BOOKS ABOUT RACE

This book list is a compilation of multiple lists found through the internet. Most are under a title of “Books every white person should read about race.” There was overlap between lists and there are other books that were not on the books, but were made known to the committee.

Taken from:


https://www.bustle.com/p/17-books-on-race-every-white-person-needs-to-read-76401

16 Books Every White Person Should Read – Huffington Post.

Bustle.com – 10 Books about race to read instead of asking a person of color to explain

’White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide'
by Carol Anderson, Ph.D.
An unflinching look at America’s long history of structural and institutionalized racism, White Rage is a timely and necessary examination of white anger and aggression toward black America. Starting with the 1865 passage of the 13th Amendment and ending with the election of the country's first African American president and the response to Ferguson 2014, acclaimed historian Carol Anderson uses key moments in U.S. history to formulate a new narrative around race, one that unabashedly exposes white America's attempts to slow or stop progress in black America. A compelling look at American history, White Rage has never seemed more relevant than it does in today.

’The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness'
by Michelle Alexander
A compelling argument that shows the many ways racial hierarchy still dominates American society, The New Jim Crow is a hard but necessary read. A deep dive into the racial discrimination within our justice system, this must-read guides readers through the many ways in which black Americans are under attack from racist policies and procedures within a system that is meant to protect them. Passionate and engaging, The New Jim Crow will change the way you see race in modern America, and prove to you that our post-racial world is nothing but a myth.
'Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America' by Ibram X. Kendi
The winner of the National Book Award in Nonfiction, Stamped from the Beginning should be required reading for anyone who still believes we are living in a post-racial America. In this eye-opening book, author Ibram X. Kendi explains not only the many ways in which racism is alive and well in the United States, but also exactly why it's still a deeply entrenched piece of our nation's identity. A fascinating and disturbing history of discrimination in the U.S., Stamped from the Beginning will expose the hard-to-swallow truth about modern-day racism while providing a kernel of hope for a better, more equal future.

'Black Stats: African Americans by the Numbers in the Twenty-first Century' by Monique W. Morris
An easy-to-read, easy-to-understand guide on the real-life experiences of black people in the 21st century, Black Stats shows racial discrimination in the form of facts and figures. A critical look at the quality of African American life, progress toward equality, and the negative impacts of socially unjust policies and discriminatory practices in everything from the government to the entertainment industry, this handy tool disproves the myth that racism in America is dead, while providing the necessary data to take the steps needed to kill it, once and for all.

'The Invention of the White Race' by Theodore W. Allen
A groundbreaking examination of the construct of race and its origin in America, Theodore W. Allen's The Invention of the White Race is essential reading for anyone interested in dismantling racism from its foundation up. A two-volume work that spans the country's history, from the arrival of Africans in America in 1619 to modern-day race relations, this in-depth study is like an origin story for race, specifically the white race, and the racial discrimination that followed.

'Between the World and Me' by Ta-Nehisi Coates
In a letter to his son, acclaimed author Ta-Nehisi Coates tackles some of the most difficult questions about survival, identity, history, and freedom facing black men and women. Drawing from his own experiences as a black man in America, Coates explores the country's fraught past and divisive present in an attempt to shed a light on creating a brighter future. A utterly devastating and affecting read, this book is what Toni Morrison calls "required reading," so you better put it on your list.
'Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II'
by Douglas A. Blackmon
In Slavery by Another Name, Douglas A. Blackmon shines a spotlight on one of the darkest chapters in American history: the "Age of Neoslavery." Starting after the Emancipation Proclamation and lasting all the way through World War II, this often ignored period saw thousands of black Americans move from slavery in the south to involuntary servitude across the country. Drawing from rich historical records, original documentation, and personal narratives, Blackmon pieces together this disgraceful practice of human labor trafficking, exposing those who benefited from it and celebrating those who fought against it. A shocking but important read, Slavery by Another Name should be required reading in every history class.

