

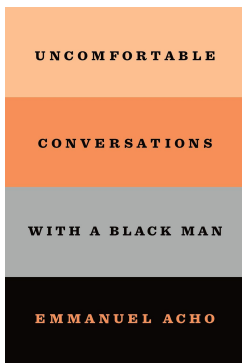


**Cooper Medical School
of Rowan University**

THE ARNOLD P.
**GOLD
FOUNDATION**
Gold Humanism
Honor Society

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society Anti-Racism Library Collection 2020-2021 Guide

The CMSRU chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society is proud to debut an anti-racism library collection housed in the CMSRU medical library. With works of nonfiction, fiction, memoirs, essays and poetry, we hope to create a living collection that will grow and add new perspectives on race, racism and especially race in medicine. This collection was made possible through the generous support of The Arnold P. Gold Foundation and the CMSRU Center for Humanism, and the invaluable assistance of the CMSRU Library staff.

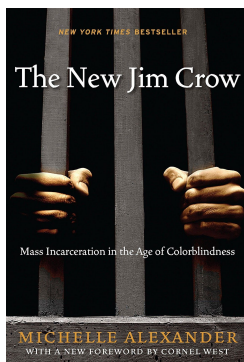


Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man by Emmanuel Acho

“You cannot fix a problem you do not know you have.” The opening of Emmanuel Acho’s work reveals a guide to systemic racism and the uncomfortable conversations we all need to have to fix the wounds in our nation. There is no topic too big, small or uncomfortable for Acho as he tackles white privilege, cultural appropriation and the notion of “reverse racism.” Acho promotes compassion and understanding in delving into difficult topics and also lights a passion in readers to embrace and join the anti-racism movement.

Extra resources:

- [Uncomfortable Conversations website](#)
 - [Emmanuel Acho’s YouTube channel](#)
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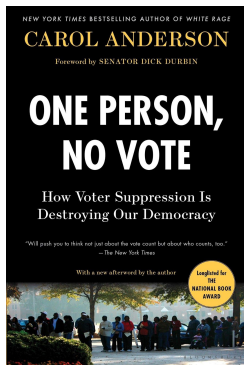


The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

Civil rights lawyer and legal scholar Michelle Alexander’s unflinching dismantling of racism in the U.S. criminal justice system spent more than 4 years on The New York Times bestseller list since its 2010 publication. Alexander shows how the country’s history of Jim Crow laws never resolved, but transformed in a criminal justice system that targets Black communities and Black men specifically, exerting new forms of racial control and discrimination.

Extra resources:

- [Michelle Alexander delivers the 2013 George E. Kent Lecture at the University of Chicago](#)
- [The future of race in America: Michelle Alexander’s TEDxColumbus talk](#)
- [Study and organizing guides](#)



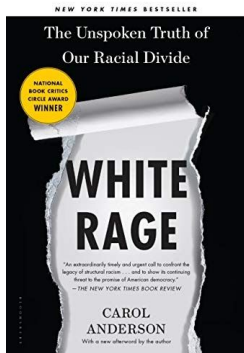
One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying Our Democracy

by Carol Anderson

From poll closures to gerrymandering and photo ID laws, Carol Anderson details how the 2013 Supreme Court decision decimated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and has led to voter suppression that disproportionately affects low-income and minority groups. This insightful book examines the historical context of the racially driven disenfranchisement and voter suppression that exists today. Anderson's comprehensive research and powerful writing style allows readers to not only understand one of the most important issues in modern society, but also enables readers to explore the importance of democracy and what needs to be done in order to restore it.

Extra resources:

- [Q&A with Carol Anderson on the persistence of voter suppression](#)
- [Questions to facilitate discussion or for personal reflection after reading "One Person, No Vote"](#)
- [Carol Anderson on "The Daily Show" discussing the impact of voter suppression](#)



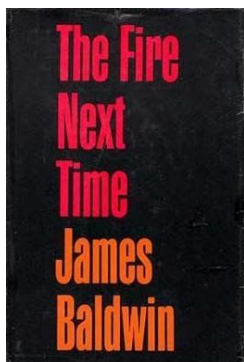
White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide

by Carol Anderson

Author Carol Anderson explores disturbing truths behind policies that have systematically hampered Black progress in the United States from 1865 to present day. Anderson explores the reactionary opposition, fueled by "white rage," following historical events such as the enactment of Jim Crow laws following emancipation and public school closures after the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954. Anderson methodically details the persistence of structural racism in the United States and outlines the intricacies of certain political strategies and policies that hinder Black social advancement.

