

Selected Resources for Understanding Racism

The 21st century has witnessed an explosion of efforts – in literature, art, movies, television, and other forms of communication—to explore and understand racism in all of its many forms, as well as a new appreciation of similar works from the 20th century. For those interested in updating and deepening their understanding of racism in America today, the Anti-Racism Group of Western Presbyterian Church has collaborated with the NCP MCC Race and Reconciliation Team to put together an annotated sampling of these works as a guide for individual efforts at self-development. The list is not definitive or all-inclusive. Rather, it is intended to serve as a convenient reference for those who wish to begin or continue their journey towards a greater comprehension of American racism.

February 2020

Contemporary

Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Written by a civil rights litigator, this book discusses race-related issues specific to African-American males and mass incarceration in the United States. The central premise is that "mass incarceration is, metaphorically, the New Jim Crow".

Anderson, Carol. 2017. *White Rage*. From the Civil War to our combustible present, *White Rage* reframes our continuing conversation about race, chronicling the powerful forces opposed to black progress in America.

Asch, Chris Myers and Musgrove, George Derek. 2017. *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital*. A richly researched and clearly written analysis of the history of racism in Washington, DC, from the 18th century to the present, and the efforts of people of color to claim a voice in local government decisionmaking.

Cargle, Rachel. 2019. "Calling Out Racial Injustices within Feminism." *Washington Post Magazine*, September 11, 2019. Activist Rachel Cargle is an academic, writer, and public lecturer who focuses on the intersection of race and womanhood. Among the issues she tackles are: How the conversation around race is really about power; how the realities of race cannot be intellectualized, even in an academic setting; and how race has been defined and changed over history. She also asks another series of questions for white people to consider: Whom do I talk to about race? Whom do I not talk to about race? And why?
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/magazine/wp/2019/09/11/feature/how-activist-rachel-cargle-built-a-business-by-calling-out-racial-injustices-within-feminism/>

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2015. *Between the World and Me*. This book describes how Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its

burden? Coates tries to answer these questions in a frank letter to the author's teenage son about the feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being Black in the United States.

Coates, Ti-Nehisi. "The Case for Reparations." *The Atlantic*. 14 June 2019. An extensively researched and persuasive argument for why reparations are still needed today.

Cone, James H. 2018. *Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody: The Making of a Black Theologian*. In this powerful and passionate memoir-- his final work-- Cone describes the obstacles he overcame to find his voice, to respond to the signs of the times, and to offer a voice for those-- like the parents who raised him in Bearden, Arkansas, in the era of lynching and Jim Crow-- who had no voice. Recounting lessons learned both from critics and students, and the ongoing challenge of his models King, Malcolm X, and James Baldwin, he describes his efforts to use theology as a tool in the struggle against oppression and for a better world.

Davis, Angela J. 2018. *Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution, and Imprisonment*. A comprehensive, readable analysis of the key issues of the Black Lives Matter movement, this thought-provoking and compelling anthology features essays by some of the nation's most influential and respected criminal justice experts and legal scholars.

Davis, Angela Y. 2016. *Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*. 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. Reflecting on the importance of black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism for today's struggles, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles, from the Black Freedom Movement to the South African anti-Apartheid movement. She highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from Ferguson to Palestine.

DiAngelo, Robin. 2018. *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. DiAngelo illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and "allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to 'bad people'." Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. The book also examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

Douglas, Kelly Brown. 2015.. *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*. 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. The verdict, as much as the killing, sent shock waves through the African-American community, recalling a history of similar deaths, and the long struggle for justice. On the Sunday morning following the verdict, black preachers around the country addressed the question, "Where is the justice of God? What are we to hope for?" 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.

DuGruy, Joy A. 2017. *Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing*. From the beginning of African enslavement in the Americas in the 16th century until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment and emancipation 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 one hundred more years of institutionalized subjugation through the enactment of Black Codes and Jim Crow laws, peonage, convict leasing, domestic terrorism, and lynching. Today the violations continue, and when combined with the crimes of the past, they result in yet unmeasured injury. What do repeated traumas, endured generation after generation by a people, produce? What impact have these ordeals had on African Americans today? Dr. Joy DeGruy answers these questions and more, drawing on her over thirty years of practical experience as a professional in the mental health field.

Dyson, Michael Eric. 2017. *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*. The Georgetown University scholar delivers a hard-hitting sermon on the racial divide, directed specifically to a white congregation.

Equal Justice Initiative (Bryan Stephenson). 2018. *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror*. A report of the organization's multi-year investigation into lynching in 20 American states, both southern and northern, during the period between 1877 and 1950.

Eberhardt, Jennifer L. 2019. *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*. You don't have to be racist to be biased. Unconscious bias can be at work without our realizing it, and even when we genuinely wish to treat all people equally, ingrained stereotypes can infect our visual perception, attention, memory, and behavior. This has an impact on education, employment, housing, and criminal justice. In *Biased*, with a perspective that is at once scientific, investigative, and informed by personal experience, Eberhardt offers us insights into the dilemma and a path forward.

Fox, Jerome. 2016. *Addicted to White: The Oppressed in League with the Oppressor*. How do you end oppression? Introducing a new and proven self-help strategy, Fox explains that the first step is for the oppressed to break their addiction to the values of the oppressor.

Growth Hack Books. 2019. *Workbook for How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram Kendi*. This workbook breaks down all the big ideas and pertinent facts in *How to Be an Antiracist*, so they can be easily and quickly understood. There are also Bonus puzzles and games included to make learning fun. PLEASE NOTE: This is an unofficial and independent workbook for *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi and is meant to be read as a supplement, not a replacement.

