

BRRICK (Building Racial Reconciliation in Christ's Kingdom)

Suggested Reading List

A People's History of the United States, Howard Zinn

History of the American people from the point of view of those who've been exploited politically & economically and whose plight was largely omitted from most histories

America's Original Sin, Jim Wallis

Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians—particularly white Christians—urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing.

Black Labor White Wealth: The Search for Economic Justice, Claud Anderson

How African Americans were socially engineered into a dysfunctionally subordinate position economically, educationally and politically in the US.

Born a Crime, Trevor Noah

Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother in apartheid South Africa at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, he was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life. It is a compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime story.

Color Blind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity, Tim Wise

Focusing on employment, housing, education and healthcare, Wise argues that racism is indeed still an acute problem in the United States today, and that color blind policies actually worsen the problem of racial injustice.

The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide, Meizhu Lui , Barbara

Robles, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Rose Brewer, Rebecca Adamson

With its focus on public policies—how, for example, many post–World War II GI Bill programs helped whites only—this is the first book to demonstrate the decisive influence of government on Americans' net worth.

Dismantling Racism, Joseph Barndt

Analyzes racism as it is today and the ways it has changed or not changed over the past few decades. Most importantly, it focuses on the task of dismantling racism, how we can work to bring it to an end and build a racially just, multiracial, and multicultural society. Churches have yet to make a serious impact in the racism that surrounds us and is within us.

Enter the River, Jody Miller Shearer

The Bible tells of Naaman the Syrian, who entered the Jordan River to be cleansed. Comparing the affliction of racism to Naaman's illness, this book invites readers into their own healing.

Lies My Teacher Told Me, James W. Loewen

A survey of twelve leading high school American history texts reveals they are marred by an embarrassing combination of blind patriotism, mindless optimism, sheer misinformation, and outright lies.

The Michael Eric Dyson Reader, Michael Eric Dyson

From Michael Jordan to the role of religion in public life, from Toni Morrison to patriotism in the wake of 9/11, Dyson tackles just about any subject of relevance to black America today.

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

Although Jim Crow laws have been wiped off the books, the majority of young black men in major American cities are locked behind bars or have been labeled felons for life, remaining trapped in a subordinate status.

Origins of the Urban Crisis, Thomas Sugrue

Once America's "arsenal of democracy," Detroit is now the symbol of the American urban crisis. In this reappraisal of America's racial and economic inequalities, this book asks why Detroit and other industrial cities have become the sites of persistent racialized poverty.

Parting the Waters, Taylor Branch

America in the King Years, 1954-63

Strength to Love, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A volume of his most well-known homilies

Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

A novel about a tribe in Africa, its culture, and what happens when the white missionaries arrive.

Warriors Don't Cry, Melba Patillo Beals

Memoir of one of the "Little Rock 9" - the first African American students to integrate Arkansas' high schools

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?, Beverly Daniel Tatum

We do not know how to talk about our racial differences. Using real-life examples and research, this book presents evidence that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about facilitating communication across racial and ethnic divides.

You Can't Touch My Hair: and Other Things I Still Have to Explain, Phoebe Robinson

Discusses race and feminism in a funny, real, and specific way.