book makes a bold argument about the role of white women in American slavery. Historian Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers draws on a variety of sources to show that slave-owning women were sophisticated economic actors who directly engaged in and benefited from the South's slave market. Because women typically inherited more slaves than land, enslaved people were often their primary source of wealth. Not only did white women often refuse to cede ownership of their slaves to their husbands, they employed management techniques that were as effective and brutal as those used by slave-owning men. White women actively participated in the slave market, profited from it, and used it for economic and social empowerment. By examining the economically entangled lives of enslaved people and slave-owning women, Jones-Rogers presents a narrative that forces us to rethink the economics and social conventions of slaveholding America.

***Never Caught: The Washington's Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*** by Erica Armstrong Dunbar. Totally engrossing and absolutely necessary for understanding the birth of the American republic, *Never Caught* is richly human history from the vantage point of the enslaved fifth of the early American population. Here is Ona Judge's (successful) quest for freedom on one side, and on the other, George and Martha Washington's (vain) use of federal power to try to keep her enslaved.

***Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave Written by Himself - A New Critical Edition by Angela Y. Davis - Featuring Her "Lectures on Liberation"***. A masterpiece of African American literature, Frederick Douglass's *Narrative* is the powerful story of an enslaved youth coming into social and moral consciousness by disobeying his white slavemasters and secretly teaching himself to read. Achieving literacy emboldens Douglass to resist, escape, and ultimately achieve his freedom. After, escaping slavery, Douglass became a leader in the anti-slavery and women's rights movements, a bestselling author, and U.S. diplomat. In this new, critical edition, legendary activist and feminist scholar Angela Davis sheds new light on the legacy of Frederick Douglass. [She] focuses on Douglass's intellectual and spiritual awakening, and the importance of self-knowledge in achieving freedom from all forms of oppression. With detailed attention to Douglass's text, she interrogates the legacy of slavery and shares timeless lessons about oppression, resistance, and freedom.

***Crusade for Freedom: Women in the Antislavery Movement*** by Alma Lutz. Women made an outstanding contribution to the abolition of Negro slavery, and at a time when the participation of women in public reform movements was frowned upon. Names of a few of them are mentioned in histories, but in general their important work has been overlooked. Fortunately, they have left an inspiring record in their personal letters which have been preserved in a few libraries and historical societies. This book tells their story. "When the true history of the antislavery cause shall be written, woman will occupy a large space in its pages; for the cause of the slave has been peculiarly woman's cause. Her heart and her conscience have supplied in large degree its motive and mainspring." Frederick Douglass

***American Slavery, American Freedom*** by Edmund S. Morgan. In the American Revolution, Virginians were the most eloquent spokesmen for freedom and quality. George Washington led the Americans in battle against British oppression. Thomas Jefferson led them in declaring independence.

Virginians drafted not only the Declaration but also the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; they were elected to the presidency of the United States under that Constitution for thirty-two of the first thirty-six years of its existence. They were all slaveholders. In the new preface Edmund S. Morgan writes: "Human relations among us still suffer from the former enslavement of a large portion of our predecessors. The freedom of the free, the growth of freedom experienced in the American Revolution depended more than we like to admit on the enslavement of more than 20 percent of us at that time. How republican freedom came to be supported, at least in large part, by its opposite, slavery, is the subject of this book. *American Slavery, American Freedom* is a study of the tragic contradiction at the core of America. Morgan finds the keys to this central paradox, "the marriage of slavery and freedom," in the people and the politics of the state that was both the birthplace of the Revolution and the largest slaveholding state in the country.

***1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African American History*** by Jeffrey C. Stewart. Where can one go to get a comprehensive and entertaining account of the most significant events, individuals and social processes of African-American history? *1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African-American History* is history at your fingertips—in a concise, accessible, easily-read format. Stewart takes the reader on an all-encompassing journey through the entirety of African-American history that is pithy, provocative, and encyclopedic in scope. Here are all the people, terms, ideas, events, and social processes that make African-American history such a fascinating and inspiring subject. He covers all the significant information in six broad sections: Great Migrations; Civil Rights and Politics; Science, Inventions and Medicine; Sports; Military; Culture and Religion. It will entertain as well as instruct, and it can be read from beginning to end as well as opened at random and read at any length without confusion.

## **II. Post Civil War, Liberation, Jim Crow and Civil Rights**

***\*Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*** by Douglas A. Blackmon A Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the "Age of Neoslavery," the American period following the Emancipation Proclamation in which convicts, mostly black men, were "leased" through forced labor camps operated by state and federal governments. In this groundbreaking historical expose, Douglas A. Blackmon brings to light one of the most shameful chapters in American history—an "Age of Neoslavery" that thrived from the aftermath of the Civil War through the dawn of World War II. Using a vast record of original documents and personal narratives, Douglas A. Blackmon unearths the lost stories of slaves and their descendants who journeyed into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation and then back into the shadow of involuntary servitude shortly thereafter. By turns moving, sobering, and shocking, this unprecedented account reveals the stories of those who fought unsuccessfully against the re-emergence of human labor trafficking, the companies that profited most from neoslavery, and the insidious legacy of racism that reverberates today.

***Black Fortunes: The Story of the First Six African Americans Who Survived Slavery and Became Millionaires*** by Shomari Wills. Between the years of 1830 and 1927, as the last generation of blacks born into slavery was reaching maturity, a small group of industrious, tenacious, and daring men and women broke new ground to attain the highest levels of financial success. Mary Ellen Pleasant, used her Gold Rush wealth to further the cause of abolitionist John Brown. Robert Reed Church, became the

largest landowner in Tennessee. Hannah Elias, the mistress of a New York City millionaire, used the land her lover gave her to build an empire in Harlem. Orphan and self-taught chemist Annie Turnbo-Malone, developed the first national brand of hair care products. Mississippi school teacher O. W. Gurley, developed a piece of Tulsa, Oklahoma, into a “town” for wealthy black professionals and craftsmen that would become known as “the Black Wall Street.” Although Madam C. J Walker was given the title of America’s first female black millionaire, she was not. She was the first, however, to flaunt and openly claim her wealth—a dangerous and revolutionary act. Nearly all the unforgettable personalities in this amazing collection were often attacked, demonized, or swindled out of their wealth. *Black Fortunes* illuminates as never before the birth of the black business titan.

***Jim Crow’s Legacy: The Lasting Impact of Segregation*** by Ruth Thompson-Miller, Joe R. Feagin and Leslie H. Picca. “Drawing from the lived experience of African American elders refracted through the concept of the ‘segregation stress syndrome’, the authors provide a rich, well-documented, and convincing examination of the ‘extraordinary, deep-lying, painful, and horrific’ cumulative and intergenerational consequences of the Jim Crow era notwithstanding African American resistance and resilience to racial oppression. Their investigation moves beyond a mere examination of macroaggressions that have perpetuated racial inequality in terms of occupation, income, wealth, and other social indicators. They also lay bare micro- and meso-level ones that have had an equally deleterious impact on the physical and mental health of African Americans. This masterful book should put to rest any fanciful notions that the United States is a colorblind or post-racial society despite the considerable progress the nation has made in addressing and eliminating racial inequality since the end of legalized segregation.”

**\*\**Unseen: Unpublished Black History from the New York Times Photo Archives*** by Dana Canedy, Darcy Eveleigh, Damien Cave and Rachel L. Swarns. *UNSEEN* dives deep into *The Times* photo archives--known as the Morgue--to showcase this extraordinary collection of photographs and the stories behind them. This book includes those photographs and many more, among them: a 27-year-old Jesse Jackson leading an anti-discrimination rally of in Chicago, Rosa Parks arriving at a Montgomery Courthouse in Alabama a candid behind-the-scenes shot of Aretha Franklin backstage at the Apollo Theater, Ralph Ellison on the streets of his Manhattan neighborhood, the firebombed home of Malcolm X, Myrlie Evans and her children at the funeral of her slain husband , Medgar, a wheelchair-bound Roy Campanella at the razing of Ebbets Field. Were the photos--or the people in them--not deemed newsworthy enough? Did the images not arrive in time for publication? Were they pushed aside by words at an institution long known as the Gray Lady? Eveleigh, Canedy, Cave, and Swarns explore all these questions and more in this one-of-a-kind book.