Holmes, Barbara A. 2017. *Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church*. Joy Unspeakable focuses on the aspects of the black church that point beyond particular congregational gatherings toward a mystical and communal spirituality not within the exclusive domain of any denomination. This mystical aspect of the black church is deeply implicated in the well-being of African American people but is not the focus of their intentional reflection. Moreover, its traditions are deeply ensconced within the historical memory of the wider society and can be found in Coltrane's riffs, Malcolm's exhortations, the social activism of the Black Lives Matter Movement and the presidency of Barack Hussein Obama. The research in this book--through oral histories, church records, and written accounts--details not only ways in which contemplative experience is built into African American collective worship but also the legacy of African monasticism, a history of spiritual exemplars, and unique meditative worship practices.

bell hooks. 2014. *Black Looks: Race and Representation*. In the critical essays collected in *Black Looks*, bell hooks interrogates old narratives and argues for alternative ways to look at blackness, black

subjectivity, and whiteness. Her focus is on spectatorship—in particular, the way blackness and black people are experienced in literature, music, television, and especially film—and her aim is to create a radical intervention into the way we talk about race and representation.

Irving, Debbie. 2014. *Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her—and ultimately for all of us.

Kendi, Ibram X. 2019. *How to be an Anti-Racist*. Kendi's discussion points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. Instead of working with the policies and system we have in place, he asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it.

King, Ruth. 2018. *Mindful of Race: Transforming Racism from the Inside Out*. The author proposes ways to grow our inner capacity to face racial ignorance and suffering with a wise and caring heart.

Magee, Rhonda V. 2019. *The Inner Work of Racial Justice: Healing Ourselves and Transforming Our Communities Through Mindfulness*. In a society where unconscious bias, micro-aggressions, institutionalized racism, and systemic injustices are so deeply ingrained, healing is an ongoing process. When conflict and division are everyday realities, our instincts tell us to close ranks, to find the safety of our own tribe, and to blame others. This book profoundly shows that in order to have the difficult conversations required for working toward racial justice, inner work is essential. Through the practice of embodied mindfulness—paying attention to our thoughts, feelings, and physical sensations in an open, nonjudgmental way—we increase our emotional resilience, recognize our own biases, and become less reactive when triggered.

McKesson, DeRay. 2018. *On the Other Side of Freedom: The Case for Hope*. In August 2014, activist DeRay McKesson stood as a 29-year-old with hundreds of others on the streets of Ferguson, Missouri, to push a message of justice and accountability. These protests, and others like them in cities across the country, resulted in the birth of the Black Lives Matter movement. In his first book, McKesson lays out the intellectual, pragmatic, and political framework for a new liberation movement. He dissects how deliberate oppression persists, how racial injustice strips our lives of promise, and how technology has added a new dimension to mass action and social change. He argues that our best efforts to combat injustice have been stunted by the belief that racism's wounds are history and suggests that intellectual purity has curtailed optimistic realism.

Olumo, Ijeorna. 2019. *So You Want To Talk About Race*. The author guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make possible what seems impossible possible: Honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

Rankine, Claudia. 2014. *Citizen: An American Lyric*. In essay, images, and poetry, the author explores the subtleties of racism and prejudice that seem all too prevalent in an oft-claimed post-racial United States. Rankine delves into the macro-sociology of racism by examining prejudice in sports, economics, and pop-culture, and melds her pinpoint analysis with individual experiences of alienation and otherness

at restaurant tables, front porches, and boardrooms. *Citizen* observes racism from a myriad of angles, employing a clever and effective combination of second person perspective with the speaker's internal monologue, and fusing various lyric and reportorial forms with classic painting and contemporary multimedia art.

Stephenson, Bryan. 2015. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice. Stephenson, the visionary founder and executive director of the Montgomery-based Equal Justice Initiative, presents a searing indictment of American criminal justice and a stirring testament to the salvation that fighting for the vulnerable sometimes yields.

Taylor-Stinson, Therese. 2017. *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around: Stories of Contemplation and Justice*. Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around offers a collection of essays that bear witness to the necessity of a marriage between contemplation and action. Therese Taylor-Stinson has called together a mighty cloud of witnesses who have beautifully reflected on the power which is to be found in linking social justice activism and contemplative prayer in the ongoing quest to live a life of faith. This is a book which is deeply needed at the present moment. --Catherine Meeks, author, *Living into God's Dream*

Tisby, Jamar. 2019. *The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism*. This book is both enlightening and compelling, telling a history we either ignore or just don't know. Equal parts painful and inspirational, it details how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices. You will be guided in thinking through concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church.

de la Torre, Miguel A. 2018. *Burying White Privilege: Resurrecting a Badass Christianity*. Short. Timely. Poignant. Pointed. Burying White Privilege is all of these and more. This is the book that everybody who cares about contemporary American Christianity will want to read.

West, Cornell. 2017. *Race Matters*. First published in 1993, on the one-year anniversary of the Los Angeles riots, *Race Matters* became a national best seller that has gone on to sell more than half a million copies. This classic treatise on race contains Dr. West's most incisive essays on the issues relevant to black Americans, including the crisis in leadership in the Black community, Black conservatism, Black-Jewish relations, myths about Black sexuality, and the legacy of Malcolm X. The insights Dr. West brings to these complex problems remain relevant, provocative, creative, and compassionate.

Wise Roe, Sheila. 2020. *Healing Racial Trauma: The Road to Resilience*. "People of color have endured traumatic histories and almost daily assaults on our dignity. We have prayed about racism, been in denial, or acted out in anger, but we have not known how to individually or collectively pursue healing from the racial trauma." As a child, Sheila Wise Rowe was bused across town to a majority white school, and she experienced the racist lie that one group is superior to all others. We experience ongoing racial trauma as this lie is perpetuated by the action or inaction of the government, media, viral videos, churches, and within families of origin.

Historical

Baldwin, James. 1963. *The Fire Next Time*. Two essays that address racial tensions in America, the role of religion as both an oppressive force and an instrument for inspiring rage, and the necessity of embracing change and evolving past our limited ways of thinking about race.