'Choke Hold: Policing Black Me' by Paul Butler
In Choke Hold, the former federal prosecutor turned legal commentator exposes the unjust laws and practices within the justice system that continually treats black men like criminals, thugs, and the enemy of the people. Powerful as it is enlightening, Choke Hold not only sheds a light on a broken system, but also offers recommendations, albeit somewhat controversial, about the different ways in which Americans can take it down.

'Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White'
by Frank H. Wu
When we think about race, so many of us look at the issue in terms of black and white. Fran Wu's Yellow goes beyond those hard lines and explores racial identity and race relations through the perspective of the Asian American experience. From affirmative action and immigration to media representation and globalization, Wu's mix of personal anecdotes and in-depth reporting urges readers to deconstruct the way they think about race and abandon the false divisions that separate us. Thought-provoking and penetrating, Yellow tears down stereotypes and leaves in their place a model for racial progress.

'Citizen: An American Lyric' by Claudia Rankine
A gut-wrenching lyrical collection about race, identity, and being black in United States, Claudia Rankine's Citizen: An American Lyric is a must-read for every American citizen trying to understand racial injustice. Using essay, poetry, image, and art, Rankine exposes the racial aggression faced by black people every day, from the slights at the grocery stores to the overt violence in the media, and highlights the ways in which these aggressions hinder an individual's ability to survive. A truly moving book, Citizen will change the way you see black life in America.
'Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Inequality in America'
by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva
A classic text on the constructs of race and racism, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva's updated edition of Racism Without Racists is an essential read for anyone looking to understand the dangers of color-blind racial ideology. Covering everything from the post-Civil Rights era to the Black Lives Matter movement and the election of Donald Trump, this book exposes and analyzes the many ways racism persists and is practiced in modern America, despite our denial of it. But it doesn't just present the problems, it offers solutions in the form of a guide to navigating away from our deep racial divides and towards equality.

'White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son'
by Tim Wise
Part memoir, part cultural criticism, part political commentary, Tim Wise's White Like Me is a deeply personal exploration of what it means to be white and benefit from the racial privileges that go along with it. Wise looks at how whiteness shapes his daily life, from his education and housing to his employment and economic status, while exposing the ways in which it hurts people of color. Complete with advice and commentary on the best ways white people can challenge their privilege and fight back against racism using their position of power, White Like Me is a call to action all white Americans can learn from.

'How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America'
by Moustafa Bayoumi
If you've ever wanted to walk in someone else's shoes, How Does It Feel to Be a Problem lets you take steps as Arab- and Muslim-Americans, exposing the discrimination, prejudice, and injustice they face in their everyday lives. Drawing from the experiences of seven twenty-something year old Arab-Americans living in Brooklyn, author and scholar Moustafa Bayoumi gives a voice to an often oppressed and ignored population of men and women who are trying to come of age in a country that sees them as not just other, but as the enemy. Smart, sensitive, and thought-provoking, How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? is a fascinating and hopeful read.

In "But I Don’t See You as Asian: Curating Conversations About Race"
Bruce Reyes-Chow curates a collection of cringe-inducing statements about race such as, "If they can say it, why can't I?" "Do you know martial arts?" and “He’s a different kind of Black,” hoping to turn awkward moments into a dialogue between friends.
The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace, by Jeff Hobbs

This moving biography recounts the life of Robert Peace, a young man who escaped the streets of Newark, New Jersey, to attend Yale University — only to lose his life after graduating.

“But a deeper transition affected people of color in this dazed context. Before course selections and extra-curricular sign-up sheets, before bags could even be unpacked in rooms, black students had to situate themselves within their own race. The process was complicated, conflicting, usually silent, highly fraught, and wholly invisible to their white classmates. Most of whom had never actively had to consider the role of race in their lives.”

The Fire Next Time, by James Baldwin

One of James Baldwin’s most important book of essays, The Fire Next Time explores themes of race, religion and identity.