Extra resources:

- [Carol Anderson on the persistent pattern of punishing Blacks for their resilience](#)
- [Keynote address delivered by Carol Anderson the Social Practice of Human Rights 2017 conference](#)
- [Reader's guide with discussion questions, a facilitator's guide and additional materials](#)



The Fire Next Time

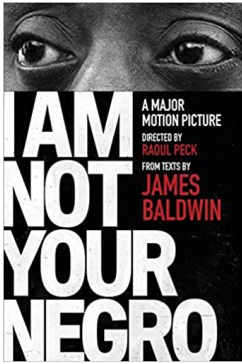
by James Baldwin

This nonfiction book includes two essays, "My Dungeon Shook" and "Down at the Cross." The first essay is written as a letter to Baldwin's 14-year-old nephew and examines the role of race in American history. He ends this letter to his nephew with a powerful sentiment: "You know, and I know, that the country is celebrating one hundred years of freedom one hundred years too soon. We cannot be free until they are free. God bless you, James, and Godspeed."

Originally published in The New Yorker in 1962 under the title "Letter from a Region in my Mind," the second essay of the book, "Down at the Cross," is a reflection of Baldwin's personal experiences with Christianity and dives into the relations between race and religion.

Extra resources:

- [James Baldwin's Historic Debate with William F. Buckley](#)
 - [Notes of a native son: The world according to James Baldwin](#)
 - ["The Fire Next Time" teacher's guide](#)
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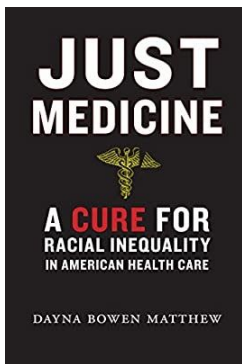
I Am Not Your Negro

by James Baldwin

This book is a companion to the Academy Award-nominated documentary "I Am Not Your Negro" directed by Raoul Peck. This film was based on texts written by James Baldwin, an influential author, essayist, playwright, poet and social justice advocate in the civil rights movement. Prior to his death, Baldwin had been working on what would become an unfinished manuscript for his envisioned novel "Remember This House," a personal recollection on the lives and assassinations of three of his friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

Extra resources:

- ["I Am Not Your Negro" film trailer](#)
 - [Conversation with director Raoul Peck](#)
 - [James Baldwin and Nikki Giovanni's 1971 conversation on "Soul!"](#)
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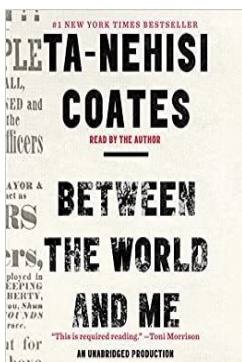
Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care

by Dayna Bowen Matthew

Health care disparity for people of color remains a troublesome, deadly problem in medicine. Bowen Matthew argues that the focus must be on implicit bias—our attitudes toward people and associated stereotypes that are often unconscious—among physicians, providers and patients. Health care systems are wasting money and resources on equality programs that don't tackle implicit bias, the author argues, and it will only be after strong legal remedies are enacted that medical disparities based on race can hope to end.

Extra resources:

- [Dayna Bowen Matthew speaks about her research and book at Rice University](#)
 - [Racial disparities in health care are pervasive: Health Care Triage](#)
 - [Just Medicine: CFHA 2018 Plenary by Dayna Matthew](#)
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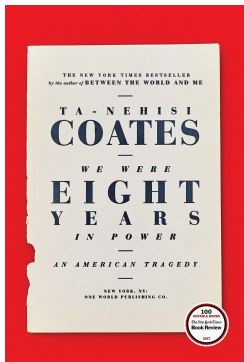
Between the World and Me

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Written as a letter to his adolescent son, Coates tackles enormous questions of what it means to be Black. In a society built on race, Black people carry the largest burden of our history and division. What is it like to inhabit a Black body? How can we honestly reckon with history and find freedom? Coates' answers to these weighty questions take readers back through his life's most profound experiences, from Howard University to the south side of Chicago to Paris and more. This stunning book is not just Coates' letter to his son, but his gift to us all.

Extra resources:

- [Ta-Nehisi Coates on “Between the World and Me,” Twitter and Coronavirus](#)
 - [Discussion guide](#)
 - [Letter to My Son](#)
 - [“Between the World and Me” HBO Special](#)
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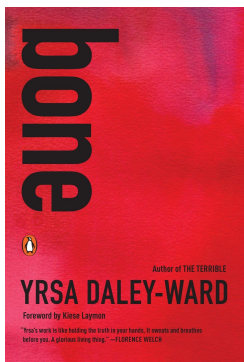
We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

In this timeless collection of essays, Ta-Nehisi Coates reflects on race, Barack Obama’s presidency and the history of our divided country. These eight essays, originally published in The Atlantic magazine, are one for each year of Obama’s presidency, to show how “the symbolic power of Barack Obama’s presidency—that whiteness was no longer strong enough to prevent peons from taking up residence in the castle—assaulted the most deeply rooted notions of white supremacy and instilled fear in its adherents and beneficiaries.”