Berlin, Ira. 1998. *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in America*. The analysis covers the 200 years following the arrival of the first Africans in Virginia in 1619. Despite its huge span of time and space, the history is impressive in its ability to detect patterns and to make useful generalizations without severing its connections to the daily lives of real people. The author discerns four distinctive territories of slavery (the Chesapeake, the North, the Low Country, and the Lower Mississippi Valley) and three broad eras (the “charter generations” of the mid-seventeenth century when slavery was incidental to society, the “plantation generations” of the late seventeenth to mid-eighteenth centuries when slavery became the chief organizing feature of the society, and the revolutionary era when the principle of freedom introduced considerable ambivalence into the system and produced significant communities of free people of color.

Blackmon, Douglas A. 2009. *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*. 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.

Blight, David W. 2020. *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*. **Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in History** In this “cinematic and deeply engaging” (The New York Times Book Review) biography, Blight draws on new information held in a private collection that few other historians have consulted, as well as recently discovered issues of Douglass’s newspapers. “Absorbing and even moving...a brilliant book that speaks to our own time as well as Douglass’s” (The Wall Street Journal), Blight’s biography tells the fascinating story of Douglass’s two marriages and his complex extended family. “David Blight has written the definitive biography of Frederick Douglass...a powerful portrait of one of the most important American voices of the nineteenth century” (The Boston Globe).

Branch, Taylor. 1988. *Parting the Waters, Pillar of Fire, Canaan’s Edge*. A biographical narrative that focuses on Martin Luther King, Jr., but encompasses civil rights activists and organizations and the socio-political context of the movement from the year of the landmark Supreme Court ruling, *Brown v Board of Education* to the assassination of President John Kennedy. The book synthesizes the inception and development of a unique, southern grassroots civil rights movement that swept up protagonists, bystanders, policymakers—in short, the nation—in an expanding struggle. It presents the diversity of black communities, of organizations that gave rise to the civil rights movement, and of those that came into being as the movement gained momentum.

Cleaver, Eldridge. 1968. *Soul on Ice*. Written in prison by a soon-to-be Black Panther, this now-classic memoir shocked, outraged, and ultimately changed the way America looked at the civil rights movement and the black experience.

Douglass, Frederick. 1845. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. The preeminent American slave narrative published in 1845, this autobiography powerfully details the life of the abolitionist from his birth into slavery in 1818 to his escape to the North in 1838, how he endured

the daily physical and spiritual brutalities of his owners, how he learned to read and write, and how he grew into a man who could only live free or die.

Du Bois, W.E.B. 1903. *The Souls of Black Folk*. Several seminal essays which constitute some of the earliest literature on the sociology of race. Taken together, they affirm that it is beneath the dignity of a human being to beg for those rights that inherently belong to all mankind. He also charges that the strategy of accommodation to white supremacy advanced by Booker T. Washington would only serve to perpetuate black oppression. This book helped to polarize black leaders into two groups: The more conservative followers of Washington and the more radical supporters of aggressive protest.

Fanon, Frantz. 1952. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Fanon analyzes the experience of Black people from French-colonized islands in the Caribbean, like himself, who have come to live in France. He explores how these people are encouraged by a racist society to want to become white, but then experience serious psychological problems because they aren't able to do so.

Farmer, Jr, James. 2017. *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*. This book tells the story of how blacks in law enforcement, people who had battled for the right to serve as police and judges as well as politicians, made the war on drugs very much their own.

Franklin, John Hope. 2006. *Mirror on America*. From his effort in 1934 to hand President Franklin Roosevelt a petition calling for action in response to the Cordie Cheek lynching, to his 1997 appointment by President Clinton to head the President's Initiative on Race, and continuing to the present, Franklin has influenced with determination and dignity the nation's racial conscience. Whether aiding Thurgood Marshall's preparation for arguing *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, marching to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965, or testifying against Robert Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court in 1987, Franklin has pushed the national conversation on race toward humanity and equality, a life long effort that earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in 1995. *Mirror to America* intimately chronicles Franklin's life and this nation's racial transformation in the 20th century, and is a powerful reminder of the extent to which the problem of America remains the problem of color.

Franklin, John Hope. First published 1947. *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*. This is the dramatic, exciting, authoritative story of the experiences of African Americans from the time they left Africa to their continued struggle for equality at the end of the twentieth century.

Gates, Robert Lewis. 2019.. *Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow*. A profound new rendering of the struggle by African-Americans for equality after the Civil War and the violent counter-revolution that resubjugated them, as seen through the prism of the war of images and ideas that have left an enduring racist stain on the American mind.

Haley, Alex. 1976. *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*. The story of Haley's family from the enslavement of Kunta Kinte, an 18th-century African, captured as an adolescent, sold into slavery in Africa, transported to North America; following his life and the lives of his descendants in the United States down to the author Haley.

Isenberg, Nancy. 2017. *White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America*. In her groundbreaking, bestselling history of the class system in America, Isenberg takes on our comforting myths about equality, uncovering the crucial legacy of the ever-present, always embarrassing—if occasionally entertaining—poor white trash.

Jordan, Winthrop D. 2012.. *White Over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro 1559-1812* . In 1968, Winthrop D. Jordan set out in encyclopedic detail the evolution of white Englishmen's and Anglo-Americans' perceptions of blacks, perceptions of difference used to justify race-based slavery, and liberty and justice for whites only. This second edition, with new forewords by historians Christopher Leslie Brown and Peter H. Wood, reminds us that Jordan's text is still the definitive work on the history of race in America in the colonial era. Every book published to this day on slavery and racism builds upon his work; all are judged in comparison to it; none has surpassed it.

Kendi, Ibram X. 2017. *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. The National Book Award winning history of how racist ideas were created, spread, and deeply rooted in American society. Kendi shows why “I don’t see color” and other professions of post-racialism remain unwavering alibis for white supremacy.