Ain’t I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism, by Bell Hooks

For the reader who wants to learn more about black feminism, Ain’t I A Woman is considered one of the most important and comprehensive works on how sexism and misogyny specifically affects women of color.

“While it is in no way racist for any author to write a book exclusively about white women, it is fundamentally racist for books to be published that focus solely on the American white woman’s experience in which that experience is assumed to be the American woman’s experience.”

Negroland: A Memoir, by Margo Jefferson

Margo Jefferson shares a bold and thought-provoking memoir on her upbringing as the daughter of black socialites in 1960s Chicago.

“Privilege is provisional. Privilege can be denied, withheld, offered grudgingly and summarily withdrawn. Entitlement is impervious to the kinds of verbs that modify privilege. Our people have had to work, scrape for privilege, gobble it down when those who would snatch it away weren’t looking. Keep a close watch.”
**Welcome to Braggsville**, by T. Geronimo Johnson

This darkly comic debut novel is about four University of California, Berkeley students from different backgrounds who decide to protest a Civil War reenactment.

“The table was shocked. The entire class in fact. They’d heard tell of Civil War reenactments, but they were still occurring? The War Between the States was another time and another country. As was the South. Are barbers still surgeons? Is there still sharecropping? What about indoor plumbing?”

**The Bluest Eye**, by Toni Morrison

Toni Morrison’s first novel perfectly captures the effects of racism and colorism, telling the story of an 11-year-old black girl with low self-esteem who prays desperately for her eyes to become blue.

“You looked at them and wondered why the were so ugly; you looked closely and could not find the source. Then you realized that it came from conviction, their conviction. It was as though some mysterious all-knowing master had given each one a cloak of ugliness to wear, and they had each accepted it without question. The mast had said, ‘You are ugly people.’ They had looked about themselves and saw nothing to contradict the statement; saw, in fact, support for it leaning at them from every billboard, every movie, every glance. ‘Yes,’ they had said. ‘You are right.’”

**Race Matters**, by Cornel West

Still considered one of activist Cornel West’s most important books, Race Matters bluntly takes on everything from affirmative action, to black crime, to religion within the black community — and what solutions, if any, there are.

“We indeed must criticize and condemn immoral acts of black people, but we must do so cognizant of the circumstances into which people are born and under which they live. By overlooking these circumstances, the new black conservatives fall into the trap of blaming black poor people for their predicament. It is imperative to steer a course between the Scylla of environmental determinism and the Charybdis of a blaming-the-victims perspective.”
**Invisible Man**, by Ralph Ellison

In this seminal 1952 novel, an unnamed narrator recounts his epic life-story, from his coming-of-age in a rural Southern town, to his migration to the violent streets of Harlem.

“I am an invisible man. No I am not a spook like those who haunted Edgar Allen Poe: Nor am I one of your Hollywood movie ectoplasms. I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids — and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, simply because people refuse to see me.”

**The Sellout**, by Paul Beatty

Beatty infuses comic humor and biting political commentary into this racial satire about a modern-day slave owner.

“Silence can be either protest or consent, but most times it’s fear.”

**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**, by Rebecca Skloot

This is the true story of Henrietta Lacks, a poor black woman whose cells from cervical cancer have been used by scientists for developing advances in everything from cloning, gene mapping, cancer treatment and polio vaccines.

**Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?**
by Beverly Daniel Tatum

Through research and case studies psychologist Beverly Daniel Tatum confronts the subtle ways in which racism dictates the ways both white and non-white people navigate the world.

“It is important to understand that the system of advantage is perpetuated when we do not acknowledge its existence.”