Extra resources:

- [Ta-Nehisi Coates on George Floyd, police protests and hope](#)
 - [Discussion guide](#)
 - [The Race Card Project’s Michele Norris interviews Ta-Nehisi Coates](#)
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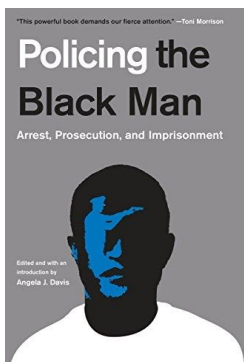
Bone

by Yrsa Daley-Ward

Poet Yrsa Daley-Ward is a woman of many worlds. A model before publishing this, her debut collection, Daley-Ward has roots in both Jamaica and Nigeria and was raised in a religious family in England. Her stripped down thoughts on race, mental health, sexuality and love will seem both familiar to readers and open them to new perspectives through her story. As Daley-Ward writes, “One day I will tell you what I’ve been. It will scare you.”

Extra resources:

- [Yrsa Daley-Ward reads a selection from “Bone”](#)
 - [Your stories and you: Yrsa Daley-Ward’s TEDxSquareMile2013 talk](#)
 - [Yrsa Daley-Ward on “Bone,” Finding Yourself and Harassing Your Local Bookseller: LIT](#)
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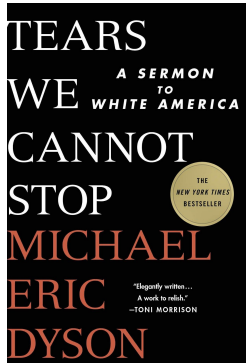
Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution and Imprisonment

by Angela J. Davis

“Policing the Black Man” explores and critiques the many ways the criminal justice system impacts the lives of African American boys and men at every stage of the criminal process, from arrest through sentencing. 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.

Extra resources:

- [Angela J. Davis reads from her book on C-SPAN](#)
 - [Angela J. Davis' Twitter feed](#)
 - [Allison, L. Angela Davis, Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution, and Imprisonment. J Afr Am St 23, 142-145 \(2019\).](#)
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Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America

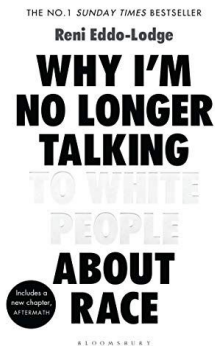
by Michael Eric Dyson

"Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America" is a powerful recollection of personal experiences, cultural analysis and call for change. In his book, Dyson specifically, and unapologetically, challenges white readers: "What I ask of you, my dear friends," he writes, "is to try the best you can, to surrender your innocence, to reject the willful denial of history and to live fully in the complicated present with all of the discomfort it brings."

"Tears We Cannot Stop" forces readers to face hard truths and confront personal biases. Dyson also compassionately details and personalizes the debates surrounding Black Lives Matter and addresses anti-Black racism in police brutality.

Extra resources:

- [America Reckons With Racism: A Conversation With Michael Eric Dyson](#)
 - [A Cry From the Heart: Michael Eric Dyson Addresses Race Head-On](#)
 - [Michael Eric Dyson shares the reasons behind the book "Tears We Cannot Stop"](#)
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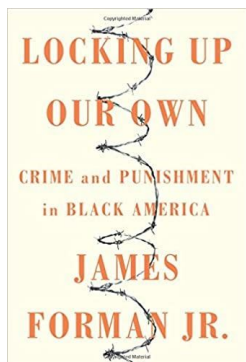
Why I'm No longer Talking to White People About Race

by Reni Eddo-Lodge

"Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race" provides an impassioned and thought-provoking analysis of institutionalized racism and the indisputable link between class and race. The author explores the history of slavery in Britain, police brutality and the pervasive obstacles encountered by Black people that lead to ongoing social and economic injustices. Although centered on race relations in Britain, Reni Eddo-Lodge's book sparked a global conversation as many of the issues and inequities exposed are both relatable and relevant to those faced by countries around the world.

Extra resources:

- [What happens when I try to talk race with white people](#)
 - [Reni Eddo-Lodge' 5x15 segment on her book](#)
 - [Reni Eddo-Lodge on the Underplayed Realities of Racism In the U.K.](#)
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Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America

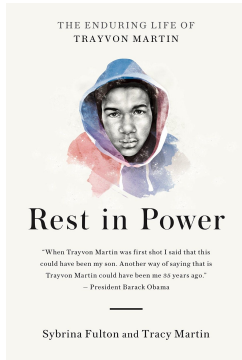
by James Forman Jr.