***The Winner Names the Age: A Collection of writings by Lillian Smith*** Edited by Michelle Cliff. This volume collects Lillian Smith’s speeches and essay, under three headings. In “Addressed to the South”, they are a historical record of segregation and the opposition to segregation. In “Words That Chain Us and Words That Set Us Free”, they discuss the power or language to change political and social situations, the necessity of respect for people’s differences, the groping for meaning that we do, and the political role of the creative person. In “Of Women, Men and Autobiography”, Smith deals with such topics as the difference in experience of women and men, the power and powerlessness of women, and the complexities of autobiographical truth.

***The Walls Came Tumbling Down: The Autobiography of Mary White Ovington.*** The story of a woman born into the white middle-class world of post-Civil War New York. Her acute awareness of the plight of the American Negro and of the inferior justice meted out to himled her in 1911 to become, with W.E.B. Du Bois and others, a co-founder of the NAACP.

***Eyes On the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years 1954-1965*** by Juan Williams with the Eyes On the Prize Team. These moving stories and pictures of the first decade of the civil rights movement are a tribute to and a reminder of the people, black and white, who took part in the fight for justice and kept their eyes on the prize of freedom. "A fascinating, fast-moving overview... Even those who participated will find in this book reminders of the civil rights movement's incredible human and political complexity, of the stops and starts that belie the neat continuum that hindsight can sometimes create." NY Times Book Review

***The Wall Between*** by Anne Braden. In 1954, Anne and Carl Braden bought a house in an all-white neighborhood in Louisville, Kentucky, on behalf of a black couple, Andrew and Charlotte Wade. *The Wall Between* is Anne Braden's account of what resulted from this act of friendship: mob violence against the Wades, the bombing of the house, and imprisonment for her husband on charges of sedition. A finalist for the 1958 National Book Award, this is one of only a few first-person accounts from civil rights movement activists – even rarer for its author being white. In an epilogue written for this (1999) edition, the author traces the lives of the Bradens and Wades subsequent to events in the original book and reports on her and her husband's continuing activities in the civil rights movement. Looking back on that history, Braden warns readers that the entire nation still must do what white southerners who became activists had to do in the 1950s and 1960s: turn its values, assumptions, and policies upside down.

"I found it [the 1958 first edition] one of the most moving documents that I have ever read. I feel that it will live to become a classic on the southern situation." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

***Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Cold War South*** by Catherine Fosl. This book does more than give Anne Braden the full-scale biography she deserves. It also provides a searing dissection of how anticommunism buttressed white supremacy, and of the price that those who struggled against that deadly partnership paid. This book will join a critical debate on the impact of the Cold War on the civil rights movement, and complicate our understanding of the continuities and discontinuities between the Old Left and the New Left. Equally important, it will take its place among the very best of the feminist biographies that have changed the way women imagine – and live – their lives.

***Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement (Justice, Power, and Politics)*** by Monica M. White. In May 1967, internationally renowned activist Fannie Lou Hamer purchased forty acres of land in the Mississippi Delta, launching the Freedom Farms Cooperative (FFC). A community-based rural and economic development project, FFC would grow to over 600 acres, offering a means for local sharecroppers, tenant farmers, and domestic workers to pursue community wellness, self-reliance, and political resistance. Life on the cooperative farm presented an alternative to the second wave of northern migration by African Americans--an opportunity to stay in the South, live off the land, and create a healthy community based upon building an alternative food system as a cooperative and collective effort. *Freedom Farmers* expands the historical narrative of the black freedom struggle to embrace the work, roles, and contributions of southern black farmers and the organizations they formed. Whereas existing scholarship generally views agriculture as a site of oppression and exploitation of black people, this book reveals agriculture as a site of resistance and provides a historical foundation that adds meaning and context to current conversations around the resurgence of food justice/sovereignty movements in urban spaces like Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, New York City, and New Orleans.

***Racial Matters: The FBI's Secret File on Black America, 1960-1972*** by Kenneth O'Reilly. From Kennedy to Nixon, the FBI unwillingly found itself at the center of the struggle for racial equality and justice. Kenneth O'Reilly tells the shocking story of how political loyalties, priorities, and prejudices turned a government agency into an adversary, instead of a protector, of civil rights.

***A Lawyer's Journey: The Morris Dees Story*** by Morris Dees with Steve Fiffer. "By any measure, Morris Dees has been one of the most dedicated and effective civil rights lawyers in U. S. history... I highly recommend this important book to everyone who cares about making America a better place." Coretta Scott King.

### **III. Books By and About Black Men**

***Colored People: A Memoir*** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. In a coming-of-age story as enchantingly vivid and ribald as anything by Mark Twain or Zora Neale Hurston, Gates recounts his childhood in the mill town of Piedmont, West Virginia, in the 1950s and 1960s and ushers readers into a now-vanished "colored" world of hellfire religion and licentious gossip, of lye-and-mashed-potato "processes", and of slyly stubborn resistance to the indignities of segregation. Here are the funerals where his mother's inspired eulogies "turned the mean and evil into saints and angels," and the barber shop where Nicomus Carroll taught sex education with a library of dirty magazines. Here is a time and place in which the sight of a black face on television was rare enough to prompt cries of "Colored, colored on Channel Two!"

***What Truth Sounds Like: Robert F. Kennedy, James Baldwin, and Our Unfinished Conversation About Race in America*** by Michael Eric Dyson. Joy-Ann Reid: A work of searing prose and seminal brilliance... Dyson takes that once in a lifetime conversation between black excellence and pain and the white heroic narrative, and drives it right into the heart of our current politics and culture, leaving the reader reeling and reckoning." In 1963 Attorney General Robert Kennedy sought out James Baldwin to explain the rage that threatened to engulf black America. Baldwin brought along some friends, including playwright Lorraine Hansberry, psychologist Kenneth Clark, and a valiant activist, Jerome Smith. It was Smith's relentless, unfiltered fury that set Kennedy on his heels, reducing him to sullen silence. Kennedy walked away from the nearly three-hour meeting angry – that the black folk assembled didn't understand politics, and that they weren't as easy to talk to as Martin Luther King. But especially that they were more interested in witness than policy. But Kennedy's anger quickly gave way to empathy, especially for Smith. "I guess if I were in his shoes... I might feel differently about this country." Kennedy set about changing policy – the meeting having transformed his thinking in fundamental ways. *What Truth Sounds Like* exists at the tense intersection of the conflict between politics and prophecy – of whether we embrace political resolution or moral redemption to fix our fractured racial landscape. The future of race and democracy hang in the balance.

***Murder in Memphis: The FBI and the Assassination of Martin Luther King*** by Mark Lane and Dick Gregory. Bestselling author Mark Lane, the first to question the investigation into the murder of President John F. Kennedy, and activist and author Dick Gregory combine their unique perspectives in a look at the assassination of Martin Luther King. James Earl Ray's guilty plea allowed the government to sidestep a trial, and yet his hearing, conducted without any challenge by a defense attorney, raised many questions. In *Murder in Memphis*, Lane and Gregory examine these questions and more: Dr. King's police protection was removed on the day of the assassination. Why? And by whom? Why was the same FBI squad that J. Edgar Hoover directed to destroy Dr. King responsible for the investigation into the murder? How and why was the most reliable witness prevented from testifying in court?

Through exclusive documents and interviews with former FBI agents, security guards, eyewitnesses and James Earl Ray himself, Lane and Gregory present the case to the American people, so they can decide for themselves.

