

Overcoming Cultural Blindness Literature

For Beginners

- **Stamped From The Beginning; The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi**
 - * **There is a FREE audiobook version of this on Spotify!!!**
- A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn *This book focuses on anti-racism and slavery efforts throughout US history, but also labor organizers who have led strikes, anti-war organizers, feminists; stories throughout American history that don't often get told
- White Fragility; Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin Diangelo
- **So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo**

Intermediate

- The Burning House; Jim Crow and the Making of Modern America by Anders Walker
- **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander**
- **The Condemnation of Blackness; Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America by Khalil Gibran Muhammad**
- Dying of Whiteness; How the Politics of Racial Resentment Is Killing America's Heartland by Jonathan M. Metz
- A Different Mirror; A History of Multicultural America by Ronald Takaki
- **How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X Kendi**

Specific Topics

- Evicted; Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond
 - Topic: Poverty and housing; Pulitzer Prize winner
- **Nobody; Casualties of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond by Marc Lamont Hill**
 - Topic: Police Violence and Mass Incarceration

- Lies My Teacher Told Me; Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong by James W Loewen
 - Topics: Education and Colonialism; focuses on how most history taught in schools is white-washed and ignores historical events surrounding POC
- **Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race by Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD**
 - Topics: Education, Discrimination, Bias
- The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How our Government Resegregated America by Richard Rothstein
 - Topics: Segregation, Housing, Discrimination, Redlining
- **Blackballed: The Black Vote and US Democracy by Darryl Pinckney**
 - Topics: Voter Suppression and Black Voting

Biographies and Personal Narratives:

- **The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration by Isabel Wilkerson**
- **The First Next Time by James Baldwin**
- **The Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley**
- **Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates**
- **Killing Rage: Ending Racism by Bell Hooks**
- **Becoming by Michelle Obama**
- **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou**

Other Anti-Racist Books:

- Being White, Being Good: White Complicity, White Moral Responsibility, and Social Justice Pedagogy by Barbara Applebaum
- **Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower by Brittney Cooper**
- **Women, Race, & Class by Angela Davis**
- An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
- **The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (*fiction)**

Additional Resources:

75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice

<https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>

What Is White Privilege, Really?

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2018/what-is-white-privilege-really>

Maintaining Professionalism In The Age of Black Death Is.... A Lot

<https://medium.com/@shenequagolding/maintaining-professionalism-in-the-age-of-black-death-is-a-lot-5eaec5e17585>

Your Black Colleagues May Look Like They're Okay — Chances Are They're Not

<https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2020/05/9841376/black-trauma-george-floyd-dear-white-people>

My White Friend Asked Me on Facebook to Explain White Privilege. I Decided to Be Honest

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/opinion/2017/09/08/my-white-friend-asked-me-on-facebook-to-explain-white-privilege-i-decided-to-be-honest/>

Bryan Stevenson on the Frustration Behind the George Floyd Protests

https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/bryan-stevenson-on-the-frustration-behind-the-george-floyd-protests#intcid=recommendations_the-new-yorker-homepage_a4e8f083-9c91-4950-b168-567037c85d27_popular4-1

For Our White Friends Desiring to be Allies

<https://sojo.net/articles/our-white-friends-desiring-be-allies>

Check in on Your Black Employees, Now

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/02/opinion/police-killings-black-mental-health.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage>

We Wear the Mask by Paul Laurence Dunbar

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44203/we-wear-the-mask>

Letter from a Birmingham Jail – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.”

https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html

18 books on race and white privilege that will show you what's really happening in America right now

<https://www.businessinsider.com/books-white-privilege-novels-racism-antiracism-black-scholars-2020-6#the-new-jim-crow-mass-incarceration-in-the-age-of-colorblindness-by-michelle-alexander-2>

Types of Racism Defined

Dear White People,

You're going to be hearing a lot of talk of racism. And you might think that we're talking about white cops who murder black people. And although we are, that's not it. Yes, racism turns into hatred and violence, but it also manifests in a myriad of other ways. Also to clarify the term "racism", I'm not talking about racial prejudice that any race can have for any other. In academic and usually political realms, the word "racism" means the systemic oppression of a race. Which black people can't do to white people, as

opposed to racial prejudice which of course can and does happen. Here are other examples of how white people are racist.

