

Clint Smith, "[Telling the Truth about Slavery Not 'Indoctrination,'](#)" in The Atlantic Sept 24, 2020

Simon Balto, *Occupied Territory: Policing Black Chicago from Red Summer to Black Power, Justice, Power, and Politics* series, Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2019. ([Available to read online through UNI's Rod Library](#))

- In this history of Chicago from 1919 to the rise and fall of Black Power in the 1960s and 1970s, Simon Balto narrates the evolution of racially repressive policing in black neighborhoods as well as how black citizen-activists challenged that repression. Balto demonstrates that punitive practices by and inadequate protection from the police were central to black Chicagoans' lives long before the late-century "wars" on crime and drugs. By exploring the deeper origins of this toxic system, Balto reveals how modern mass incarceration, built upon racialized police practices, emerged as a fully formed machine of profoundly antiblack subjugation.

James W. Loewen, *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*, revised 2nd. ed., New York: New Press, 2019.

- Loewen's book voices two major complaints about historical markers in the United States. The first deals with historical markers established in the Southern United States that attempt to whitewash the history of slavery and the period of Reconstruction. Many of these markers were established between 1890 and 1920, the nadir of American race relations. Most were placed by organizations with pro-Confederate agendas and reflect the racism of the early 20th century. While some markers have been altered in the last 40 years as a result of civil rights progress, many have not, especially those at American Civil War battle sites and in the South. Loewen's second major complaint deals with the treatment of Native Americans, who are often neglected and omitted in the telling of United States history. The author challenges and corrects many of the inaccurate and Eurocentric mistruths spread by historical markers across America.

Ibram X. Kendi. *How To Be An Antiracist*. New York: Random House, 2019

- Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

Flint Taylor, ***The Torture Machine: Racism and Police Violence in Chicago*** (Chicago: Haymarket Press, 2019)

- *The Torture Machine* takes the reader from the 1969 murders of Black Panther Party chairman Fred Hampton and Panther Mark Clark—and the historic, thirteen-years of litigation that followed—through the dogged pursuit of commander Jon Burge, the leader of a torture ring within the CPD that used barbaric methods, including electric shock, to elicit false confessions from suspects.

Carl Suddler, *Presumed Criminal: Black Youth and the Justice System in Postwar New York*. (New York: New York University Press, 2019)

- A stark disparity exists between black and white youth experiences in the justice system today. Black youths are perceived to be older and less innocent than their white peers. When it comes to incarceration, race trumps class, and even as black youths articulate their own experiences with carceral authorities, many Americans remain surprised by the inequalities they continue to endure. In this revealing book, Carl Suddler brings to light a

much longer history of the policies and strategies that tethered the lives of black youths to the justice system indefinitely. The criminalization of black youth is inseparable from its racialized origins. In the mid-twentieth century, the United States justice system began to focus on punishment, rather than rehabilitation, and black teens bore the brunt of the transition.

Emily L. Thuma, **All Our Trials: Prisons, Policing, and the Feminist Fight to End Violence** (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2019)

- All Our Trials explores the organizing, ideas, and influence of those who placed criminalized and marginalized women at the heart of their antiviolence mobilizations. This activism confronted a "tough on crime" political agenda and clashed with the mainstream women's movement's strategy of resorting to the criminal legal system as a solution to sexual and domestic violence. Drawing on extensive archival research and first-person narratives, Thuma weaves together the stories of mass defense campaigns, prisoner uprisings, broad-based local coalitions, national gatherings, and radical print cultures that cut through prison walls.

Jennifer Harvey, **Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America**, 2018

- Should we teach white kids to be "colorblind" or to notice race (and if so how)? What roles do we want them to play in addressing racism when they encounter it? How do we do that? Talking about race means naming white privilege and hierarchy. How do we do this honestly, without making children feel bad about being white? A great deal of public discussion exists about the impact of race and racism on children of color, but meaningful dialogue about and resources for understanding the impact of race on white children are woefully lacking. Raising White Kids steps into that void. It offers accessible pathways that point us toward the collective and urgent work of nurturing anti-racism among white children and youth.

Kelly Lytle Hernández, **City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion and the Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles, 1771-1965** (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017)

- Hernández's book takes a long view of policing in one American city as it evolved from Spanish colonial city to gold rush outpost, to modern city. Hernández argues that policing as it evolved in Los Angeles responded to the needs and anxieties of the city's elite to control populations considered to be social problems.

Sarah Haley, **No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity** (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017)

- In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries imprisoned black women faced wrenching forms of gendered racial terror and heinous structures of economic exploitation. Subjugated as convict laborers and forced to serve additional time as domestic workers before they were allowed their freedom, black women faced a pitiless system of violence, terror, and debasement. Drawing upon black feminist criticism and a diverse array of archival materials, Sarah Haley uncovers imprisoned women's brutalization in local, county, and state convict labor systems, while also illuminating the prisoners' acts of resistance and sabotage, challenging ideologies of racial capitalism and patriarchy and offering alternative conceptions of social and political life.

Elizabeth Hinton, **From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America** (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017)

- Johnson's War on Poverty policies sought to foster equality and economic opportunity. But these initiatives were also rooted in widely shared assumptions about African Americans' role in urban disorder, which prompted Johnson to call for a simultaneous War on Crime. The 1965 Law Enforcement Assistance Act empowered the national government to take a direct role in militarizing local police. By the 1980s, crime control and incarceration dominated national responses to poverty and inequality. The initiatives of that decade were

less a sharp departure than the full realization of the punitive transformation of urban policy implemented by Republicans and Democrats alike since the 1960s.