***Nigger*** by Dick Gregory.

*“Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I understand there are a good many Southerners in the room tonight. I know the South very well. I spent twenty years there one night...”*

*“Last time I was down South I walked into this restaurant, and this white waitress came up to me and said: ‘We don’t serve colored people here.’ ‘I said: ‘That’s all right, I don’t eat colored people. Bring me a whole fried chicken.’*

*“About that time these three cousins come in, you know the ones I mean, Klu, Kluck, and Klan, and they say: ‘Boy, we’re givin’ you fair warnin’. Anything you do to that chicken, we’re gonna do to you.’ About then the waitress brought me my chicken. ‘Remember, boy, anything you do to that chicken, we’re gonna do to you.’ So I put down my knife and fork, and I picked up that chicken, and I kissed it.”* “Powerful and ugly and beautiful... a moving story of a man who deeply wants a world without malice and hate and is doing something about it.” —*The New York Times*

***Defining Moments in Black History: Reading Between the Lies*** by Dick Gregory. With his trademark acerbic wit, incisive humor, and infectious paranoia, one of our foremost comedians and most politically engaged civil rights activists looks back at 100 key events from the complicated history of black America. A friend of luminaries including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Medgar Evers, and the forebear of today’s popular black comics, including Larry Wilmore, W. Kamau Bell, Damon Young, and Trevor Noah, Dick Gregory was a provocative and incisive cultural force for more than fifty years. As an entertainer, he always kept it indisputably real about race issues in America, fearlessly lacing laughter with hard truths. As a leading activist against injustice, he marched at Selma during the Civil Rights movement, organized student rallies to protest the Vietnam War; sat in at rallies for Native American and feminist rights; fought apartheid in South Africa; and participated in hunger strikes in support of Black Lives Matter. In this collection of thoughtful, provocative essays, Gregory charts the complex and often obscured history of the African American experience. In his unapologetically candid voice, he moves from African ancestry and surviving the Middle Passage to the creation of the Jheri Curl, the enjoyment of bacon and everything pig, the headline-making shootings of black men, and the Black Lives Matter movement. A captivating journey through time, *Defining Moments in Black History* explores historical movements such as The Great Migration and the Harlem Renaissance, as well as cultural touchstones such as Sidney Poitier winning the Best Actor Oscar for *Lilies in the Field* and Billie Holiday releasing *Strange Fruit*. An engaging look at black life that offers insightful commentary on the intricate history of the African American people, *Defining Moments in Black History* is an essential, no-holds-bar history lesson that will provoke, enlighten, and entertain.

***Blood at the Root: A Racial Cleansing in America*** by Patrick Phillips. Forsyth County, Georgia, at the turn of the twentieth century, was home to a large African American community that included ministers and teachers, farmers and field hands, tradesmen, servants, and children. But then in September of 1912, three young black laborers were accused of raping and murdering a white girl. One man was dragged from a jail cell and lynched on the town square, two teenagers were hung after a one-day trial, and soon bands of white “night riders” launched a coordinated campaign of arson and terror, driving all 1,098 black citizens out of the county. The charred ruins of homes and churches disappeared into the weeds, until the people and places of black Forsyth were forgotten. National Book Award finalist Patrick Phillips tells Forsyth’s tragic story in vivid detail and traces its long history of racial violence all the way back to antebellum Georgia. Recalling his own childhood in the 1970s and ’80s, Phillips sheds

light on the communal crimes of his hometown and the violent means by which locals kept Forsyth “all white” well into the 1990s. In precise, vivid prose, *Blood at the Root* delivers a “vital investigation of Forsyth’s history, and of the process by which racial injustice is perpetuated in America.” Congressman John Lewis.

***Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*** by Eddie S. Glaude Jr. America’s great promise of equality has always rung hollow in the ears of African Americans. But today the situation has grown even more dire. From the murders of black youth by the police, to the dismantling of the Voting Rights Act, to the disaster visited upon poor and middle-class black families by the Great Recession, it is clear that black America faces an emergency—at the very moment the election of the first black president prompted many to believe we’ve solved America’s race problem. *Democracy in Black* is Eddie S. Glaude Jr.’s impassioned response. Part manifesto, part history, part memoir, it argues that we live in a country founded on a “value gap”—with white lives valued more than others—that still distorts our politics today. Whether discussing why all Americans have racial habits that reinforce inequality, why black politics based on the civil-rights era have reached a dead end, or why only remaking democracy from the ground up can bring real change, Glaude crystallizes the untenable position of black America—and offers thoughts on a better way forward. Forceful in ideas and unsettling in its candor, *Democracy In Black* is a landmark book on race in America.

***The Third Reconstruction: How A Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*** by The Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. In this memoir of a transformative coalition for social justice, Rev. Barber offers a trenchant analysis of race-based inequality and a hopeful message at a time when divide-and-conquer politics are exacerbating racial strife and economic injustice. “Rev. William Barber and his allies are at the forefront of a new movement for justice that our nation’s children and families desperately need. This book presents a blueprint for moving forward together.” Marian Wright Edelman

***Solitary: Unbroken by four decades in solitary confinement. My story of transformation and hope.*** by Albert Woodfox. *Solitary* is the unforgettable life story of a man who served more than four decades in solitary confinement—in a 6-foot by 9-foot cell, 23 hours a day, in notorious Angola prison in Louisiana—all for a crime he did not commit. That Albert Woodfox survived was, in itself, a feat of extraordinary endurance against the violence and deprivation he faced daily. That he was able to emerge whole from his odyssey within America’s prison and judicial systems is a triumph of the human spirit, and makes his book a clarion call to reform the inhumanity of solitary confinement in the U.S. and around the world. Arrested often as a teenager in New Orleans, inspired behind bars in his early twenties to join the Black Panther Party because of its social commitment and code of living, Albert was serving a 50-year sentence in Angola for armed robbery when on April 17, 1972, a white guard was killed. Albert and another member of the Panthers were accused of the crime and immediately put in solitary confinement by the warden. Without a shred of actual evidence against them, their trial was a sham of justice that gave them life sentences in solitary. Decades passed before Albert gained a lawyer of consequence; even so, sixteen more years and multiple appeals were needed before he was finally released in February 2016.

Remarkably self-aware that anger or bitterness would have destroyed him in solitary confinement, sustained by the shared solidarity of two fellow Panthers, Albert turned his anger into activism and resistance. The Angola 3, as they became known, resolved never to be broken by the grinding inhumanity and corruption that effectively held them for decades as political prisoners. He survived to give us *Solitary*, a chronicle of rare power and humanity that proves the better spirits of our nature can thrive against any odds.

#### **IV. Books By and About Black Women**

***I Love Myself When I Am Laughing...And Then Again When I Am Looking Mean And Impressive: A Zora Neale Hurston Reader*** edited by Alice Walker. Outstanding novelist, journalist, folklorist, and critic, Zora Neale Hurston was, between 1920 and 1950, the most prolific black woman writer in America. The intellectual and spiritual foremother of generations of black women writers, Hurston believed in the beauty of black expressions and traditions and in the psychological wholeness of black life. This book, the first anthology of Hurston's work ever published, contains fourteen remarkable sections chosen for their literary quality and historical significance.

***Civil Wars*** by June Jordan. Blending personal vision with political analysis, renowned black writer Jordan deals with the most important issues of our day: power, love, violence and creativity. In this outspoken collection of essays, she emerges as a compelling voice for change.