King, Jr., Martin Luther. 2019. *Letters From a Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963*. The text of the famous letter, wherein King defends his strategy of nonviolent resistance. This letter became one of the monumental writings of the Civil Rights Movement.

Lerner, Gerda. 1992. *Black Women in a White America*. In this “stunning collection of documents” (Washington Post Book World), African-American women speak of themselves, their lives, ambitions, and struggles from the colonial period to the present day. Theirs are stories of oppression and survival, of family and community self-help, of inspiring heroism and grass-roots organizational continuity in the face of racism, economic hardship, and, far too often, violence. Their vivid accounts, their strong and insistent voices, make for inspiring reading, enriching our understanding of the American past.

Larson, Kate. *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman: Portrait of an American Hero*. Harriet Tubman is one of the giants of American history—a fearless visionary who led scores of her fellow slaves to freedom and battled courageously behind enemy lines during the Civil War. Now, in this magnificent biography, historian Kate Clifford Larson gives us a powerful, intimate, meticulously detailed portrait of Tubman and her times. Drawing from a trove of new documents and sources as well as extensive genealogical data, Larson presents Harriet Tubman as a complete human being—brilliant, shrewd, deeply religious, and passionate in her pursuit of freedom. A true American hero, Tubman was also a woman who loved, suffered, and sacrificed.

Marable, Manning. 2011. *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*. Filled with new information that goes beyond the 1965 *Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Marable’s *Malcolm X* unfolds a sweeping story of race and class in America, from the rise of Marcus Garvey and the Ku Klux Klan to the struggles of the civil rights movement in the fifties and sixties.

Moody, Anne. 1968. *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. This autobiography covers Moody's life from childhood through her mid-twenties, including her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement beginning when she was a student at the historically black Tougaloo College. It details her struggles both against racism among white people and sexism among her fellow civil rights activists.

Rabateau; Albert. 2004. *Slave Religion: The "Invisible Institution" in the Antebellum South*. Using a variety of first and second-hand sources-- some objective, some personal, all riveting-- Raboteau analyzes the transformation of the African religions into evangelical Christianity. He presents the narratives of the slaves themselves, as well as missionary reports, travel accounts, folklore, black autobiographies, and the journals of

white observers to describe the day-to-day religious life in the slave communities. *Slave Religion* is a must-read for anyone wanting a full picture of this "invisible institution."

Rothstein, Richard. 2017. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. A powerful and disturbing history of residential segregation in America backed by ample evidence.

Stampp, Kenneth. 1989. *The Peculiar Institution: Slavery and the Ante-bellum South*. Stampp's classic study of American slavery as a deliberately chosen, practical system of controlling and exploiting labor is one of the most important and influential works of American history written in our time.

Still, William. 2019. *The Underground Railroad Records: Narrating the Hardships, Hairbreadth Escapes, and Death Struggles of Slaves in Their Efforts for Freedom*. As a conductor for the Underground Railroad—the covert resistance network created to aid and protect slaves seeking freedom—William Still helped as many as eight hundred people escape enslavement. He also meticulously collected the letters, biographical sketches, arrival memos, and ransom notes of the escapees. The Underground Railroad Records is an archive of primary documents that trace the narrative arc of the greatest, most successful campaign of civil disobedience in American history.

Thurman, Howard. 1981. *With Head and Heart*. Howard Thurman was a unique man—a black minister, philosopher, and educator whose vitality and vision touched the lives of countless people of all races, faiths, and cultures. Index; photographs.

Van Sertima, Ivan. 2003. *They Came Before Columbus: The African Presence in Ancient America*. This book provides a compelling, dramatic, and superbly detailed documentation of the presence and legacy of Africans in ancient America. Examining navigation and shipbuilding; cultural analogies between Native Americans and Africans; the transportation of plants, animals, and textiles between the continents; and the diaries, journals, and oral accounts of the explorers themselves, Ivan Van Sertima builds a pyramid of evidence to support his claim of an African presence in the New World centuries before Columbus.

Ward, Jesmyn. 2013. *Men We Reaped: A Memoir*. The book illuminates, with great compassion and insight, the struggles of black men living in rural Southern poverty, of the women who love them, and of their families who struggle to survive.

Wilkerson, Isabel. 2011. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. In this beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: The decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life. With stunning historical detail, Wilkerson tells this story through the lives of three unique individuals: Ida Mae Gladney, who in 1937 left sharecropping and prejudice in Mississippi for Chicago; sharp and quick-tempered George Starling, who in 1945 fled Florida for Harlem; and Robert Foster, who left Louisiana in 1953 to pursue a medical career.

Wright, Richard. 1945. *Black Boy*. This memoir by black American author Richard Wright describes his youth in the South: Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, and his eventual move to Chicago, where he establishes his writing career and becomes involved with the Communist Party.

Theological

Byron, Gay L. 2002. *Symbolic Blackness and Ethnic Difference in Early Christian Literature*.

How were early Christians influenced by contemporary assumptions about ethnic and colour differences? Why were early Christian writers so attracted to the subject of Blacks, Egyptians, and Ethiopians? Looking at the neglected issue of race brings valuable new perspectives to the study of the ancient world; now Gay Byron's exciting work is the first to survey and theorize Blacks, Egyptians, and Ethiopians in Christian antiquity.

Cannon, Katie Geneva. 1996. *Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community*. In 13 essays and an appendix, Cannon charts the process of her canon formation, based on an inclusive ethic. She says that in each essay she is "conducting a three-pronged systemic analysis of race, sex and class from the perspective of African American women in the academy of religion." Cannon reveals how black women have found themselves to be moral agents in an African American tradition that combines both the "real-lived" texture of African American life and the oral-aural cultural tradition vital to African Americans. Cannon, the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary and the first to be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the United Presbyterian Church USA, a womanist philosopher and a theologian, deals mainly with canonical issues and "canon formation" as she calls for an inclusive rather than an exclusive frame of reference for governing life choices.