Former public defender James Forman Jr. is a leading critic of mass incarceration and its disproportionate impact on people of color. In "Locking Up Our Own," he seeks to understand the war on crime that began in the 1970s and why it was supported by many African American leaders in the nation's urban centers. He writes with compassion about individuals trapped in terrible dilemmas—from the men and women he represented in court to officials

struggling to respond to a public safety emergency. “Locking Up Our Own” enriches our understanding of why our society became so punitive and offers important lessons to anyone concerned about the future of race and the criminal justice system in this country.

Extra resources:

- [“Locking Up Our Own” Details The Mass Incarceration Of Black Men: NPR](#)
 - [James Forman Jr. speaks about his book at Brown University](#)
 - [James Forman Jr. on “The Daily Show with Trevor Noah”](#)
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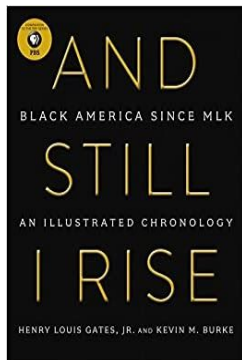
Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin

by Sybrina Fulton

“Rest in Power” was written nearly five years after the shooting of Trayvon Martin. Sybrina Fulton, Trayvon Martin's mother, says the book is intended as a means to heal, to share with the world the Trayvon Martin his parents knew and loved, and to describe the impact Martin's death and surrounding events had on their lives.

Extra resources:

- ["We are all Trayvon": an interview with Sybrina Fulton](#)
 - [Sybrina Fulton, Trayvon Martin's Mother, Speaks About Social Injustice](#)
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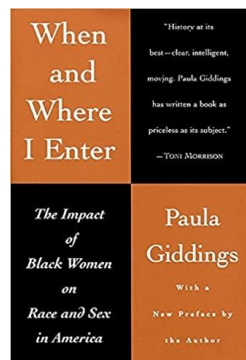
And Still I Rise: Black America Since MLK

by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. hosts a PBS Series of the same name; this book is a companion to the TV series and chronicles 50 years of Black history through stunning photographs. Readers are taken back to Malcolm X's assassination through turbulent social movements and to the country's first Black president. But as Gates reminds both readers and viewers, there is a Black underclass that persists in the U.S., characterized by mass incarceration, poverty and poor education.

Extra resources:

- [Henry Louis Gates, Jr.: "We Are 99.9% the Same"](#)
 - [The author's website](#)
 - [Ken Burns & Henry Louis Gates, Jr. in conversation with Michel Martin](#)
 - [“And I Still Rise” on PBS](#)
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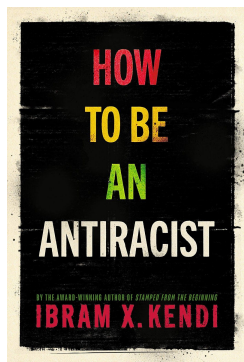
When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America

by Paula J. Giddings

No racial or women's movement in America could have succeeded without the involvement of Black women. Yet the women who changed the course of the nation often go unheard of in history. Giddings sets out to right this wrong by introducing readers to the Black women who fought against the oppression of both race and gender to create lasting change in America.

Extra resources:

- [Paula Giddings, Scribe of Her Sisters: The Washington Post](#)
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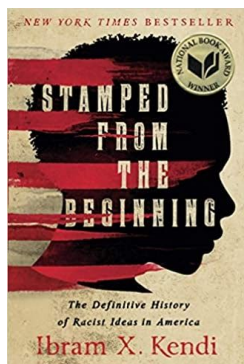
How to Be an Anti-Racist

by Ibram X. Kendi

Racism is not individual thought, but a system that creates tiers and false hierarchies of human value. To be anti-racist, then, requires us first to understand the deep roots of racism in every aspect of society. Kendi introduces anti-racist ideas that start on a micro level, growing to encompass everything we think we know. He weaves ethics, history, law and science into his arguments about how to create a just and equitable society.

Extra resources:

- [Book club guide](#)
 - [Discussion guide from author's website](#)
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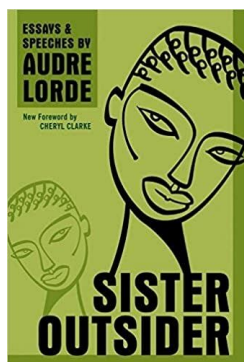
Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America

by Ibram X. Kendi

In this text, Ibram X. Kendi outlines how racist thought is alive and well in America, more sophisticated and more insidious than ever. Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-Black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. And while racist ideas are easily produced and easily consumed, they can also be discredited. In shedding much-needed light on the murky history of racist ideas, “Stamped from the Beginning” offers us the tools we need to expose them—and in the process, gives us reason to hope.