Dismissive Racism: Dear white people, when a person of colour tells you you're being racist, listen, absorb and change your behaviour. If you defend what you said, you're not only still being racist, but you're now defending your racism. Take this time to listen, learn and change. When white people say "why is this about race?", it means that the white person doesn't want to see the flaws in the system that favour them.

Apathetic Racism: Everyone is posting, writing, pledging, protesting, donating, etc. right now. If you're not doing any of these things, your apathy is helping the racists, not the people who need your help.

Constitutional Racism: In the USA, the country was formed by white, cis, hetero men who were mostly Anglican or Protestant and also owned slaves. The "liberty and justice for all" and "all men are created equal" excluded women, trans, queer and people of colour. The country isn't "failing" these group. It was never designed for us. Once the slaves were freed, black people were still legally blocked from owning property, voting and going to school. Making it impossible for black people to become politicians or academics for a long time, to even out the playing field. Look up the history of "grandfather clause".

Oppressive Jealousy Racism: White people REALLY want to be oppressed. Whenever there are talks of how people of colour have it hard, white people desperately want to be included in the oppressed group. This jealousy stems from not acknowledging or learning about the oppressive state. Yes... all lives matter. Black Lives Matter isn't saying that white people's lives don't matter, it means they always have. Black lives don't matter in the system right now, and that's what needs to change. Same with Blue Lives Matter. We don't need to say this, because every single person who has killed a cop has been charged with first degree murder. What's basically legal in the USA right now, is for a cop to murder unarmed black people. A black teenager who steals a Dr Pepper from 711 deserves his day in court (and not being shot in the back by a cop), as does a white cop who murders an unarmed black man.

Generational Racism: White parents, especially in predominantly white areas, don't overtly teach their children not to be racist. Without overt and explicit conversations about race with children, not only will they not be able to see racism when it's in front of them, they may grow up to be even more racist than their parents.

Academic Racism: Black history or literature is barely taught in schools. It can be a chapter at most. And up until recently, some textbooks even referred to slaves as "migrant workers". Education systems need to teach race relations and history in school. So that next time Simone Manuel breaks another Olympic record for swimming and her race is discussed, when white people argue that "her race doesn't matter", another white person can point out that her grandmother wasn't allowed to swim in public pools, and now her granddaughter is the fastest swimmer in the world and that's kinda a big deal.

Comparative Racism: If you even begin to compare looting and rioting to a long history of systematic murder. You're racist. If you think the public property, and even the private property of civilians, including black civilians, is more important than ending the unjustified murder of a specific race, you're racist. If you even by a teeny tiny little weeny bit even think to possibly potentially compare property destruction and theft to the murder of a race. You're racist.

Privileged Racism: When people say “Oh I don’t see colour.” or “I only see good and evil, not colour”. You’re coming from a very privileged place of being able to ignore a system that oppresses certain people. Whether it’s fearing for your life when you get pulled over for speeding, or changing your name on your resume to better your chances at getting a job interview or an apartment, or being able to protest with visible firearms in public and even in government buildings, not being able to identify your own privileges contributes to the overall racist system. And for the record, white privilege doesn’t mean white people can’t have difficult lives, it means the various systems in place didn’t put you in a disadvantage because you’re white.

Popular Media Racism: This is very wide, but it actually is very important and it really started with blackface in early cinema. Having role models in TV and Film, is crucial for the upbringing of any kid. When films and TV whitewash narratives, cast white actors to play characters that were of colour in the source material or the real life counterparts, or when white people save the day, all contributes to the notion that white people are the norm, and the rest of us are the other. More people of colour at studios, networks, production companies hiring more people of colour to tell more stories of people of colour will help balance the popular media consumed by everyone, especially children of colour.

(and many many more)

So how, do you, a white person, become less racist? Listen, learn and change. Call people out, examine your own behaviours. When was the last time you hired a person of colour? You’ve forced your kids to watch The Goonies, now make them watch Akeelah and the Bee. No black literature in school? Make your teens read Roots, The Skin I’m In, or Ragtime. Don’t watch or read right-leaning news. Vote for not-racists (this one is super easy). Don’t defend your own behaviour when people of colour call you out. Don’t ever ever under any circumstance say All Lives Matter. Travel. Read. Listen. Donate. Protest. March. Yell. Equal rights does not mean less rights for you. Help us.

- Sergio Alvarado