Cone, James H. 2013. *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. In this powerful new work, theologian James H. Cone explores these symbols and their interconnection in the history and souls of black folk.

Cone, James H. 2010. *A Black Theology of Liberation*. With the publication of his two early works, *Black Theology & Black Power* (1969) and *A Black Theology of Liberation* (1970), James Cone emerged as a major theological voice in North America. These books, which offer a searing indictment of white theology and society, introduced a radical reappraisal of the Christian message for our time. Joining the spirits of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr., Cone radically reappraised Christianity from the perspective of the oppressed black community in North America. Forty years later, Cone's work retains its original power, enhanced now by his reflections on the evolution of his own thinking and black theology.

Carter, J. Kameron. 2008. *Race: A Theological Account*. The author meditates on the multiple legacies implicated in the production of a racialized world and that continue to mark how we function in it and think about ourselves. These are the legacies of colonialism and empire, political theories of the state, anthropological theories of the human, and philosophy itself, from the eighteenth-century Enlightenment to the present.

Holmes, Barbara A. 2002. *Race and the Cosmos: An Invitation to View the World Differently*. The author boldly suggests that theoretical physics and cosmology have the power to break through our stalled and difficult discussions about race. At the intersection of ethics, cosmology, and physics, a new view of human life is emerging—a view not neatly divided along lines of race, ethnicity, class, or sexual orientation. Human life at cosmic and quantum levels has a unity independent of external social categories such as science and religion.

Thurman, Howard. First published 1949. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. In this classic theological treatise, the acclaimed theologian and religious leader Howard Thurman (1900-1981) demonstrates how the gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised. Jesus is a partner in the pain of the oppressed and the example of His life offers a solution to ending the descent into moral nihilism. Hatred does not empower--it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.

Fiction

Africaville, by Jeffrey Colvin. 2019. The story relates the experiences of three generations of one family historically rooted in Nova Scotia when black workers from the American South travelled to Glace Bay, NS, after reconstruction in search of a better life as coal miners there. It explores issues of black identity, passing, cross-racial relationships, and the meaning of home as it follows descendants from 1900 to 1992, and from Nova Scotia to Burlington, Vermont, to Montgomery, Alabama. In the process, it portrays the larger saga of black experience during the twentieth century.

Beloved, by Toni Morrison. 1987. The book examines the destructive legacy of slavery as it chronicles the life of a black woman named Sethe, from her pre-Civil War days as a slave in Kentucky to her time in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1873. Although Sethe lives there as a free woman, she is held prisoner by memories of the trauma of her life as a slave.

Invisible Man, by Ralph Ellison. 1952. As he journeys from the Deep South to the streets and basements of Harlem, from a horrifying "battle royal" where black men are reduced to fighting animals, to a Communist rally where they are elevated to the status of trophies, Ellison's nameless protagonist ushers readers into a parallel universe that throws our own into harsh and sometimes hilarious relief.

Middle Passage, by Charles Johnson. 1990. Set in the 1830s, the story follows the journey of a freed slave, who sneaks onto an illegal slave ship in New Orleans to flee from debtors and an unwanted impending marriage. The ship is sailing for West Africa, where it will pick up slaves to bring back to America.

Native Son, by Richard Wright. 1940. The story of 20-year-old Bigger Thomas, a black youth living in utter poverty in a poor area on Chicago's South Side in the 1930s. While not apologizing for Bigger's crimes, the author portrays a systemic inevitability behind them.

Sing, Unburied, Sing: A Novel, by Jesmyn Ward. 2017. The novel grapples with the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power - and limitations - of the bonds of a Mississippi family scarred by drugs and prison as they undertake an odyssey through the rural south, both past and present.

Sula, by Toni Morrison. 1976. Two girls who grow up to become women. Two friends who become something worse than enemies. In this brilliantly imagined novel, Toni Morrison tells the story of Nel Wright and Sula Peace, who meet as children in the small town of Medallion, Ohio. Their devotion is fierce enough to withstand bullies and the burden of a dreadful secret. It endures even after Nel has grown up to be a pillar of the black community and Sula has become a pariah. But their friendship ends in an unforgivable betrayal-or does it end? Terrifying, comic, ribald and tragic, *Sula* is a work that overflows with life.

The Blacker the Berry: A Novel of Negro Life, by Walter Thurman. 1929. Emma Lou Morgan's skin is black. So black that it's a source of shame to her not only among the largely white community of her hometown of Boise, Idaho, but also among her lighter-skinned family and friends. Seeking a community where she will be accepted, she leaves home at age eighteen, traveling first to Los Angeles and then to New York City, where in the Harlem of the 1920s, she finds a vibrant scene of nightclubs and dance halls and parties and love affairs . . . and, still, rejection by her own race. This is the first novel to openly address prejudice among black Americans and the issue of colorism.

The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison. 1970. A tragic story of a black adolescent girl's struggle to achieve white ideals of beauty and her consequent descent into madness has been acclaimed as an eloquent indictment of some of the more subtle forms of racism in American society.

Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Zora Neale Hurston. 1937. One of the most important works of twentieth-century American literature, this book is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose.

The Water Dancer, by Ta-Nehisi Coates. 2019. Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her—but was gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: To escape from the only home he's ever known.

To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee. 1960. The novel is renowned for its warmth and humor, despite dealing with the serious issues of rape and racial inequality. Over the past 50 years, it has become the most widely read book dealing with race in America.

The Color Purple, by Alice Walker. 1982. The book is structured as a series of letters to God by a black woman over a 40-year period. These letters carry a tale of isolation and love, of violence and sexuality, of poverty and ambition, of domination and independence, of self-awareness and community, of the chafing relationships between black men and black women, and of an inward spirituality that's not easily contained.

The Underground Railroad, by Colson Whitehead. 2016. In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Like the protagonist of *Gulliver's Travels*, Cora a plantation slave from Georgia, encounters different worlds at each stage of her underground journey—hers is an odyssey through time as well as space. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day.