Extra resources:

- [Prof. Ibram X. Kendi on “Stamped from the Beginning” at the American Historical Association](#)
 - [“Stamped From the Beginning” study guide](#)
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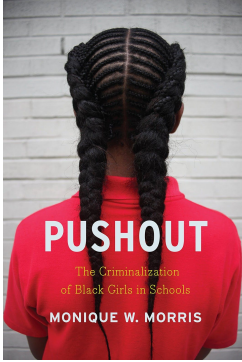
Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches

by Audre Lorde

In 15 essays, Audre Lorde confronts racism, sexism, homophobia and classism as a woman who described herself as “Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.” Lorde, who died in 1992, was one of the most influential writers of her day. In “Sister Outsider,” readers can almost hear Lorde’s powerful voice delivering her candid observations about life. This collection contains several of Lorde’s most-known essays, including “Poetry Is Not a Luxury” and “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle The Master’s House.”

Extra resources:

- [NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project: Audre Lorde](#)
- [Angela Davis on Audre Lorde](#)
- [Reading Audre Lorde’s “Sister Outsider” After Charlottesville: Los Angeles Review of Books](#)



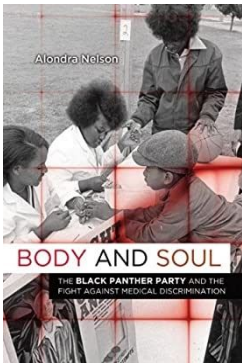
Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School

by Monique W. Morris

In “Pushout,” Monique W. Morris highlights the stories of girls who have been abused and sexually exploited—and rather than being counseled and protected, are punished for “acting out.” The use of police officers in schools (often referred to as school resource officers) is also a problem. In the absence of protocol or training about how to recognize and address the issues students they face, officers too often use unnecessary force. “Pushout” aims to interrupt the school-to-confinement pathways for Black girls by looking at how girls are judged and offering resources to change these damaging practices.

Extra resources:

- [“Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools” documentary](#)
- [Monique W. Morris’ 2018 TEDWomen talk changing how Black girls are targeted for punishment in school](#)
- [Q&A With Monique W. Morris: Education Week](#)



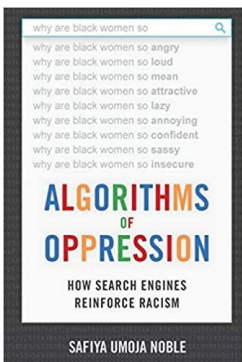
Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination

by Alondra Nelson

When you think of the Black Panthers, health care isn’t the first thing that comes to mind. Nelson traces the Black Panthers’ health advocacy and activism, including a requirement all chapters establish a People’s Free Medical Clinic, and their pushback against medical discrimination. The party even helped focus attention on sickle cell anemia, a disease common in Black communities. By tracing the party’s fight against unequal health care access for Black people, Nelson shows the difference the Black Panthers made—and how far we still have to go.

Extra resources:

- [Alondra Nelson talks about her book on C-SPAN](#)
- [Alondra Nelson: DNA, Race and Reparations at the University of Washington](#)
- [Alondra Nelson: The Need For a New Bioethics](#)



Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism

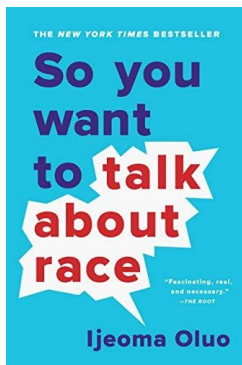
by Safiya Umoja Noble

Perhaps others have had the same experience Noble did of searching “Black girls” on Google, only to see all of the top results from pornography sites. Noble spent 6 years researching search engine algorithms and data and the conclusion was clear: the results are both racist and sexist. She exposes the biases in our Internet search results, creating and reinforcing bigoted ideas to often unaware users. As she reminds readers, “We are the product that Google sells to advertisers.”

Extra resources:

- [Safiya Umoja Noble delivers a lecture at the University of California’s Bren School about her research](#)

- [Safiya Umoja Noble discusses her book at the Thurgood Marshall Institute](#)
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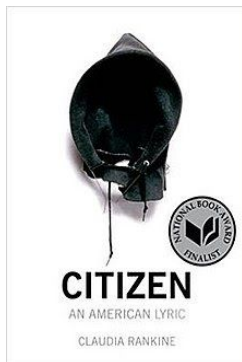
So You Want to Talk About Race

by Ijeoma Oluo

Real conversations about race and racism can be difficult. How do we start these conversations? How do we keep each other accountable to be anti-racist? Ijeoma Oluo has no-nonsense advice to start conversations and keep them honest. From breaking down what it means to “check your privilege” to unpacking the many meanings of social justice, Oluo’s frankness will help readers have a more open dialogue about race. She ends with a chapter on how to turn a reader’s passion into action.