***Pauli Murray: The Autobiography of a Black Activist, Feminist, Lawyer, Priest and Poet*** Raised in Durham, North Carolina, Pauli Murray was the granddaughter of a slave and the great granddaughter of a slave owner. She identified strongly with her grandfather, whose faith in education and role as a freedom fighter during the Civil War inspired her own civil rights activities. As early as 1943, while a law student at Howard University (the only female in her class), she helped organize the first non-violent sit-in demonstrations that successfully desegregated two Washington, D.C. restaurants. As a lawyer, teacher, poet, feminist and Episcopalian minister, Murray dedicated her life to the struggle against injustice in American society. Eloquent, dramatic, rich in historical detail, this book heralds the rediscovery of a truly remarkable woman, of a life dedicated to the battle against social injustice. Murray's memoir constitutes a vital chapter in American history.

***\*\*When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*** by Paula Giddings. Drawing on speeches, diaries, letters and other original sources, Paula Giddings movingly describes how Black women transcended the double discrimination of sexism and racism, from the landing of the first slaves in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Giddings gives a fascinating account of the important Black women's club movement, and details the deep and painful conflicts with white feminists and Black male political leaders. Here too are unforgettable portraits of superb Black women such as the anti-lynching journalist Ida B. Wells, the Roosevelt era Black braintruster Mary McLeod Bethune, and "Mississippi's angriest woman", Fannie Lou Hamer.

***Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster*** by Stephen L. Carter. She was black and a woman and a prosecutor, a graduate of Smith College and the granddaughter of slaves, as dazzlingly unlikely a combination as one could imagine in New York of the 1930s. Without the strategy she devised, Lucky Luciano, the most powerful Mafia boss in history, would never have been convicted. When special prosecutor Thomas E. Dewey selected twenty lawyers to help him clean up the city's underworld, she was the only member of his team who was not a white male. Eunice Hunton Carter, Stephen Carter's grandmother, was raised in a world of stultifying expectations about race and gender, yet by the 1940s, her professional and political successes had made her one of the most famous black women in America. But her triumphs were shadowed by prejudice and tragedy. Greatly complicating her rise was her difficult relationship with her younger brother, Alphaeus, an avowed Communist who, together with his friend Dashiell Hammett would go to prison during the McCarthy era. Yet she remained unbowed. Moving, haunting, and as fast-paced as a novel, *Invisible* tells the true story of a woman who often found her path blocked

by the social and political expectations of her time. But Eunice Carter never accepted defeat, and thanks to her grandson's remarkable book, her long forgotten story is once again visible.

***Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First Hundred Years*** by Sarah and A. Elizabeth Delaney with Amy Hill Hearth. Sadie and Bessie Delaney recall growing up with eight other siblings in turn-of-the-century North Carolina: their father was born in slavery, yet became the nation's first elected black Episcopal bishop; their mother could have "passed" for white but chose not to. With irrepressible pluck, the sisters confronted the first days of Jim Crow and legal segregation, and took part in the World War I-era migration North, rising to professional prominence during the heyday of Harlem. Along the way, they met such legendary figures as black leaders Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois, and entertainers Cab Calloway and Lena Horne. Both sisters favored careers over marriage, despite many opportunities. Later, they settled in the still partly-rural Bronx, then integrated a suburban neighborhood in the 1950's.

***The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations*** by Toni Morrison. This collection is brimming with all the elegance of mind and style, the literary prowess and moral compass that are Toni Morrison's inimitable hallmark. 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. And here too is piercing commentary on her own work (including *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Tar Baby*, *Jazz*, *Beloved*, and *Paradise*) and that of others, among them, painter and collagist Romare Bearden, author Toni Cade Bambara, and theater director Peter Sellars. In all, *The Source of Self-Regard* is a luminous and essential addition to Toni Morrison's oeuvre.

***Assata: An Autobiography*** by Assata Shakur. On May 2, 1973, Black Panther Assata Shakur lay in a hospital, close to death, handcuffed to her bed, while local, state and federal police tried to question her about the shootout on the N.J. Turnpike in which a white state trooper died. Long a target of J. Edgar Hoover's campaign to defame, infiltrate, and criminalize Black Nationalist organizations and their leaders, Shakur was incarcerated for *four* years before her conviction on flimsy evidence in 1977 as an accomplice to murder. This intensely personal and political autobiography reveals a sensitive, gifted young woman [with] a passion for life and justice. With wit and candor, Shakur recounts the formative experiences that led her to embrace a life of activism. With pained awareness, she portrays the strengths, weaknesses, and eventual demise of Black and white revolutionary groups at the hands of government officials. Two years after her conviction, Assata Shakur escaped from prison. She was given political asylum in Cuba, where she now resides.

***Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around: Forty Years of Movement Building with Barbara Smith*** by Alethia Jones and Virginia Eubanks, editors with Barbara Smith. As an organizer, writer, publisher, scholar-activist, and elected official, Barbara Smith has played key roles in multiple social justice movements, including Civil Rights, feminism, lesbian and gay liberation, anti-racism, and Black feminism. Her four decades of grassroots activism forged collaborations that introduced the idea that oppression must be fought on a variety of fronts simultaneously, including gender, race, class, and sexuality. By combining hard-to-find historical documents with new unpublished interviews with fellow activists, this book uncovers the deep roots of today's "identity politics" and "intersectionality" and serves as an essential primer for practicing solidarity and resistance.

***Well-Read Black Girl: Finding Our Stories, Discovering Ourselves*** Edited by Gloria Edim. In this timely anthology, Gloria Edim brings together original essays by some of our best black women writers to shine a light on how important it is that we all—regardless of gender, race, religion, or ability—have the opportunity to find ourselves in literature. The subjects of each essay remind us why we turn to books in times of both struggle and relaxation. As she has done with her book club-turned-online community Well-Read Black Girl, in this anthology Gloria Edim has created a space in which black women’s writing and knowledge and life experiences are lifted up, to be shared with all readers who value the power of a story to help us understand the world and ourselves. Contributors include Jesmyn Ward (*Sing, Unburied, Sing*), Lynn Nottage (*Sweat*), Jacqueline Woodson (*Another Brooklyn*), Gabourey Sidibe (*This Is Just My Face*), Morgan Jerkins (*This Will Be My Undoing*), Tayari Jones (*An American Marriage*), Rebecca Walker (*Black, White and Jewish*), and Barbara Smith (*Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*)

***Freedom Is A Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*** by Angela Davis. In these newly collected essays, interviews, and speeches, world renowned activist and scholar Angela Y. Davis illuminates the connections between struggles against state violence and oppression throughout history and around the world. . . . Facing a world of outrageous injustice, Davis challenges us to imagine and build the movement for human liberation. And in doing so, she reminds us that “freedom is a constant struggle.”

\****The Hate U Give*** by Angie Thomas. Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil’s name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

***Black Is the Body: Stories from My Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine*** by Emily Bernard. An extraordinary, exquisitely written memoir (of sorts) that looks at race--in a fearless, penetrating, honest, true way--in twelve telltale, connected, deeply personal essays that explore, up-close, the complexities and paradoxes, the haunting memories and ambushing realities of growing up black in the South with a family name inherited from a white man, of getting a PhD from Yale, of marrying a white man from the North, of adopting two babies from Ethiopia, of teaching at a white college and living in America's New England today.

## **V. Black Feminism**

***Women, Race & Class*** by Angela Y. Davis. In exploring the deep ideological connections between racism, class bias and the male supremacy so dominant in the economics of the period [1970s-1980s], Davis raises questions rarely touched upon in the history of slavery or of feminism. The role of women laboreres (slave and white) in feminist militancy, for example is generally neglected, as is the relationship between white and Black women vis-à-vis abolitionism and suffrage. Nor is much attention paid to the definitive role of Black men in women’s rights issues, or the class bias that informed the literacy requirement for suffrage. No discourse in labor, feminism, racism or American political history will be complete without reference to *Women, Race & Class*.

***How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective*** Edited by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor. The Combahee River Collective, a group of radical black feminists, was one of the most important organizations to develop out of the anti-racist and women's liberation movements of the 1960s and 70s. In this collection, founding members of the organization and contemporary activists reflect on the legacy of its contributions to black feminism and its impact on today's struggles.

