

## Durham Tech Library's Race, Bias, and American History and Culture Book List (June 2020)

Click on the book to go to that section of the list.

If the book is available through the Durham Tech Library collection, a catalog record is linked. For most books, Goodreads links that provide descriptions, reviews, and purchasing/borrowing info are linked.



## Historical Perspectives

*Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* (2016) by Ibram X. Kendi

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “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.”

*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning* (2020) by Ibram X. Kendi & Jason Reynolds

- [Goodreads](#) : “Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.”

*White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* (2016) by Carol Anderson

- [Goodreads](#) : “From the Civil War to our combustible present, acclaimed historian Carol Anderson reframes our continuing conversation about race, chronicling the powerful forces opposed to black progress in America.”

*We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide* (2019) by Carol Anderson & Tonya Bolden

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “When America achieves milestones of progress toward full and equal black participation in democracy, the systemic response is a consistent racist backlash that rolls back those wins.” An adaptation of Carol Anderson’s *White Rage*, including “additional context to these historic moments, photographs and archival images, and additional backmatter and resources.”

*Creating Black Americans: African-American History and Its Meanings, 1619 to the Present* (2006) by Nell Irvin Painter

- [Goodreads](#) : “Painter offers a history written for a new generation of African Americans, stretching from life in Africa before slavery to today’s hip-hop culture” and includes “a series of striking works of art.”

*A Black Women’s History of the United States (Revisioning History Series)* (2020) by Daina Ramey Berry and Kali N. Gross

- [Goodreads](#) : “Spanning over 400 years, this book, written by two award-winning Black women historians, prioritizes all voices...[and] challenges historical stereotypes and myths but also offers a contemporary understanding of Black women in America.”

*An African American and Latinx History of the United States (Revisioning History Series)* (2018) by Paul Ortiz

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “A bottom-up history told from the viewpoint of African American and Latinx activists revealing the radically different ways that brown and black people of the diaspora addressed issues plaguing the United States today.”

### **Moving Forward/Self-Assessment**

*White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* (2018) by Robin DiAngelo

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “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.”

*How to Be an Antiracist* (2019) by Ibram X. Kendi

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it, [weaving] together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science, bringing it all together with an engaging personal narrative of his own awakening to antiracism.”

*Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* (2020) by Layla F. Saad

- [Goodreads](#) : Using journaling and reflective activities, “*Me and White Supremacy* teaches readers how to dismantle the privilege within themselves so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on people of colour, and in turn, help other white people do better, too.”

*So You Want to Talk about Race* (2018) by Ijeoma Oluo

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “[A] a contemporary, accessible take on the racial landscape in America, addressing head-on such issues as privilege, police brutality, intersectionality, micro-aggressions, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the “N” word [and] positioned to bridge the gap between people of color and white Americans struggling with race complexities, Oluo answers the questions readers don't dare ask, and explains the concepts that continue to elude everyday Americans.”

*How to Be Less Stupid About Race: On Racism, White Supremacy, and the Racial Divide* (2019) by Crystal Marie Fleming

- [Goodreads](#) : “*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.”

*How We Fight White Supremacy: A Field Guide to Black Resistance* (2019) edited by Akiba Solomon and Kenrya Rankin

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “[A] must-read for anyone new to resistance work, and for the next generation of leaders building a better future”[,] “leading organizers, artists, journalists, comedians, athletes, and filmmakers offer wisdom on how they fight White supremacy.”

## For sharing and getting started

*This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on how to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work* (2020) by Tiffany Jewell (for children, teens, and families)

- [Goodreads](#) : “Learn about identities, true histories, and anti-racism work in 20 carefully laid out chapters. ... It is written so children and young adults will feel empowered to stand up to the adults who continue to close doors in their faces. This book will give them the language and ability to understand racism and a drive to undo it. In short, it is for everyone.”

*100 Questions and Answers About African Americans* ([Bias Busters: Cultural competence series](#)) (2016) by Michigan State University School of Journalism

- [Michigan State School of Journalism](#) : “This guide is for people in business, education, religion, government, medicine, law enforcement and human resources who need a starting point in learning or teaching more about African Americans” and is developed through journalistic interviews.

*Antiracist Baby* (2020) by Ibram X. Kendi & Illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky (picture book)

- [Goodreads](#) : “Providing the language necessary to begin critical conversations at the earliest age, *Antiracist Baby* is the perfect gift for readers of all ages dedicated to forming a just society.”

## A Very Small Selection of Additional Topics and Perspectives

### Essays

*We Are Called to Be a Movement* (2020) by Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II

- [Goodreads](#) : “In a single, rousing sermon, the celebrated Reverend William J. Barber II of the Poor People’s Campaign makes an impassioned argument whose message could not be clearer: It’s time for change, and the time needs you.”

*Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* (2017) by Michael Eric Dyson

- [Goodreads](#) : “Dyson argues that if we are to make real racial progress we must face difficult truths, including being honest about how black grievance has been ignored, dismissed, or discounted.”

*The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race* (2016) edited by Jesmyn Ward

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Award-winning author Jesmyn Ward... has gathered short essays, memoir, and a few essential poems to engage the question of race in the United States [from] some of her generation’s most original thinkers and writers to give voice to their concerns.”

*Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* (2018) by Brittney Cooper

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Far too often, Black women’s anger has been caricatured into an ugly and destructive force that threatens the civility and social fabric of

American democracy. But Cooper shows us that ...ultimately feminism, friendship, and faith in one's own superpowers are all we really need to turn things right side up again."

*Between the World and Me* (2015) by Ta-Nehisi Coates

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : "Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward."

*We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy* (2017) by Ta-Nehisi Coates

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : "Coates powerfully examines the events of the Obama era from his intimate and revealing perspective--the point of view of a young writer who begins the journey in an unemployment office in Harlem and ends it in the Oval Office, interviewing a president."

*Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement* (2016) by Angela Y. Davis

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : "Reflecting on the importance of black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism for today's struggles, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles ...[and] highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from Ferguson to Palestine."

*Here for It: Or, How to Save Your Soul in America: Essays* (2020) by R. Eric Thomas

- [Goodreads](#) : Thomas "redefines what it means to be an "other" through the lens of his own life experience ...[through] the two worlds of his childhood: the barren urban landscape where his parents' house was an anomalous bright spot, and the verdant school they sent him to in white suburbia, ...struggling to reconcile his Christian identity with his sexuality, about the exhaustion of code-switching in college, accidentally getting famous on the internet ..., and the surreal experience of covering the 2016 election as well as the seismic change that came thereafter."

*Thick: And Other Essays* (2019) by Tressie McMillan Cottom

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : "Smart, humorous, and strikingly original thoughts on race, beauty, money, and more, ...a modern black American female voice waxing poetic on self and society, serving up a healthy portion of clever prose and southern aphorisms in a style uniquely her own."

### **Biography/Autobiography/Memoir**

*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* (2018) by Austin Channing Brown

- [Goodreads](#): "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."

*Men We Reaped: A Memoir* (2013) by Jesmyn Ward

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “In five years, Jesmyn Ward lost five men in her life, to drugs, accidents, suicide, and the bad luck that can follow people who live in poverty, particularly black men. Dealing with these losses, ...she realized the truth...[h]er brother and her friends all died because of who they were and where they were from, because they lived with a history of racism and economic struggle that fostered drug addiction and the dissolution of family and relationships.”

*The Best of Enemies: Race and Redemption in the New South* (2007) by Osha Gray Davidson

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “By placing this very personal story into broader context, Osha Gray Davidson demonstrates that race is intimately tied to issues of class, and that cooperation is possible—even in the most divisive situations—when people begin to listen to one another.”

*Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"* (2018) by Zora Neale Hurston

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “In 1927, Zora Neale Hurston went to Plateau, Alabama, ... to interview eighty-six-year-old Cudjo Lewis. ... Cudjo was then the only person alive to tell the story of this integral part of the nation's history. Hurston was there to record Cudjo's firsthand account of the raid that led to his capture and bondage fifty years after the Atlantic slave trade was outlawed in the United States.”

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (2014) by Bryan Stevenson

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time.”

*Negroland: A Memoir* (2015) by Margo Jefferson

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “[A] deeply felt meditation on race, sex, and American culture through the prism of the author’s rarefied upbringing and education among a black elite concerned with distancing itself from whites and the black generality while tirelessly measuring itself against both.”

*How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir* (2019) by Saeed Jones

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Jones’s memoir tells the story of a young, black, gay man from the South as he fights to carve out a place for himself, within his family, within his country, within his own hopes, desires, and fears.”

*When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* (2018) by Patrisse Khan-Cullors & asha bandele

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “A poetic and powerful memoir about what it means to be a Black woman in America—and the co-founding of a movement that demands justice for all in the land of the free.

*The Cooking Gene: A Journey Through African American Culinary History in the Old South* (2017) by Michael W. Twitty

- [Goodreads](#) : “A renowned culinary historian offers a fresh perspective on our most divisive cultural issue, race, in this illuminating memoir of Southern cuisine and food culture that traces his ancestry—both black and white—through food, from Africa to America and slavery to freedom.”

*March*, Books 1-3 (2013, 2015, 2016) by Congressman John Lewis & Andrew Aydin, Illustrated by Nate Smith

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “*March* is the ... graphic novel trilogy recounting ... the inside story of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of one of its most iconic figures, Congressman John Lewis.”