Extra resources:

- [Ijeoma Oluo on talking about race and racism](#)
 - [Ijeoma Oluo talks with the X’s Rachel Williams about her book](#)
 - [Reader’s guide](#)
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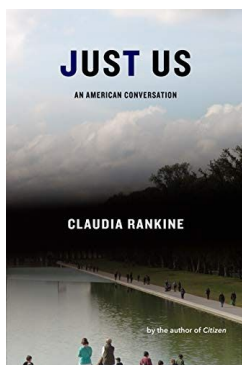
Citizen: An American Lyric

by Claudia Rankine

To call “Citizen” lyrical poetry doesn’t capture strong emotions, the pain and dehumanization of racism that Rankine lays bare. There are familiar names of those who have suffered (Serena Williams) and died (Trayvon Martin) from racism. But Rankine’s writing on everyday moments, such as a mother who shields her daughter from sitting next to a black passenger on a plane or stop-and-frisk police encounters, remind us racism is always around us and indeed part of us. Rankine’s words are interspersed with artwork that inform and enhance her writing.

Extra resources:

- [Claudia Rankine answers your questions about “Citizen”](#)
 - [“Citizen: An American Lyric” live reading from the Fountain Theatre](#)
 - [Claudia Rankine speaking about the artwork in “Citizen” at Bard College](#)
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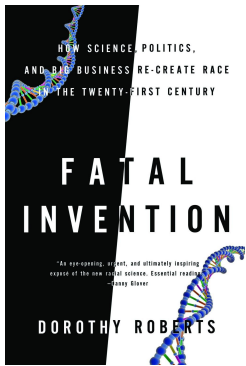
Just Us: An American Conversation

by Claudia Rankine

Rankine is sincere in wanting to have conversations about race. In “Just Us,” she shows just how much that takes. She asks white people, both close friends and strangers, about how they view their whiteness. If that sounds uncomfortable, it’s meant to be. Rankine’s quest is to have real, frank conversations about race in America, something that can only be done if white people consider the role their race plays in their everyday lives. “Just Us” is about breaking the silence on uncomfortable truths and creating an intimacy between both friends and strangers to have more meaningful conversations on race.

Extra resources:

- [Claudia Rankine on whiteness and privilege in America](#)
- [Talking Volumes: A conversation with Claudia Rankine](#)
- [Claudia Rankine discusses her book with author Sarah Blake](#)



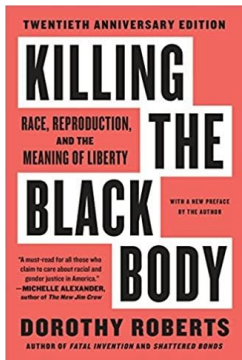
Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Recreate Race in the Twenty-First Century

by Dorothy Roberts

Dorothy Roberts examines how the myth of a biological concept of race continues to undermine a just society and promote inequality in a supposedly “post-racial” era. This social construct of race is revived by science, race-specific drugs, genetic testing and DNA databases. Roberts offers readers an analysis of race, science and politics that tracks how race was created as a means to grab and keep power and how commonly accepted ideas about race have no basis in fact.

Extra resources:

- [Dorothy Roberts’ TedTalk discussing the problem with race-based medicine](#)
- [Dorothy Roberts speaks about “Fatal Invention” at Vanderbilt University](#)
- [Reading discussion questions from an anti-racism book club](#)



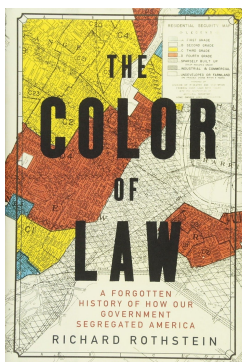
Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty

by Dorothy Roberts

“Killing the Black Body” was published in 1997 and discusses America’s systemic abuse of Black women’s bodies. From slave masters’ economic stake in bonded women’s fertility to government programs that coerced thousands of poor Black women into being sterilized as late as the 1970s, these abuses pointed to the degradation of Black motherhood. It is a cry for education, awareness and action on extending reproductive justice to all women, as Black women’s reproductive needs have been excluded in mainstream feminist and civil rights agendas. Even two decades after its original publication, it is as crucial and relevant as ever.

