

Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America

Forman Jr., James. 2017.

In recent years, America's criminal justice system has become the subject of an increasingly urgent debate. Critics have assailed the rise of mass incarceration, emphasizing its disproportionate impact on people of color. As James Forman, Jr., points out, however, the war on crime that began in the 1970s was supported by many African American leaders in the nation's urban centers. In *Locking Up Our Own*, he seeks to understand why.

Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"

Hurston, Zora Neale. 2018.

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

If Beale Street Could Talk

Baldwin, James. 1974.

In Harlem, Fonny and Tish are in love and this protects them from their respective families and the outside world until Fonny is accused of rape.

Recommended Reading on Race in America for Becoming Beloved Community 2019

We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2017.

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

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • In these "urgently relevant essays,"* the National Book Award-winning author of *Between the World and Me* "reflects on race, Barack Obama's presidency and its jarring aftermath"*—including the election of Donald Trump.

The Hate U Give

Thomas, Angie. 2017.

It follows events in the life of a 16-year-old black girl, Starr Carter, who is drawn to activism when she witnesses the police shooting of a childhood friend.

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

Brown, Austin Channing. 2018.

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



Anti-Racism
committee

BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2015.

#1 New York Times bestseller; National Book Award Winner; NAACP Image Award winner; Pulitzer Prize finalist; National Books Critic Circle Award finalist; Named one of the 10 Best Books of the Year by the New York Times Book Review.

THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLOR BLINDNESS

Alexander, Michelle. 2010.

An account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status – denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement.

JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION.

Stevenson, Brian. 2015.

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice. #1 New York Times Bestseller; Named one of the Best Books of the Year by *The New York Times*; *The Washington Post*; *The Boston Globe*; *The Seattle Times*; *Esquire*, and *Time*.

DEEP DENIAL: THE PERSISTENCE OF WHITE SUPREMACY IN UNITED STATES HISTORY AND LIFE.

Billings, David. 2016.

Part personal history and part personal memoir, documents the 400 year racialization of the United States and how people of European descent came to be called white.

REST IN POWER: THE ENDURING LIFE OF TRAYVON MARTIN

Fulton, Sybrina and Martin, Tracy. 2017.

A parents' story of love, injustice, and the birth of a reform movement.

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

Galatians 3:28

BECOMING MS. BURTON: FROM PRISON TO RECOVERY TO LEADING THE FIGHT FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN.

Burton, Susan and Lynn, Cari. 2017.

One woman's remarkable odyssey from tragedy to prison to recovery – and recognition as a leading figure in the national justice reform movement.

CITIZEN: AN AMERICAN LYRIC.

Rankine, Claudia. 2014.

The book has been described as both criticism and poetry, described by critic Michael Lindgren as having "boundary-bending potency...an innovative amalgam of genres."

STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING: THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF RACIST IDEAS IN AMERICA.

Kendi, Ibrahima S. 2016.

In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. Winner of the National Book Award for Non-Fiction.

DEAR WHITE CHRISTIAN: FOR THOSE STILL LONGING FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION.

Harvey, Jennifer. 2014.

An argument for changing the paradigm from reconciliation to reparations. The book contains historical information on the Episcopal Church's journey in addressing racial divisions in the church.

WAKING UP WHITE, AND FINDING MYSELF IN THE STORY OF RACE.

Irving, Debby. 2014.

A memoir/recollection of her experience as a WASP (White Anglo Saxon Protestant) American. The book addresses white privilege and the complexity of race in the U.S.

THE COLOR OF CHRIST: THE SON OF GOD AND THE SAGA OF RACE IN AMERICA.

Blum, Edward J. and Harvey, Paul. 2012.

Explains how the image of Jesus was used to reinforce racism and how that image became blond and blue-eyed.

WHITE TRASH: THE 400 YEAR HISTORY OF CLASS IN AMERICA.

Isenberg, Nancy. 2016.

A Cultural and Political history of an American underclass.

BLACK MAN IN A WHITE COAT: A DOCTOR'S REFLECTION ON RACE.

Tweedy, Damon. 2016.

A doctor's reflection on race and medicine.

INVISIBLE MAN, GOT THE WHOLE WORLD WATCHING.

Smith, Michael Denzel. 2016.

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

THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS: THE EPIC STORY OF AMERICA'S GREAT MIGRATION.

Wilkerson, Isabel. 2014.

In this epic, 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.

White Fragility – Why It's So Hard For White People to Talk About Racism.

DiAngelo, Robin. 2018.

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