### **Social Science**

*Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism* (2018) by Safiya Umoja Noble

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Data discrimination is a real social problem; Noble argues that the combination of private interests in promoting certain sites, along with the monopoly status of a relatively small number of Internet search engines, leads to a biased set of search algorithms that privilege whiteness and discriminate against people of color, specifically women of color.”

*Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do* (2019) by Jennifer Eberhardt

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Eberhardt reveals how even when we are not aware of bias and genuinely wish to treat all people equally, ingrained stereotypes can infect our visual perception, attention, memory, and behavior.”

*Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (2016) by Matthew Desmond

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “*Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America's most devastating problems.”

*How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality, and the Fight for the Neighborhood* (2017) by P. E. Moskowitz

- [Goodreads](#) : “The deceptively simple question of who can and cannot afford to pay the rent goes to the heart of America's crises of race and inequality. In the fight for economic opportunity and racial justice, nothing could be more important than housing.”

### **Historical & Current Events [a very small selection]**

*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2010) by Michelle Alexander

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Alexander shows that, by targeting black men and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a

contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of color blindness.”

*The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (2017) by Richard Rothstein

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Rothstein, a leading authority on housing policy, explodes the myth that America’s cities came to be racially divided through... through individual prejudices, income differences, or the actions of private ... [and] incontrovertibly makes clear that it was ... the laws and policy decisions passed by local, state, and federal governments...that actually promoted the discriminatory patterns that continue to this day.”

*Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria: And Other Conversations About Race* (1997, 2003) by Beverly Daniel Tatum

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Tatum, a renowned authority on the psychology of racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides[, especially] ...as the national conversation about race is increasingly acrimonious.”

*Black Software: The Internet & Racial Justice, from the AfroNet to Black Lives Matter* (2019) by Charlton D. McIlwain

- [Goodreads](#) : “Through archival sources and the voices of many of those who lived and made this history, *Black Software* centralizes African Americans' role in the Internet's creation and evolution, illuminating both the limits and possibilities for using digital technology to push for racial justice in the United States and across the globe.”

*Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights* (2020) by Gretchen Sorin

- [Goodreads](#) : “Gretchen Sorin reveals how the car—the ultimate symbol of independence and possibility—has always held particular importance for African Americans, allowing black families to evade the many dangers presented by an entrenched racist society and to enjoy, in some measure, the freedom of the open road.”

*Stolen Justice: The Struggle for African American Voting Rights* (2020) by Lawrence Goldstone

- [Goodreads](#) : “In this portrait of the systematic suppression of the African American vote, author Lawrence Goldstone traces the injustices of the post-Reconstruction era through the eyes of individuals, both heroic and barbaric, and examines the legal cases that made the Supreme Court a partner of white supremacists in the rise of Jim Crow.”

*Laughing to Keep from Dying: African American Satire in the Twenty-First Century* (2020) by Danielle Fuentes Morgan



- [Goodreads](#) : “Fuentes Morgan ventures from Suzan-Lori Parks to Leslie Jones and Dave Chappelle to *Get Out* and *Atlanta* to examine the satirical treatment of race and racialization across today's African American culture... [and how, b]y subverting comedy's rules and expectations, African American satire promotes social justice by connecting laughter with ethical beliefs in a revolutionary way.”

*The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* (2010) by Isabel Wilkerson

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “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.”

*Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy* (2020) by David Zucchino

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “Zucchino uses contemporary newspaper accounts, diaries, letters and official communications to create a gripping and compelling narrative that weaves together individual stories of hate and fear and brutality [to tell] a searing account of the Wilmington riot and coup of 1898, an extraordinary event unknown to most Americans.”

*The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family* (2008) by Annette Gordon-Reed

- [Goodreads](#) | [Library Catalog](#) : “As *The Hemingses of Monticello* makes vividly clear, Monticello can no longer be known only as the home of a[n]... American leader...; nor can the story of the Hemingses, whose close blood ties to our third president have been expunged from history until very recently, be left out of the telling of America's story.”

*Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* (2017) by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

- [Goodreads](#) : “A startling and eye-opening look into America's First Family, *Never Caught* is the powerful narrative of Ona Judge, George and Martha Washington's runaway slave who risked it all to escape the nation's capital and reach freedom.”

*The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther* (2009) by Jeffrey Haas

- [Goodreads](#) : “*The Assassination of Fred Hampton* is Haas's personal account of how he and People's Law Office partner Flint Taylor pursued Hampton's assassins, ultimately prevailing over unlimited government resources and FBI conspiracy ...[that] puts Hampton in a new light as a dynamic community leader and an inspiration in the fight against injustice.”