In her bestselling book *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Editor at Large of The Establishment Ijeoma Oluo unpacks some of the biggest racial issues facing the United States today, including white privilege, microaggressions, police brutality, the Black Lives Matter movement, and so much more. Simple, straightforward, and razor-sharp, this book is an accessible and friendly user guide for anyone trying to understand identity, representation, and racism in modern day America.
If you really want to understand the Black Lives Matter movement and the people who put their lives on the line fighting for its behalf, *When They Call You a Terrorist* is a must-read. Written by artist, activist, and Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors and journalist and author Asha Bandele, this powerful and breathtaking memoir reveals what it is like to be black in today's violently racially charged America.

University professor Brittney Cooper dismantles the misguided notion that black women's anger is a weakness. Rather, the author draws from history, pop culture, and her personal experiences from childhood and adulthood to position "eloquent rage" as a source of power that grants black women from Serena Williams to Michelle Obama the strength to not only survive but thrive in America.

If you want to understand the racial landscape of modern-day America, you first have to understand the nation's past, and Paul Ortiz's new bottom-up history book is the perfect place to start. Spanning more than 200 years, this alternative narrative offers a definitive and intersectional look at the country's development through the eyes of the African American and Latinx communities that helped it flourish, often to their own detriment.

For decades, Asian Americans have been perceived as the "model minority," but for a long time, the country feared the threat of their "yellow terror." How did this particular minority group's stereotype transform so radically, and in what way does the new perception of Asian Americans cause harm? Ellen D. Wu's tracks this metamorphosis and all of its racial implications in *The Color of Success*, an eye-opening book that will make you confront what you think you know about America's history with otherness.

Honest to the point of cringe-worthiness, *Waking Up White* dives head-first into the uncomfortable world of racial privilege. In it, author Debby Irving opens up about her experiences living as a white woman and coming to terms with the fact she exists in a world that rewards her for her skin color and punished others for theirs. If you're still waiting for your "aha" moment, this could be the key.
In this eye-opening book about fear, racism, paranoia, and surveillance, Moustafa Bayoumi offers an unflinching look at the culture of the War on Terror as experienced by Muslim Americans. A powerful blend of personal experience and academic research, this engaging collection of writing is an important and timely addition to the world of Muslim studies.

When we talk about race and inequality in this country, it's typically in social terms, but the United State's economy is one of the biggest barriers to an equal and inclusive nation where black and white families are granted the same opportunities. At least, that is what The Hidden Rules of Race strives to prove by offering up concrete examples of the many ways in which unspoken rules of race and economics perpetuate inequality.

In today's modern world, racism and bigotry have taken on brand new and still largely unexplored forms that thrive in our internet culture. In Algorithms of Oppression, Professor of Communication Safiya Umoja Noble investigates the many ways in which search engines like Google perpetuate and promote damaging biases that privilege white people and discriminate against people of color, especially women of color.

In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book” (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’ (Claudia Rankine). 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.

Traditional explanations of metropolitan development and urban racial segregation have emphasized the role of consumer demand and market dynamics. Kevin Fox Gotham reexamines the assumptions behind these explanations and offers a provocative new thesis. Using the Kansas City metropolitan area as a case study, Gotham provides both quantitative and qualitative documentation of the role of the real estate industry and the Federal Housing Administration, demonstrating how these institutions have promulgated racial residential segregation and uneven development.
Anti-black racism still infects American society.

Kansas Citians, like so many others across the nation, wonder, “Could it happen here?” The answer lies in this study of Kansas City’s darkest moments—slavery, the border war, the Civil War, bombings of black homes, lynchings, the segregation of neighborhoods and schools, the civil rights struggle, the Black Panther movement, the 1968 race riot, assassinations in the 1970s, the infamous Missouri v. Jenkins U.S. Supreme Court case, and the racial inequities that still plague Kansas City today. Threaded throughout Racism in Kansas City are stories of those who fought ardently against racist policies...and won.

A City Divided traces the development of white Kansas Citians’ perceptions of race and examines the ways in which those perceptions shaped both the physical landscape of the city and the manner in which Kansas City was policed and governed. Because of rapid changes in land use and difficulties in suppressing crime and vice in Kansas City, the control of urban spaces became an acute concern, particularly for the white middle class, before race became a problematic issue in Kansas City.