Extra resources:

- [Revisiting “Killing the Black Body,” 20 years later](#)
- [Dorothy E. Roberts, “Killing the Black Body: A Twenty-Year Retrospective”](#)



The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America

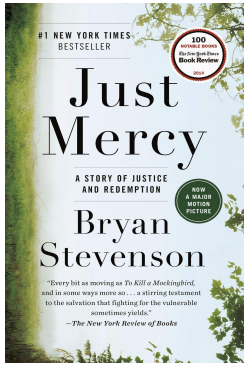
by Richard Rothstein

In this groundbreaking history of the modern American metropolis, Richard Rothstein, a leading authority on housing policy, explodes the myth that America’s cities came to be racially divided through *de facto* segregation—that is, through individual prejudices, income differences, or the actions of private institutions like banks and real estate agencies. Rather, “The Color of Law” incontrovertibly makes clear that it was *de jure* segregation—the laws and policy decisions passed by local, state and federal governments—that actually promoted the discriminatory patterns that continue to this day.

Extra resources:

- [“The Color Of Law” Details How U.S. Housing Policies Created Segregation: NPR](#)

- [Richard Rothstein discusses his book with the Mosaic Project's Kara Murray-Badal](#)
- [Richard Rothstein and Ta-Nehisi Coates talk about "The Color of Law" at Politics and Prose bookshop](#)



Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption

by Bryan Stevenson

From his first days as a lawyer, Bryan Stevenson dedicated himself to defending those wrongly incarcerated and especially those on death row in Montgomery, Alabama, where he founded the Equal Justice Initiative. "Just Mercy" tells the true story of EJI's client Walter McMillian, a Black man facing the death penalty for a murder he did not commit and despite airtight evidence of his innocence. Stevenson uses the injustice of McMillian's case to expose the cruelties inflicted on people of color and the poor through an imbalanced criminal justice system that favors the wealthy.

Extra resources:

- [We need to talk about an injustice: Bryan Stevenson's TEDTalk](#)
- [Bryan Stevenson delivers Stanford University's 2016 Anne and Loren Kieve Distinguished Speaker Lecture on race and the criminal justice system](#)
- [Equal Justice Initiative](#)
- ["Just Mercy" was adapted into a film starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx and Brie Larson](#)



The Hate U Give

by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter has to navigate two versions of herself, as she calls them—her poor neighborhood and the privileged world of the prep school that she attends. Starr's world shatters when she witnesses a police officer shoot and kill her unarmed best friend Khalil. Suddenly, Khalil's death and Starr's involvement is national news. With unrelenting pressure and danger around disclosing what happened the night of Khalil's death, Starr finds herself in an impossible situation mirrored in the many real-life deaths of unarmed Black men, women and children.

Extra resources:

- [Angie Thomas' "The Hate U Give" interview at Politics and Prose bookshop](#)
- [Book club questions and reading guide from Book Riot](#)
- ["The Hate U Give" was adapted into a film starring Amandla Stenberg, Regina Hall and Russell Hornsby](#)



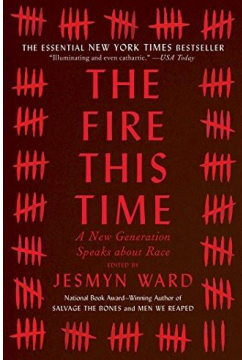
Salt.

by Nayyirah Waheed

Poet Nayyirah Waheed prefers to let her work speak for her. You won't find much online about Waheed, at first glance. But her short, powerful poems, some just a single line, are quoted extensively on social media by readers who find themselves mulling over the messages about identity, race, xenophobia, feminism, love and more, all packed into just a few hard hitting words. Pushing past the naysayers, Waheed self-published "Salt." and is also the author of "Nejma."

Extra resources:

- [Nayyirah Waheed's Instagram](#)
 - [Jordan Snowden of Pittsburgh City Paper reads selection from "Salt." by Nayyirah Waheed](#)
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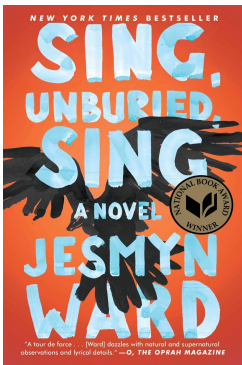
The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race

by Jesmyn Ward

Envisioned as a response to “The Fire Next Time,” James Baldwin’s groundbreaking 1963 essay collection, this collection of essays and poems gathers our most original thinkers and writers to speak on contemporary racism and race.