***\*The Truth That Never Hurts: Writings on Race, Gender and Freedom*** by Barbara Smith. Collected writings of Smith, a prominent black lesbian feminist activist, writer, educator and co-founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press with author and poet, Audre Lorde. Smith's cogently written essays provide a universal message about struggle, resistance, and freedom, grounded within a black lesbian feminist critique of America's culture and politics. These essays represent a cross-section of Smith's work over the past twenty years and the first book dedicated exclusively to her own writing. Focusing race, feminism, and the politics of sexuality, Smith provides an alternative lens to view the world by making connections between systems of oppression and offering suggestions for social change.

***This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*** Edited by Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa. This anthology intends to reflect an uncompromised definition of feminism by women of color in the U.S. It contains prose, poetry, personal narrative and analysis by black, Asian American, Latina and Native American women.

***Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*** by bell hooks. A classic work of feminist scholarship, *Ain't I a Woman* has become a must-read for all those interested in the nature of black womanhood. Examining the impact of sexism on black women during slavery, the devaluation of black womanhood, black male sexism, racism among feminists, and the black woman's involvement with feminism, hooks attempts to move us beyond racist and sexist assumptions. The result is nothing short of groundbreaking, giving this book a critical place on every feminist scholar's bookshelf."

***Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches by Audre Lorde*** Presenting the essential writings of black lesbian feminist poet and author, speaker, and activist Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider* celebrates an influential voice in 20<sup>th</sup> century literature. In this charged collection of fifteen essays and speeches, Lorde takes on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia and class, and propounds social difference as a vehicle for action and change. Her prose is incisive, unflinching and lyrical, reflecting struggle but ultimately offering messages of hope.

***\*\*Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday*** by Angela Y. Davis. From one of this country's most important intellectuals comes a brilliant analysis of the blues tradition that examines the careers of three crucial black women blues singers through a feminist lens. Angela Davis provides the historical, social, and political contexts with which to reinterpret the performances and lyrics of Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday as powerful articulations of an alternative consciousness profoundly at odds with mainstream American culture. The works of Rainey, Smith, and Holiday have been largely misunderstood by critics. Overlooked, Davis shows, has been the way their candor and bravado laid the groundwork for an aesthetic that allowed for the celebration of social, moral, and sexual values outside the constraints imposed by middle-class respectability. Through meticulous transcriptions of all the extant lyrics of Rainey and Smith—published here in their entirety for the first time—Davis demonstrates how the roots of the blues extend beyond a musical tradition to serve as a consciousness-raising vehicle for American social memory.

***Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*** Edited by Barbara Smith. Chock full of poems, stories, reviews and statements, this collection speaks from the life experiences of 34 black women from among the millions of “black women who have rejected doormat status, whether racially or sexually imposed, for centuries.” “Home Girls. The girls from the neighborhood and the block, the girls we grew up with.” – Smith

***Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought*** Edited by Beverly Guy-Sheftal. The first major anthology to trace the development, from the early 1800s to the present, of black feminist thought in the United States, *Words of Fire* is Beverly Guy-Sheftal’s comprehensive collection of writings, in the feminist tradition, of more than sixty African American women. From the pioneering work of abolitionist Maria Miller Stewart and anti-lynching crusader Ida Wells-Barnett to the writings of contemporary feminist critics Michele Wallace and bell hooks, black women have been writing about the multiple jeopardies—racism, sexism, and classism—that have made it imperative for them to forge a brand of feminism uniquely their own. List of Contributors: Margaret Walker Alexander Sadie Tanner Mosell Alexander Frances Beale Shirley Chisholm Cheryl Clarke Pearl Cleage Johnnetta B. Cole Patricia Hill Collins The Combahee River Collective Anna Julia Cooper Angela Davis Alice Dunbar-Nelson Julia A.J. Foote Amy Jacques Garvey Paula Giddings Jacquelyn Grant Patricia Haden Evelyn Hammonds Lorraine Hansberry Frances Ellen Watkins Harper Elizabeth Higginbotham Darlene Clark Hine bell hooks Claudia Jones June Jordan Gloria Joseph Florynce “Flo” Kennedy Deborah K. King Linda La Rue Audre Lorde Tracye Matthews Elise Johnson McDougald Donna Middleton Gertrude Bustill Mossell Pauli Murray Barbara Omolade Barbara Ransby Beth E. Richie Patricia Robinson Barbara Smith Maria Miller Stewart Ula Taylor Mary Church Terrell Pauline Terrelonge Sojourner Truth Alice Walker Michele Wallace Mary Ann Weathers Ida Wells-Barnett E. Frances White Margaret Wilkerson

***Talking Back: thinking feminist – thinking black*** by bell hooks. When it comes to bigotry, there is no mincing words: bell hooks talks back. [Her] voice is as strong and uncompromising as ever, but it is more personal. She writes about the meaning of feminist consciousness in daily life and about self-recovery, about overcoming white- and male-supremacy, and about intimate relationships, exploring the point where the public and private meet. “Domination is not just a subject for discourse and books,” she concludes, “It is about pain. Even before the words, we remember the pain.”

***Racism in the Lives of Women: Testimony, Theory, and Guides to Antiracist Practice*** Edited by Jeanne Adleman and Gloria Enguidanos. “An important and vital compilation of psychology on the cross-cultural oppression of women. It offers ways of doing theory from non-Western cultural perspectives... The women in this book challenge us to become culturally competent. This is just the book that we in the antiracism movement need – a compelling tool for validation and empowerment.” Gloria E. Anzaldúa

***Are Prisons Obsolete?*** By Angela Davis. “In this brilliant, thoroughly researched book, Angela Davis swings a wrecking ball into the racist and sexist underpinnings of the American prison system. Her arguments are well wrought and restrained, leveling an unflinching critique of how and why more than two million Americans are presently behind bars, and the corporations who profit from their suffering. Davis explores the biases that criminalize communities of color, politically disenfranchising huge chunks of minority voters in the process, Uncompromising in her vision, Davis calls for not only prison reform, but for nothing short of ‘new terrains of justice.’ [Davis is] one of America’s last truly fearless public intellectuals.” Former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney.

***Theorizing Black Feminisms: The Visionary Pragmatism of Black Women*** by Abena P.A. Busia. *Theorizing Black Feminisms* outlines some of the crucial debates going on within contemporary Black Feminist activity. In so doing it brings together a collection of some of the most exciting work by Black women scholars around. It presents essays across a range of subjects; literature, sociology, history, political science, anthropology, and art, amongst others. And it refuses to be limited by notions of disciplinary boundaries or divisions between theory and practice. Most importantly all the essays celebrate Black women's agency and their pragmatic activism.

***Critical Race Feminism: A Reader*** Edited by Adrien Katharine Wing. In 1991, when Anita Hill was propelled into the national spotlight, the general public did not know what to make of her. confronted with a black woman who was neither mammy, welfare queen, athlete or sex siren, politicians and the public alike struggled to place Hill. With no cultural precedent for understanding the worldview of a black female intellectual, Hill was ultimately forced into a preconceived box, portrayed as a jilted lover whose accusations of harassment were rooted in a quest for revenge. A few years later, Lani Guinier suffered a similar fate, portrayed as a quota queen, her work twisted beyond recognition. With this book, Hill, Guinier, Regina Austin, Patricia Williams and over three dozen other women seek to ensure that their perspectives on race, power, law and politics in America will not again be so easily distorted or ignored.

***Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower*** by Brittney Cooper. 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. *Eloquent rage* keeps us all honest and accountable. It reminds women that they don't have to settle for less. When Cooper learned of her grandmother's eloquent rage about love, sex, and marriage in an epic and hilarious front-porch confrontation, her life was changed. And it took another intervention, this time staged by one of her homegirls, to turn Brittney into the fierce feminist she is today. In Brittney Cooper's world, neither mean girls nor fuckboys ever win. But homegirls emerge as heroes. This book argues that ultimately feminism, friendship, and faith in one's own superpowers are all we really need to turn things right side up again. Michael Eric Dyson: "Cooper may be the boldest young feminist writing today...and she will make you laugh out loud."