Gently addressing the challenging topics of privilege and race, power and inequality, White Picket Fences is a memoir of Amy Julia Becker's growing awareness of the unequal benefits (and secret harm) she received by virtue of her white skin, Protestant heritage, education and able body.

Drawing on all the community's collective voices--from "doctors to drug dealers"--Fearless Dialogues is a groundbreaking program that seeks real solutions to problems of chronic unemployment, violence, and hopelessness. In cities around the United States and now the world, the program's founder, Gregory C. Ellison, and his team create conversations among community members who have never spoken to one another, the goal of which are real, implementable, and lasting changes to the life of the community.

"What if I say the wrong thing?" "I'm white--is race really something I need to talk about? I'm worried I'll be called a racist!" "What does race have to do with faith, anyway?" "Why do we have to keep talking about this?"

If talking about racism makes you anxious, afraid, or even angry, you're not alone. In Anxious to Talk about It, pastor and professor Carolyn B. Helsel draws on her success with white congregations to offer insight and tools to embrace, explore and work through the anxious feelings that often arise in these hard conversations.
In this provocative book, theologian and blogger Drew G. I. Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, antiblack stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy. Leading readers toward Jesus, Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice.

*How to Be Less Stupid About Race* is your essential guide to breaking through the half-truths and ridiculous misconceptions that have thoroughly corrupted the way race is represented in the classroom, pop culture, media, and politics. Centuries after our nation was founded on genocide, settler colonialism, and slavery, many Americans are kinda-sorta-maybe waking up to the reality that our racial politics are (still) garbage. But in the midst of this reckoning, widespread denial and misunderstandings about race persist, even as white supremacy and racial injustice are more visible than ever before.

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, Jennifer Eberhardt offers us insights into the dilemma and a path forward.

**CHILDREN’S BOOKS ON RACE**

[https://www.embracerace.org/blog/26-childrens-books-to-support-conversations-on-race-racism-resistance](https://www.embracerace.org/blog/26-childrens-books-to-support-conversations-on-race-racism-resistance)

**ARTICLES AND ESSAYS**

- Teaching Children about racism – Christian Century
- White People What is Your Plan for Trump?
- NY Times 1619 American
- The Fear Response to 1619 - Sojourners
  https://sojo.net/articles/fear-slaveholder-religions-tool-control?fbclid=IwAR3xvgPdlVWz-tB7iyd9WGrJiiN4lNJ96EjezgO1WZzDHFSPeIRUE96bo
  What Unites and Divides Urban, Suburban and Rural Communities.
- Presbyterian Outlook – Examining White Privilege
  https://pres-outlook.org/2016/04/churches-examine-white-privilege/

- KC Library audio tour
  Here is the link: https://voicemap.me/tour/kansas-city/dividing-lines-a-history-of-segregation-in-kansas-city. I have downloaded the free Voicemap app onto my iPhone to see how this works. It looks like you start at Shawnee Mission East HS and follow the app’s direction prompts as you listen to the 90 minute narrative.

MOVIES
- Remember the Titans
- Hidden Figures
- Crash
- Selma
- Ruby Bridges
- Emmanuel

OTHER RESOURCES
- Craig Howard and Vanessa Hawkins, Giddings Love Joy Presbytery
- Giddings Love Joy Presbytery DRAP team
- Heather Kawamoto – Program Manager – Speaker at White Privilege Conference
- Nick Pickrel – Curator of The Open Table
- Village Presbyterian sermon series on Racism – Rev. Tom Are and Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka
- Second Presbyterian – Open Table – Intentionality and training for Anti racism
- Rev. Kirk Perucca

PC(USA) RESOURCES
- PC(USA) Facing Racism - https://facing-racism.pcusa.org/