For Younger Readers

Copper Sun, by Sharon Draper. 2008. The epic story of a young girl torn from her African village in Ghana, sold into slavery in 18th century America, and stripped of everything she has ever known—except hope. This powerful novel takes an open and unveiled look at slavery in America through the eyes of a young African girl. The common brutalities of the trade -- rape, murder, kidnapping, beatings, and other inhumane treatments -- are described in detail for readers. Note: Parents should be prepared to answer questions or read this novel alongside their teens.

Dear Martin, by Nic Stone. 2018. Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out. Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.

Hair Love, by Matthew A. Cherry. 2019. Zuri's hair has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Zuri knows it's beautiful. When Daddy steps in to style it for an extra special occasion, he has a lot to learn. But he LOVES his Zuri, and he'll do anything to make her -- and her hair -- happy. Tender and empowering, *Hair Love* is an ode to loving your natural hair -- and a celebration of daddies and daughters everywhere.

Mississippi Trial 1955, by Chris Crowe. 2003. This gripping read is based on the true events of the murder of Emmett Till, one of the nation's most notorious crimes that helped spark the Civil Rights Movement. At first Hiram is excited to visit his hometown in Mississippi. But soon after he arrives, he crosses paths with Emmett Till, a black teenager from Chicago who is also visiting for the summer. Hiram sees firsthand how the local whites mistreat blacks who refuse to "know their place." When Emmett's tortured dead body is found floating in a river, Hiram is determined to find out who could do such a thing. But what will it cost him to know?

On the Come Up, by Angie Thomas. 2019. Insightful, unflinching, and full of heart, this story is an ode to hip hop from one of the most influential literary voices of a generation. It is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you; and about how, especially for young black people, freedom of speech isn't always free.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred D. Taylor. 1976. This book addresses racism in America during the Great Depression and Jim Crow era. Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And it is also Cassie's story - Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.

The Day Tajon Got Shot, by the teen writers of Beacon House. 2017. A story for younger readers about a boy who is shot by police, that is told from the points of view of all the participants including the police officer. It is remarkably even-handed and movingly written.

The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas. 2017. The story is narrated by Starr Carter, a 16-year-old black girl from a poor neighborhood who attends an elite private school in a predominantly white, affluent part of the city. Starr becomes entangled in a national news story after she witnesses a white police officer shoot and kill her childhood friend. She speaks up about the shooting in increasingly public ways, and social tensions culminate in a riot after a grand jury decides not to indict the police officer for the shooting.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963, by Christopher Paul Curtis. 1995. The story centers on the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan in 1963 and is narrated by ten-year-old Kenny Watson. When Kenny's older brother Byron gets into some trouble, their parents decide that they should take a trip with the whole family, including little sister Joetta, to visit Grandma Sands in Birmingham, Alabama, with the idea of moving Byron there for school. But tragedy awaits as Grandma's church is bombed in front of the family in a terrorist attack carried out by the KKK. The story is based on a real-life KKK bombing that killed four African-American girls on the 15th of September 1963. Traumatized by what they have witnessed, the Watsons return home, and Kenny tries to come to terms with the imperfect world in which they live.

Film

12 Years a Slave. 2013. A sobering drama about racism and slavery that will sear your soul and set you thinking about the shadow side of American history. Directed by Steve McQueen, and starring Chiwetel Ejiofor and Michael Fassbender. Academy Award for Best Picture.

American Violet. 2008. After an overzealous district attorney's drug bust lands her in jail, single mother Dee Roberts must face an agonizing choice: Plead guilty and go home a convicted felon, or fight the charges and risk a lengthy prison sentence. Despite her mother's advice and risking everything, innocent Dee chooses to fight the Texas criminal justice system, joined by an ACLU attorney and a former narcotics cop. Directed by Tim Disney and starring Nicole Beharie.

BlackKkKlansman. 2018. Ron Stallworth is the first African-American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a name for himself, Stallworth bravely sets out on a dangerous mission: To infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. The detective soon recruits a more seasoned colleague, Flip Zimmerman, into the undercover investigation of a lifetime. Together, they team up to take down the extremist hate group as it seeks to sanitize its rhetoric to appeal to the mainstream. Directed by Spike Lee and starring John David Washington and Adam Driver.

Crash. 2004. A tense film that interweaves several connected stories about race, class, family and gender in Los Angeles in the aftermath of 9/11, while examining the racial and class divisions in American society that make every stranger into a potential enemy. Directed by Paul Haggis and starring Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon, Jennifer Esposito, Brendan Fraser, Terrence Dashon Howard, and Thandie Newton. Academy Award for Best Picture.

Dear White People. 2014. A comedy-drama film that focuses on escalating racial tensions at a fictitious, prestigious Ivy League college from the perspective of several black students. Directed by Justine Simien and starring Tyler James Williams, Tessa Thompson, Teyonah Parris, and Brandon P. Bell.

Fences. 2016. Based on the August Wilson play with the same name. Troy Maxson makes his living as a sanitation worker in 1950s Pittsburgh. Maxson once dreamed of becoming a professional baseball player, but was deemed too old when the major leagues began admitting black athletes. Bitter over his

missed opportunity, Troy creates further tension in his family when he squashes his son's chance to meet a college football recruiter. Directed by Denzel Washington, and starring Denzel Washington, Viola Davis, Stephen McKinley Henderson and Jovan Adepo.

Hidden Figures. 2016. Three brilliant African-American women at NASA – Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson – serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: The launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race, and galvanized the world. In doing so, the three women crossed all gender, race, and professional lines while their brilliance and desire to dream big, beyond anything ever accomplished before by the human race, firmly cemented them in U.S. history as true American heroes. Directed by Theodore Melfi, and starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monáe.