Heather Ann Thompson, **Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and its Legacy** (New York: Penguin Random House, 2017)

- A blow by blow account of the Attica Prison Uprising of 1971, its context, and its legacy for the prison abolition movement. Thompson's original research painstakingly puts together puts together police reports, interviews, transcripts, and other documents to give us the first comprehensive narrative of the Attica uprising and its aftermath. Thompson's work won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in History, the 2017 Bancroft Award, and was a National Book Award Finalist for 2017.

The Future of the African American Past (from the **American Historical Association 2016**)

Talitha LeFlouria, **Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South** (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016)

- LeFlouria argues that African American women's presence within the convict lease and chain-gang systems of Georgia helped to modernize the South by creating a new and dynamic set of skills for black women. At the same time, female inmates struggled to resist physical and sexual exploitation and to preserve their human dignity within a hostile climate of terror. This revealing history redefines the social context of black women's lives and labor in the New South and allows their stories to be told for the first time.

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, **From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation** (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016)

- Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor surveys the historical and contemporary ravages of racism and persistence of structural inequality such as mass incarceration and Black unemployment despite the growth of black electoral politics. In this context, she argues that this new struggle against police violence holds the potential to reignite a broader push for Black liberation.

Dan Berger, **Captive Nation: Black Prison Rights Organizing in the Civil Rights Era** (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016)

- In this path breaking book, Dan Berger offers a bold reconsideration of twentieth century black activism, the prison system, and the origins of mass incarceration. Throughout the civil rights era, black activists thrust the prison into public view, turning prisoners into symbols of racial oppression while arguing that confinement was an inescapable part of black life in the United States. Black prisoners became global political icons at a time when notions of race and nation were in flux. Showing that the prison was a central focus of the black radical imagination from the 1950s through the 1980s, Berger traces the dynamic and dramatic history of this political struggle.

Lisa M. Corrigan, **Prison Power: How Prison Influenced the Movement for Black Liberation** (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2016)

- Black Power activists produced autobiographical writings, essays, and letters about and from prison beginning with the early sit-in movement. Examining the iconic prison autobiographies of H. Rap Brown, Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Assata Shakur, Corrigan conducts rhetorical analyses of these extremely popular though understudied accounts of the Black Power movement. She introduces the notion of the "Black Power vernacular" as a term for the prison memoirists' rhetorical innovations, to explain how the movement adapted to an increasingly hostile environment in both the Johnson and Nixon administrations.

Jeffrey Haas, **The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther** (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 2011)

- In the early morning hours of December 4, 1969, Chicago police under the aegis of Cook's County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan barged into a Chicago apartment used by the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party. The police fired as many as 99 shots into an apartment filled with sleeping Black Panthers. When the shooting was over, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark lay dead. Hampton was the deputy chairman of the Black Panther Party and the leader of the Chicago chapter. An FBI informant had drugged him with barbiturates at the time of his death. This book, written by his lawyer, Jeffrey Haas, details the fight in civil court for justice.

Khalil Gibran Muhammad, **The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America** (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010)

- Khalil Gibran Muhammad's landmark book traces the evolution of thought that linked blackness with inherent criminality while at the same time considering white criminal activity as impetus for social reform. Muhammad argues that the constraints of Jim Crow politics meant that intellectuals like W.E.B. DuBois could not radically reframe the argument of black criminality itself, but could only suggest that black crime, like white crime, was caused by social and economic factors. Muhammad's book shows how social science research in the early twentieth century was weaponized to argue for an inherent black inferiority and criminality.

Cheryl D. Hicks, **Talk With You Like a Woman: African American Women, Justice, and Reform in New York, 1890-1935** (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010)

- With this book, Cheryl Hicks brings to light the voices and viewpoints of black working-class women, especially southern migrants, who were the subjects of urban and penal reform in early-twentieth-century New York. Hicks compares the ideals of racial uplift and reform programs of middle-class white and black activists to the experiences and perspectives of those whom they sought to protect and, often, control. In need of support as they navigated the discriminatory labor and housing markets and contended with poverty, maternity, and domestic violence, black women instead found themselves subject to hostility from black leaders, urban reformers, and the police. Still, these black working-class women struggled to uphold their own standards of respectable womanhood. Through their actions as well as their words, they challenged prevailing views regarding black women and morality in urban America.

Angela Y. Davis, **Are Prisons Obsolete?** (New York: Seven Stories Press, 2003)

- With her characteristic brilliance, grace and radical audacity, Angela Y. Davis has put the case for the latest abolition movement in American life: the abolition of the prison. As she quite correctly notes, American life is replete with abolition movements, and when they were engaged in these struggles, their chances of success seemed almost unthinkable. For generations of Americans, the abolition of slavery was sheerest illusion. Similarly, the entrenched system of racial segregation seemed to last forever, and generations lived in the midst of the practice, with few predicting its passage from custom. The brutal, exploitative (dare one say lucrative?) convict-lease system that succeeded formal slavery reaped millions to southern jurisdictions (and untold miseries for tens of thousands of men, and women). Few predicted its passing from the American penal landscape. Davis expertly argues how social movements transformed these social, political and cultural institutions, and made such practices untenable.