## **VI. On Being White with Privilege/Supremacy/Racism**

***\*\*Birth of a White Nation: The Invention of White People and Its Relevance Today*** by Jacqueline Battalora. The author begins with an exploration of the moment in time when "white people" as a separate, distinct group of humanity was invented and imposed through the enactment of laws which institutionalized the practice of "white men" holding all positions of power. The book demonstrates how the social construction and legal enactment of "white people" has ultimately compromised the humanity of those so labeled.

***Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*** by Debby Irving. "Brave... A jolting and continuing journey from white oblivion to white awareness described in an honest way that may inspire others to do such transformational work on themselves... Empathetic." - Peggy McIntosh

***\*White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*** by Tim Wise. This is a personal examination of the way in which racial privilege shapes the daily lives of white Americans in every

realm: employment, education, housing, criminal justice, and elsewhere. Wise discusses the ways in which racial privilege can harm whites in the long run and make progressive social change less likely.

***White Privilege: essential readings on the other side of racism (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*** Edited by Paula S. Rothenberg. Paula Rothenberg has collected the classic core writings on white privilege and created a highly accessible, interdisciplinary resource meant to encourage deep discussions about race and prejudice in today's world and to spark new thinking.

***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*** by Robin DiAngelo. "A vital, necessary, and beautiful book, a bracing call to white folk everywhere to see their whiteness for what it is and to seize the opportunity to make things better now." Michael Eric Dyson  
"As a woman of color, I find hope in this book because of its potential to disrupt the patterns and relationships that have emerged out of long-standing colonial principles and beliefs. *White Fragility* is an essential tool toward authentic dialogue and action. May it be so!" Shakti Butler, president of World Trust and director of *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*

***The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism, and White Privilege*** by Robert Jensen. "Very few white writers have been able to point out the pathological nature of white privilege and supremacy with the eloquence of Robert Jensen. In *The Heart of Whiteness*, Jensen demonstrates not only immense wisdom on the issue of race, but does so in the kind of direct and accessible fashion that separates him from virtually any other academic scholar or journalist writing on these subjects today." Tim Wise

***The Cost of Privilege: Taking On the System of White Supremacy and Racism*** by Chip Smith. *The Cost of Privilege* takes readers from the creation of the white race over three centuries ago to the present-day myth of a colorblind society; from the intersections of class, gender, and race to the concrete benefits—and harsh underside—of the privileges white people experience every day; from the victories when people allied across the color line to the failures of some of those alliances to hold; from personal transformations to international struggles. "Chip Smith has given us a powerful weapon for the battle against white supremacy. It combines an in-depth look at the long history of this profoundly rooted plague with an enlightening, up-do-date review of the many efforts to end it. We have here much more than a brilliant analysis of past and present, the author dares to outline a bold program of revolutionary action that lays out both the challenges to be faced and how to confront them. Who could ask for more?" —Elizabeth (Betita) Martinez, Chicana author, activist and director of the Institute for MultiRacial Justice

**\*\**White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*** by Carol Anderson. From the end of the Civil War to our combustible present, an acclaimed historian reframes the conversation about race we must continue to have, chronicling the powerful forces that have long opposed black progress in America. This book contains important history that was never taught in schools.

**\**Disrupting White Supremacy from Within: White People On What WE Need To Do*** Edited by Jennifer Harvey, Karin A. Case and Robin Hawley Gorsline, all ministers. "One of the spiritual gifts to America of this collaborative book is hope for a better future where all members of the one, human race can enjoy each other." Adapted from Dwight N. Hopkins" foreword.

***Understanding White Privilege: Creating Pathways to Authentic Relationships Across Race (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*** by Frances E. Kendall. Knowingly and unknowingly we all grapple with race every day. *Understanding White Privilege* delves into the complex interplay between race, power and privilege in both organizations and private life. It offers an unflinching look at how ignorance can perpetuate

privilege, and offers practical and thoughtful insights into how people of all races can work to break this cycle. Kendall invites readers to think personally about race – theirs and others – frames experiences and relationships, focusing squarely on white privilege and its implications for building authentic relationships across race.

***Racing across the lines: Changing Race Relations Through Friendship*** by Deborah L. Plummer. “In *Racing Across the Lines*, Plummer offers a valuable personal testament to her journeys across America’s racial divide. But more than that, she provides a thoughtful look at the importance of interracial relationships and at the possibilities they offer all of us. In this America of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, as Plummer makes clear, Americans no longer have the luxury of being racial isolationists. For those seeking for a path that leads to a brighter, more enlightened tomorrow, Plummer is a most reliable guide.” Ellis Cose

***\*Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*** by Michael Eric Dyson. In his New York Times op-ed piece “Death in Black and White”, Dyson moved a nation. This book is a provocative and deeply personal call for change: if we are to make real racial progress we must face difficult truths.

***Racism: Unraveling the Fear*** by Nathan Rutstein. This book not only exposes racism’s roots, its nature, and how it impacts on us all, it also offers a workable solution to a problem many people feel is insoluble. Rutstein is one of the founders of the Institute for the Healing of Racism.

***Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity*** by Tim Wise. “One of our best and most courageous public voices on racial inequity, Wise tackles head-on the resurgence and absurdity of post-racial liberalism in a world still largely structured by deep racial disparity and structural inequity. He shows us with passion and sharp, insightful, accessible analysis how this imagined world of post-racial framing and policy can’t take us where we want to go – it actually stymies our progress toward racial unity and equality.” Tricia Rose

***Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment Is Killing America's Heartland*** by Jonathan M. Metz. A physician reveals how right-wing backlash policies have mortal consequences -- even for the white voters they promise to help. In the era of Donald Trump, many lower- and middle-class white Americans are drawn to politicians who pledge to make their lives great again. But as *Dying of Whiteness* shows, the policies that result actually place white Americans at ever-greater risk of sickness and death. Dr. Jonathan M. Metz's quest to understand the health implications of "backlash governance" leads him across America's heartland. Interviewing a range of everyday Americans, he examines how racial resentment has fueled pro-gun laws in Missouri, resistance to the Affordable Care Act in Tennessee, and cuts to schools and social services in Kansas. And he shows these policies' costs: increasing deaths by gun suicide, falling life expectancies, and rising dropout rates. White Americans, Metz argues, must reject the racial hierarchies that promise to aid them but in fact lead our nation to demise.

***\*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*** by Bryan Stevenson. Lawyer and Founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned, and those trapped in our criminal justice system, Stevenson writes about his real experiences, which transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

***\*The Everyday Language of White Racism*** by Jane H. Hill. Hill reveals that white racism is a pervasive and highly adaptive cultural system, one that has endured in various forms for hundreds of years. Her incisive analysis of everyday talk and text shows how language that purports to be anti-racist is framed almost entirely by a folk theory of racism, one that continues to contain overt and covert

racist discourses, slurs and epithets. Hill provides a fresh analysis of the relationship between language, race, and culture.

***Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts Its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History*** by Thomas DeWolfe. In 2001, DeWolfe discovered that he was related to the most successful slave-trading family in U.S. history, responsible for transporting at least ten thousand Africans. This is his memoir of the journey in which ten family members retraced their ancestors' steps through the notorious triangle trade route—from New England to West Africa to Cuba—and uncovered the hidden history of New England and the other northern states.