Extra resources:

- [“The Fire This Time”: A New Generation Of Writers On Race In America](#)
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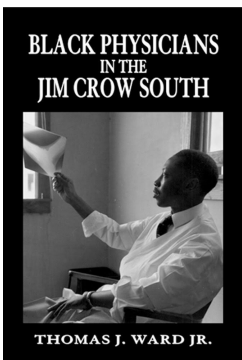
Sing, Unburied, Sing

by Jesmyn Ward

The magical realism of “Sing, Unburied, Sing” is matched with the harsh realities of a Black family fractured by injustice, addiction and racism. Told mostly through the eyes of 13-year-old Jojo and his estranged mom Leonie, Ward takes readers on a road trip through Mississippi to pick up Jojo’s imprisoned father, with prose so vivid you can feel the oppressive, sticky air. The prison turns out to hold tortuous secrets for Pop, Jojo’s grandfather, in the form of a child’s ghost demanding redemption—something all of the characters need to find peace.

Extra resources:

- [Jesmyn Ward’s “Sing, Unburied, Sing” interview at the Chicago Humanities Festival](#)
 - [Jesmyn Ward reads from “Sing, Unburied, Sing” at the Shakespeare and Company bookshop](#)
 - [Reading group guide](#)
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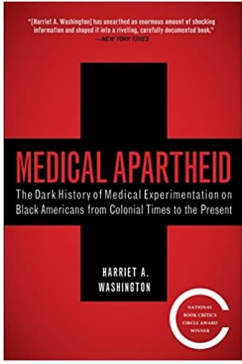
Black Physicians in the Jim Crow South

by Thomas J. Ward Jr.

To be a Black physician during Jim Crow did not just mean your patients suffered the insults of racism; Black physicians themselves were handicapped by being barred from many hospitals and therefore prevented from truly caring for their patients. Black physicians also found upward mobility and prestige, which allowed them to become leaders in society—but only to a point. They were still considered less-than by virtue of their skin color, and also faced adversity within Black communities for their career and standing.

Extra resources:

- [The Social Determinants of Health: Dr. Thomas Ward’s TEDTalk](#)



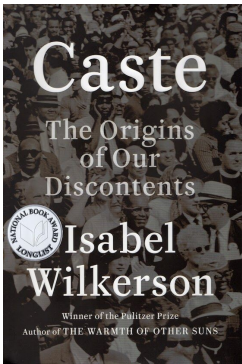
Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present

by Harriet A. Washington

The torture and abuse of Black bodies for so-called medical purposes has a history nearly as long as America's founding. Black people were routinely experimented upon without their knowledge and often with barbaric techniques, even continuing into modern day. "Medical Apartheid" reveals not only these many centuries of abuse, but how they connect to current health deficits for Black populations. Especially important, Washington provides the context for why many Black Americans view researchers, and even the entire health care industry, with deep mistrust.

Extra resources:

- [Interview of Harriet Washington at Eastern Virginia Medical School](#)
- [Vox/ProPublica video on medicine and slavery featuring Harriet Washington](#)



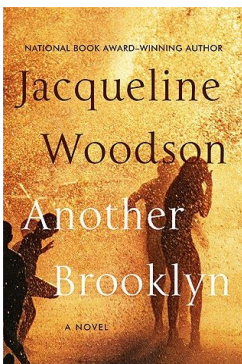
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

by Isabel Wilkerson

America has a caste system, Wilkerson argues, that traps Black people into roles historically created but still enshrined today. Caste dictates "the granting or withholding of respect, status, honor, attention, privileges, resources, the benefit of the doubt and human kindness to someone on the basis of their perceived rank or standing in the hierarchy." As the author writes, race is in the skin, but caste is in the bones. Wilkerson's book outlines how systems of law and justice create violence against Black Americans—and a way to move forward.

Extra resources:

- [Isabel Wilkerson talks about her book with the Atlanta History Center](#)
- ["Caste" discussion guide](#)
- [Ken Burns & Isabel Wilkerson: In Conversation](#)



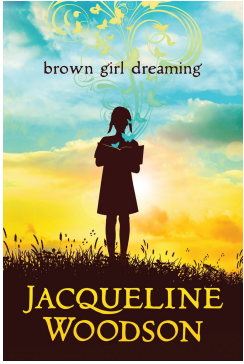
Another Brooklyn

by Jacqueline Woodson

Returning home following her father's death, August meets up with an old friend, spurring reminiscence of their childhood together. August takes readers through her childhood and adolescence, a happy time in Brooklyn where they believed the world was at their fingertips. But the friends soon encounter another Brooklyn, a place of danger that can change the course of the girls' lives.

Extra resources:

- [TEDTalk by Jacqueline Woodson](#)
- [Author panel with Jacqueline Woodson](#)
- [Book discussion with Jacqueline Woodson](#)



Brown Girl Dreaming

by Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson tells the tale of her own childhood through verse. Raised in southern and northern states, the author never felt quite at home in either. She brings the reader on a trip back to the '60s and '70s as she confronts Jim Crow and grows more aware of the civil rights movement.

Extra resources:

- [Jacqueline Woodson reads from her memoir "Brown Girl Dreaming"](#)