Harriet. 2019. A biographical film that tells the story of heroic slave-turned-abolitionist Harriet Tubman, from her escape from slavery through the dangerous missions she led to liberate hundreds of slaves through the Underground Railroad. Directed by Kasi Lemmons, and starring Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom Jr., Joe Alwyn, and Janelle Monáe.

Do the Right Thing. 1989. A cautionary tale set in the ghetto about the racial hatred that still remains an open wound on the soul-scape of America. A comedy-drama directed by Spike Lee, and starring Spike Lee, Danny Aiello, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Samuel L. Jackson, Martin Lawrence, and Rosie Perez.

I Am Not Your Negro. 2016. A documentary based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript *Remember This House*, the film explores the history of racism in the United States through Baldwin's reminiscences of civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as his personal observations of American history. Directed by Raoul Peck.

If Beale Street Could Talk. 2018. Based on a James Baldwin novel with the same title, the film follows a young African-American woman who, with her family's support, seeks to clear the name of her wrongly charged lover and prove his innocence before the birth of their child. Directed by Barry Jenkins, and starring Kiki Layne, Stephan James, Colman Domingo, and Teyonah Parris.

Loving. 2016. The story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a couple whose arrest for interracial marriage in 1960s Virginia began a legal battle that would end with the Supreme Court's historic 1967 Loving vs. Virginia decision, which invalidated state laws against interracial marriage. Directed by Jeff Nichols, and starring Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton.

Malcom X. 1992. Diligently and respectfully tracks both the highs and the lows in the spiritual journey of one of America's most important black leaders. Directed by Spike Lee, and starring Denzel Washington and Angela Bassett.

Moonlight. 2016. The tender, heartbreaking story of a young black man's struggle to find himself, told across three defining chapters in his life as he experiences the ecstasy, pain, and beauty of falling in love, while grappling with his own sexuality. Directed by Barry Jenkins, and starring Trevor Rhodes, André Holland, Janelle Monáe, and Mahershala Ali. Academy Award for Best Picture.

Mudbound. 2017. Set in the rural American South during World War II, this film tells the epic story of two families— one white, one black—pitted against one another by a ruthless social hierarchy, yet bound together by the shared farmland of the Mississippi Delta. Directed by Dee Rees, and starring Carey Mulligan, Garrett Hedlund, Jason Clarke, Jason Mitchell, Jonathan Banks, and Mary J. Blige.

Selma. 2014. Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 legally desegregated the South, discrimination was still rampant in certain areas, making it very difficult for blacks to register to vote. In 1965, the Alabama city of Selma became the battleground in the fight for suffrage. Despite violent opposition, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his followers pressed forward on an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, and their efforts culminated in President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Directed by Ava DuVernay, and starring David Oyelowo, Tom Wilkinson, Tim Roth, Carmen Ejogo, and Common.

The Color Purple. 1985. Based on Alice Walker's novel of the same name, this epic tale spans forty years in the life of Celie, an African-American woman living in the South who survives incredible abuse and bigotry. Directed by Steven Spielberg, and starring Danny Glover, Whoopi Goldberg, Desreta Jackson, Margaret Avery, Oprah Winfrey, and Rae Dawn Chong.

The Birth of a Nation. 2016. This film tells the story of the Nat Turner-led slave rebellion of 1831. Nat is an enslaved Baptist preacher who lives on a Virginia plantation owned by Samuel Turner. With rumors of insurrection in the air, a cleric convinces Samuel that Nate should sermonize to other slaves, thereby quelling any notions of an uprising. As Nate witnesses the horrific treatment of his fellow man, he realizes that he can no longer just stand by and preach. On Aug. 21, 1831, Turner's quest for justice and freedom leads to a violent and historic uprising in Southampton County. This film is the antithesis to the 1915 racist classic of the same name, which bluntly criticizes Reconstruction and glorifies the rise of Jim Crow. Directed by Nate Parker, and starring Nate Parker, Armie Hammer, Mark Boone, Jr., and Colman Domingo.

The Butler. 2013. After leaving the South as a young man and finding employment at an elite hotel in Washington, D.C., Cecil Gaines gets the opportunity of a lifetime when he is hired as a butler at the White House. Over the course of three decades, Cecil has a front-row seat to history and the inner workings of the Oval Office. However, his commitment to his "First Family" leads to tension at home, alienating his wife, and causing conflict with his anti-establishment son. Directed by Lee Daniels, and starring Forest Whitaker, Oprah Winfrey, and an all-star supporting cast.

The Hate U Give. 2018. Teenager Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds -- the poor, mostly black neighborhood where she lives and the wealthy, mostly white prep school that she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is soon shattered when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of a police officer. Facing pressure from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and decide whether to stand up for what's right. Directed by George Tillman Jr., and starring Amandla Stenberg, Russell Hornsby, and Regina Hall.

When They See Us. 2019. A television miniseries of four episodes based on events of the 1989 Central Park jogger case that explores the lives and families of the five male suspects who were falsely accused of the assault and rape of a woman in Central Park, New York City. Available on Netflix.

The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution. 2015. This documentary explores the rise and fall of the Black Panther Party, one of the 20th century's most alluring and controversial organizations, and its reviled, adored, misunderstood, and mythologized history that captivated the world's attention for nearly 50 years. Directed by Stanley Nelson Jr.

TED Talks and YouTube

An Interview with the Founders of Black Lives Matter. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbicAmaXYtM>

Born out of a social media post, the Black Lives Matter movement has sparked discussion about race and inequality across the world. In this spirited conversation with Mia Birdsong, the movement's three founders share what they've learned about leadership and what provides them with hope and inspiration in the face of painful realities. Their advice on how to participate in ensuring freedom for everybody: join something, start something and "sharpen each other, so that we all can rise."