***Silent Racism: How Well-Meaning White People Perpetuate the Racial Divide*** by Barbara Trepagnier. Vivid and engaging, *Silent Racism* persuasively demonstrates that silent racism – racism by people who classify themselves as “not racist” – is instrumental in the production [and perpetuation] of institutional racism. Trepagnier argues that heightened race awareness is more important in challenging racial inequality than judging whether individuals are racist. She uses vivid focus group interviews to argue that the oppositional categories of racist/not racist are outdated. A shift to a continuum model that more accurately portrays today’s racial reality in the U. S. can raise the race awareness of well-meaning white people and improve race relations.

***Say the Wrong Thing: Stories and Strategies for Racial Justice and Authentic Community*** by Amanda Kemp. “Thank you for these vulnerable, powerful posts you’ve been sharing. I’m moved by your level of honesty. It makes me think a lot about how intertwined the individual and collective journey of brokenness and healing are.” Frances Miller, Restorative Justice Activist.

***Footprints on the Land: American Stories About Race*** Compiled by Helen H. Helfer. This book brings together the first-person accounts of 52 contemporary Americans who speak about their experiences with race and racism in the United States. The storytellers are Black, White, Native American, Filipino, Chinese and Latino, and range in age from nineteen to eighty-two.

## **VII. Children’s Books**

***Dear Little Black Girl...You Are Beautiful: For parents & little black girls to know they are smart, important, beautiful and worth something in this world*** by Miss Trish. *Little Black Girl, You are Beautiful*. It is important that we start our children from young. They need to write, they need to express themselves, and most importantly, they need to love themselves. This 14 day workbook is designed for the parents that are looking to instill that extra confidence in their little black queens. This book allows our little girls to embrace who they are, reassure them that they are beautiful, and look towards the positivity of their future. Parents, we suggest you get on this book with your child, to help her write in the book. This book also promotes leadership, self worth, and love within the immediate family.

***The Joys of Being a Little Black Boy*** by Valerie M. Reynolds. *The Joys of Being a Little Black Boy* is a vividly illustrated, history-based children s book that brings to life Roy, a joyful Black boy. Roy will take your sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, or class on a biopic journey of joy with some of the world s most notable Black men who, lest we forget were all at one time young Black boys.

***Brown Girl Dreaming*** by Jacqueline Woodson. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

***Look What Brown Can Do*** by T. Marie Harris. "A must have for every Brown child who's still dreaming about what to be when s/he grows up!" Foster your little one's imagination and encourage them to dream big with this modern Black History book created to inspire brown children everywhere. Best suited for early readers, though younger children will adore the illustrations and inspirational message found in "Look What Brown Can Do!" This book is a perfect conversational tool for parents, teachers, caretakers, and anyone looking to help lovely Brown children understand the greatness that can be achieved in every shade of Brown. No matter the child's interest's, be it painting, dancing, science, music, writing, athletics ... "Look What Brown Can Do!" captures an array of accomplishments from yesterday's and today's Black heroes.

***I Am Enough*** by Grace Byers. This is a gorgeous, lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another—from *Empire* actor and activist Grace Byers and talented newcomer artist Keturah A. Bobo.

***The Day You Begin*** by Jacqueline Woodson. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art remind us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes - and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

***Harriet Tubman and the Fight Against Slavery*** by Bree Burns. Born into slavery in Maryland around 1820, Harriet Tubman knew firsthand its cruelties. But she soon developed a reputation for defiance and rebellion. When she was only 15, she refused to help an overseer whip a runaway slave. Fourteen years later, Harriet fled north to Philadelphia on the Underground Railroad. Once, she was free, however, Harriet continued to make the dangerous journey to the South in order to guide other slaves to freedom. In her lifetime she made more than 19 trips to the South, helping more than 300 slaves escape. During the Civil War she continued her brave work by serving as a nurse and a spy for the Union army. Although the government never officially rewarded Harriet Tubman for her tireless service, she became a popular hero. Her admirers called her Moses as a sign of respect for her courage in leading others to freedom.

***Sojourner Truth: Crusader for Civil Rights*** by Norman L. Macht. Sojourner Truth was a leader in the fight against slavery in America. Born a slave in about 1797, she labored in the fields of New York landowners until she was finally freed in 1827. Truth was guided by her religious faith, and at the age of 46, she set out on behalf of women's rights. Although she had no formal education, she became famous for her wise, spellbinding speeches. During the Civil War, Truth nursed wounded Union soldiers and helped former slaves adjust to freedom. She continued to champion the civil rights cause until her death in 1883. Respected by such influential figures as Frederick Douglass and Abraham

Lincoln, Sojourner Truth was one of the most important women activists of her time, and remains an inspiration to all those who dedicate their life to furthering racial and sexual equality.

***Zeely*** by Virginia Hamilton. “Virginia Hamilton has something important to say about identity – and a good story to tell in the bargain. It gently encourages white 9-12’s to walk in the shoes of a colored child for the space of one short summer on a farm, or the length of this short book.” Christian Science Monitor

***Fannie Lou Hamer: From Sharecropping to Politics*** by David Rubel with an introduction by Andrew Young. Poor and uneducated, the 20<sup>th</sup> child of sharecropper parents, Fannie Lou Hamer was 45 when civil rights workers came to her small Mississippi town in 1962. She knew that any African American who tried to register to vote was in for trouble. But she was among the first to volunteer – and spent the remaining 15 years of her life as a civil rights activist. This extraordinary “ordinary” woman spoke for thousands of African Americans when she explained her activism by saying “I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired!”

***Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History*** by Vashti Harrison. An important book for all ages, *Little Leaders* educates and inspires as it relates true stories of forty trailblazing black women in American history. Illuminating text paired with irresistible illustrations bring to life both iconic and lesser-known female figures of Black history. Among these biographies, readers will find heroes, role models, and everyday women who did extraordinary things - bold women whose actions and beliefs contributed to making the world better for generations of girls and women to come. Whether they were putting pen to paper, soaring through the air or speaking up for the rights of others, the women profiled in these pages were all taking a stand against a world that didn't always accept them.

## **VIII. Teens and Young Adults**

***A Young People's History of the United States: Columbus to the War on Terror*** by Howard Zinn, adapted by Rebecca Stefoff. This book brings to US history the viewpoints of workers, slaves, immigrants, women, Native Americans, and others whose stories, and their impact, are rarely included in books for young people. *A Young People's History of the United States* is also a companion volume to *The People Speak*, the film. Beginning with a look at Christopher Columbus’s arrival through the eyes of the Arawak Indians, then leading the reader through the struggles for workers’ rights, women’s rights, and civil rights during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and ending with the current protests against continued American imperialism, Zinn in the volumes of *A Young People’s History of the United States* presents a radical new way of understanding America’s history. In so doing, he reminds readers that America’s true greatness is shaped by our dissident voices, not our military generals

***Coming of Age in Mississippi: An Autobiography by Anne Moody*** “...this is an unforgettable personal story – the truth as a remarkable young woman named Anne Moody lived it. To read her book is to know what it is like to grow up black in Mississippi – and survive with pride and courage intact.” Chicago Tribune

***Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March*** by Elspeth Leacock and Susan Buckley. As the youngest marcher in the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Lynda Blackmon Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed eleven times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. In this memoir, she shows today's young readers what it means to fight nonviolently (even when the police are using violence, as in the Bloody Sunday protest) and how it felt to be part of changing American history. Straightforward and inspiring, this beautifully illustrated memoir brings readers into the middle of the Civil Rights Movement, complementing Common Core classroom learning and bringing history alive for young readers.

***Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High*** by Melba Pattillo Beals. In 1957, well before Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Melba Pattillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of Jim Crow in the American South as they integrated Little Rock's Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Throughout her harrowing ordeal, Melba was taunted by her schoolmates and their parents, threatened by a lynch mob's rope, attacked with lighted sticks of dynamite, and injured by acid sprayed in her eyes. But through it all, she acted with dignity and courage, and refused to back down. *Warriors Don't Cry* is, at times, a difficult but necessary reminder of the valuable lessons we can learn from our nation's past. It is a story of courage and the bravery of a handful of young, black students who used their voices to influence change during a turbulent time.

***This Child's Gonna Live*** by Sarah E. Wright. "A prose poem of excruciating beauty and terrible magnificence." John Oliver Killens

***Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*** by Phillip Hoose. "When it comes to justice, there is no easy way to get it. You can't sugarcoat it. You have to take a stand and say, 'This is not right.'" - Claudette Colvin. On March 2, 1955, an impassioned teenager, fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders. Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge segregation again as a key plaintiff in *Browder v. Gayle*, the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of Montgomery and swept away the legal underpinnings of the Jim Crow South. Based on extensive interviews with Claudette Colvin and many others, Phillip Hoose presents the first in-depth account of an important yet largely unknown civil rights figure, skillfully weaving her dramatic story into the fabric of the historic Montgomery bus boycott and court case that would change the course of American history.

***Rainbow Jordan*** by Alice Childress. "Nobody in the world was name that. My mother, Kathie, picked my name. They still waitin for a parent to show at school, and I damn sure won't explain how my mother *can't* show cause I don't know where she is. ... I am lonesome so regular till it's like a job I gotta report to everyday. I could stay home and take care-a myself, but fourteen is call 'minor'. So watcha gonna do?"

***A Short Walk*** by Alice Childress. When Cora James was born, everything south of 110<sup>th</sup> Street belonged to Jim Crow. And Charleston, South Carolina – her birthplace- was definitely south. Deep south. And when she grew up, everyone north of 110<sup>th</sup> in Harlem – her new home- seemed to believe in a man named Marcus Garvey. And his idea" African Nationalism. This is the story of a woman's life, her "short walk" from cradle to grave, and America's long road from 1900 to 1950.

***Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow*** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. This is a story about America during and after Reconstruction, one of history's most pivotal and misunderstood chapters. In a stirring account of emancipation, the struggle for citizenship and national reunion, and the advent of racial segregation, the renowned Harvard scholar delivers a book that is illuminating and timely. Real-life accounts drive the narrative, spanning the half century between the Civil War and *Birth of a Nation*. Here, you will come face-to-face with the people and events of Reconstruction's noble democratic experiment, its tragic undermining, and the drawing of a new "color line" in the long Jim Crow era that followed. In introducing young readers to them, and to the resiliency of the African American people at times of progress and betrayal, Professor Gates shares a history that remains vitally relevant today.

***We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide*** by Carol Anderson. When America achieves milestones of progress toward full and equal black participation in democracy, the systemic response is a consistent racist backlash that rolls back those wins. *We Are Not Yet Equal* examines five of these moments: The end of the Civil War and Reconstruction was greeted with Jim Crow laws; the promise of new opportunities in the North during the Great Migration was limited when blacks were physically blocked from moving away from the South; the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision was met with the shutting down of public schools throughout the South; the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 led to laws that disenfranchised millions of African American voters and a War on Drugs that disproportionately targeted blacks; and the election of President Obama led to an outburst of violence including the death of black teen Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri as well as the election of Donald Trump. This YA book is written in an approachable narrative style that provides teen readers with additional context to these historic moments, photographs and archival images, and additional backmatter and resources for teens.

***Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*** by James W. Loewen. A new edition of the national bestseller and American Book Award winner, with a new preface by the author. Since its first publication in 1995, *Lies My Teacher Told Me* has become one of the most important—and successful—history books of our time. Having sold nearly two million copies, the book also won an American Book Award and the Oliver Cromwell Cox Award for Distinguished Anti-Racist Scholarship and was heralded on the front page of the *New York Times*. For this new edition, Loewen has added a new preface that shows how inadequate history courses in high school help produce adult Americans who think Donald Trump can solve their problems, and calls out academic historians for abandoning the concept of truth in a misguided effort to be “objective.” What started out as a survey of the twelve leading American history textbooks has ended up being what the *San Francisco Chronicle* calls “an extremely convincing plea for truth in education.” In *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, James W. Loewen brings history alive in all its complexity and ambiguity. Beginning with pre-Columbian history and ranging over characters and events as diverse as Reconstruction, Helen Keller, the first Thanksgiving, the My Lai massacre, 9/11, and the Iraq War, Loewen offers an eye-opening critique of existing textbooks, and a wonderful retelling of American history as it should—and could—be taught to American students.

## **IX. For Parents and Educators of All Ages**

**\*\*Teaching Tolerance** A magazine and resource materials for teachers and others. From the Southern Poverty Law Center, a place that everyone needs to know about. The SPLC website contains many important resources about racial justice for educators and for everyone. You can support their work as a member, and receive their informational publications.

***Step It Down: Games, Plays, Songs & Stories from the Afro-American Heritage*** by Bessie Jones and Bess Lomax Hawes. Growing up in the rural South, Bessie Jones sang her way through long hours of field work and child tending. Weaving together lyrics, music and descriptions of these songs and games, folklorist Bess Lomax Hawe captures the joy and laughter Jones brought to her teaching as well as her individual philosophy of childhood development and education. Grounded in the values of the black community, Bessie Jones' songs taught children about cooperative interaction and mutual concern, showing them how to create fun out of nothing more than their hands, feet, voices and imaginations. From the Georgia Sea Islands, Bessie Jones' performances, recordings and educational programs earned noted awards, including a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

***All the Women Are White, All the Blacks Are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies*** Edited by Gloria T. Hull, Patricia Bell Scott and Barbara Smith, with a foreword by Alice Walker. 1982 The Feminist Press. Essential reading for all who teach women's studies. Also contains bibliographies, syllabi and visions for the future of black women's studies. "This is necessary bread for women of all colors. The essays contain not only fact and durable resources, but some of the best writing I've seen around." Adrienne Rich.

***We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom*** by Bettina L. Love. Drawing on her life's work of teaching and researching in urban schools, Bettina Love persuasively argues that educators must teach students about racial violence, oppression, and how to make sustainable change in their communities through radical civic initiatives and movements. She argues that the US educational system is maintained by and profits from the suffering of children of color. Instead of trying to repair a flawed system, educational reformers offer survival tactics in the forms of test-taking skills, acronyms, grit labs, and character education, which Love calls the educational survival complex. To dismantle the educational survival complex and to achieve educational freedom—not merely reform—teachers, parents, and community leaders must approach education with the imagination, determination, boldness, and urgency of an abolitionist. Following in the tradition of activists like Ella Baker, Bayard Rustin, and Fannie Lou Hamer, *We Want to Do More Than Survive* introduces an alternative to traditional modes of educational reform and expands our ideas of civic engagement and intersectional justice.

***Black Feminism in Education: Black Women Speak Back, Up, and Out (Black Studies and Critical Thinking)*** by Billye Sankofa Waters (Author), Bettina L. Love (Editor), Venus E. Evans-Winters (Editor). In *Black Feminism in Education: Black Women Speak Back, Up, and Out*, the author and editors use an endarkened feminist lens to share the ways in which they have learned to resist, adapt, and re-conceptualize education research, teaching, and learning in ways that serve the individual, community, nation, and all of humanity. Chapters explore and discuss the following question: *How is Black feminist thought and/or an endarkened feminist epistemology (EFE) being used in pre-K through higher education contexts and scholarship to marshal new research methodologies, frameworks, and pedagogies?* At the intersection of race, class, and gender, the book draws upon alternative research methodologies and pedagogies that are possibly transformative and healing for all involved in the research, teaching, and service experience. The volume is useful for those interested in women and gender studies, research methods, and cultural studies.

## **X. Films about Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

- At the River I Stand (59 minutes)
- Scarred Justice: The Orangeburg Massacre 1968 (58 minutes)
- Freedom Summer (116 minutes)
- The March (58 minutes)
- In Remembrance of Martin (58 minutes)
- King: A Filmed Record (82 minutes)
- King in the Wilderness (112 minutes)