What it takes to be racially literate. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs2Fv3YiSFM> Over the last year, Priya Vulchi and Winona Guo traveled to all 50 US states, collecting personal stories about race and intersectionality. Now they're on a mission to equip every American with the tools to understand, navigate and improve a world structured by racial division. In a dynamic talk, Vulchi and Guo pair the personal stories they've collected with research and statistics to reveal two fundamental gaps in our racial literacy - and how we can overcome them.

How to de-construct racism, one headline at a time. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZgkjEdMbSw> Baratunde Thurston explores the phenomenon of white Americans calling the police on black Americans who have committed the crimes of ... eating, walking or generally "living while black." In this profound, thought-provoking and often hilarious talk, he reveals the power of language to change stories of trauma into stories of healing -- while challenging us all to level up.

The symbols of systemic racism: How to take away their power.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAQ11iNknoU> Multidisciplinary artist Paul Rucker is unstitching the legacy of systemic racism in the United States. A collector of artifacts connected to the history of slavery – from branding irons and shackles to postcards depicting lynchings -- Rucker couldn't find an undamaged Ku Klux Klan robe for his collection, so he began making his own. The result: striking garments in non-traditional fabrics like kente cloth, camouflage and silk that confront the normalization of systemic racism in the US. "If we as a people collectively look at these objects and realize that they are part of our history, we can find a way to where they have no more power over us," Rucker says.

How can we start to heal the pain of racial division? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SfhKi24z-M> "Where does it hurt?" It's a question that activist and educator Ruby Sales has traveled the US asking, looking deeply at the country's legacy of racism and searching for sources of healing. In this moving talk, she shares what she's learned, reflecting on her time as a freedom fighter in the civil rights movement and offering new thinking on pathways to racial justice.

Can White People Be Saved? Reflections on Missions and Whiteness Willie Jennings

<https://youtu.be/SRLjWZxL1IE> Willie Jennings, associate professor of systematic theology and Africana studies at Yale Divinity School, discusses "whiteness" as a sociocultural framework in which missions developed and imperialized the locations on which it descended, and offers a way to uncouple Christian faith from whiteness by means of a theology of place.

The Origins of Race Willie Jennings. <https://youtu.be/I5ZGwuwcHV0> Theology, Racism, and Christian Practice: How Shall We Respond? The series goal is to integrate Christian Theology with practices that counter racism in our lives and communities. This two-day event was sponsored by National Capital Presbytery, Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, The Presbyterian Outlook and Institute of Radical Reconciliation.

The Danger of the Single Story. Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie. <https://youtu.be/D9Ihs241zeg> Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice -- and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.

How Baltimore Called a Cease Fire. Erricka Bridgeford. <https://youtu.be/phu4Z6QEXJE> In one day, in one city, in one neighborhood -- what if everyone put their guns down? Erricka Bridgeford is a peacemaker who wants to stop the murders and violence in her hometown of Baltimore. So she helped organize the *Baltimore Ceasefire*, a grassroots campaign to keep the peace. In a passionate talk, Bridgeford tells the story of *Ceasefire* and their bigger vision for zero murders in Baltimore.

Words that don't belong to everyone. Ta-Nehisi Coates. <https://youtu.be/QO15S3WC9pg> Bestselling author Ta-Nehisi Coates answers an audience question about the power and ownership of words at the Family Action Network event with Evanston Township High School while on tour for his newest book, *WE WERE EIGHT YEARS IN POWER*.

International Development and Prejudice: Africa, the Case of Sierra Leone, and What Might be Done. Mallence Bart-Williams. <https://youtu.be/AfnruW7yERA> Mixed-race entrepreneur Bart-Williams speaks about pejorative cultural images and national debt peonage created by Western nations in Africa and her second home, Sierra Leone. She then discusses her project FOLORUNSHO, which is an aid-free approach to local development. This Freetown-based collective has taken homeless children off the streets into school via pure creativity without donations. Through her work with FOLORUNSHO and various other social enterprises in parts of Africa, she connects cultural contrast, enabling unique synergies that yield action-driven results.

Other

The 1619 Project. This is a research and public dissemination program organized by *The New York Times* in 2019 with the goal of re-examining the legacy of slavery in the United States and timed for the 400th anniversary of the arrival in America of the first enslaved people from West Africa. The project was almost exclusively contributed to by black academics, journalists and writers. All the contributions were deeply researched, and arguments verified by a team of fact-checkers in consultation with a panel of historians. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>

Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965. 1987. This landmark 14-part PBS series documents the history of the civil rights movement in America. Segments include the Montgomery bus boycott of 1954, school desegregation in 1957 Arkansas, the right-to-vote battle within Mississippi, the march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The series has been honored with numerous Emmy and other critical acclaim awards.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/eyesontheprize/>

Reconstruction: America After the Civil War. 2019. Henry Louis Gates Jr. hosts this four-hour documentary exploring how the United States emerged from the Civil War and slavery. Featuring interviews with historians, authors and other experts, the film explores the transformative years following the Civil War through the rise of Jim Crow segregation. The film also looks at blacks in art, music, literature and culture and the surge of political activism that eventually leads to the rise of civil rights organizations. <https://www.pbs.org/weta/reconstruction/>

Roots: The Saga of an American Family. 1977. An award-winning and hugely popular television 8-part television mini-series based on Alex Haley's novel of the same name. Kunta Kinte is sold into the slavery after being abducted from his African village, and is taken to the United States. Kinte and his family go through notable events in American history, such as the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, slave uprisings and emancipation. Available on YouTube.TV.

Underground. 2016-2017. This 20-part television mini-series is based on the Underground Railroad, a network of secret routes and safe houses established in the United States during the early to mid-19 century, and used by enslaved African-Americans to escape into free states and Canada. It tells the story of some plantation slaves in 1850s Georgia who, driven by the dreams of a courageous blacksmith named Noah, band together to attempt a daring escape. The fight for their lives, their futures and their freedom leads to Noah's risk-filled plan to travel hundreds of miles away via the Underground Railroad. Available on YouTube and Amazon Prime.