

## SUMMARIES

Aggregated editorial blurbs about some (not all) of the books on the list:

**We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World** By Malala Yousafzai

In her second book, *We Are Displaced*, education activist Malala Yousafzai begins with her experience of being internally displaced and eventually relocating to England — far from her home in Pakistan. The book also features stories from refugee girls from around the world who, despite their devastating circumstances, demonstrate resilience and hope.

**Memes To Movements: How the World's Most Viral Media Is Changing Social Protest and Power** By An Xiao Mina

Memes are known to magnify and poke fun at pop culture moments, but technologist, writer, and artist An Xiao Mina makes the case that they play a role in today's politics, as well. While activists in China use them to evade censorship, certain governments and hate groups utilize memes to spread propaganda, according to Mina. Meme culture is engraved in our feeds and conversations, but this book takes a deeper look at the power pictures and hashtags can have.

**Free All Along: The Robert Penn Warren Civil Rights Interviews** By Stephen Dury Smith and Catherine Ellis

This book is a collection of interviews between American poet and novelist Robert Penn Warren and various civil rights leaders, including James Baldwin, Martin Luther King Jr., Stokely Carmichael, Ralph Waldo Ellison, and Roy Wilkins. Although excerpts of those conversations have previously been published in Penn Warren's *Who Speaks for the Negro?*, this is the first time they will be released in their full, original form.

**Reclaiming Our Space: How Black Feminists Are Changing the World from the Tweets to the Streets** By Feminista Jones

In *Reclaiming Our Space*, social worker and activist Feminista Jones explores how black feminists are using social media to build movements, communities, and platforms to discuss feminism. To better understand the power and innovative nature of hashtags and movements like #BlackLivesMatter, #BlackGirlMagic, and #SayHerName, you'll want to read Jones' latest work.

**Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair** By Danielle Sered

Danielle Sered is the executive director of Common Justice, a restorative justice program based in Brooklyn, New York. In her book, *Until We Reckon*, she offers ideas on how to help end the mass incarceration of Americans who've committed violent offenses. It's a must-read for people advocating to reform the criminal justice system.

**Internment** By Samira Ahmed

Brought to you by the bestselling author of *Love, Hate, & Other Filters*, this book follows Layla Amin, a Muslim-American who leads a revolution when she and her family are forced into an internment camp in the U.S. Set in the very near future, this book will inspire readers to fight against Islamophobic rhetoric and politics, ensuring this scenario remains a work of fiction.

**Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do** By Jennifer L. Eberhardt

You may want to treat everyone with respect and dignity, and maybe you've even made efforts to promote equality, but unconscious racial bias can still influence your perception and behavior, which manifests in classrooms, streets, and prisons. In her book *Biased*, Jennifer Eberhardt, a professor of psychology at Stanford, offers suggestions to organizations and individuals on how to address unconscious bias.

#### Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing and the Path Forward By Valerie Jarrett

Valerie Jarrett's life was forever changed when she interviewed Michelle Obama (then Robinson) for a city government job. She just didn't know it yet. Jarrett's memoir, *Finding My Voice*, follows her journey to becoming a senior advisor to President Barack Obama, as well as an advocate for gender equality, civil rights, criminal justice reform, and working families.

#### As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock By Dina Gilio-Whitaker

History books have glossed over indigenous people, especially when it comes to their fight for environmental justice. In *As Long As Grass Grows*, you'll learn about it all, including treaty violations and efforts to protect sacred sites. Dina Gilio-Whitaker is a scholar, educator, journalist, and Colville Confederated Tribes descendant.

#### Guns Down: How to Defeat the NRA and Build a Safer Future with Fewer Guns By Igor Volsky

In conversations about how to end gun violence, we've heard a variety of approaches, such as background checks and bans on assault-style military weapons. Igor Volsky, the co-founder and director of Guns Down America, suggests building a future with fewer guns altogether with federal and state buybacks. He also proposes a licensing and registration initiative and stricter regulations. Actress and activist Alyssa Milano endorsed the book, writing "Anyone who wants to build safe American communities must read this book."

#### The Stonewall Reader Foreword by Edmund White, edited by New York Public Library

Ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising (June 28, 2019), you'll want to read this anthology. It includes first-hand accounts, diaries, periodic literature, and articles from LGBTQ magazines and newspapers from that time period, all pulled from the New York Public Library's archives.

#### Fight Like a Mother: How a Grassroots Movement Took on the Gun Lobby and Why Women Will Change the World By Shannon Watts

Shannon Watts is well-known for being the founder of the national advocacy group Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. In her book, she offers a closer look at what inspired her to start the movement and why women have innate power to become engaged and effective activists in their communities.

#### More Than Enough: Claiming Space for Who You Are (No Matter What They Say) By Elaine Welteroth

Fans of *Teen Vogue* and its former editor-in-chief, Elaine Welteroth will be thrilled to get a first-hand account of how the award-winning journalist broke boundaries in the industry, as well as the struggles and lessons she learned along the way. She was the first African American beauty and health director at Condé Nast and then became the youngest

editor-in-chief in 2017. In that role, she integrated social justice issues into the magazine's coverage, validating and empowering teenagers who care about fashion and politics.

#### How to Be an Antiracist By Ibram X. Kendi

Ibram X. Kendi's memoir not only challenges readers to think about what constitutes an anti-racist society but also empowers them to think of ways to make one a reality. In telling his own story, Kendi includes history, philosophy, and even imaginative fiction. Kendi is a National Book Award winner, professor, and columnist.

#### *THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS* BY MICHELLE ALEXANDER

In 2010, Alexander blew open the conversation on racial prejudice in our prison system. This seminal (yes, it's so good it deserves that word) work talks about how mass incarceration is the newest way of legalizing racism in a country whose roots are steeped in it.

#### *AN AFRICAN AMERICAN AND LATINX HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES* BY PAUL ORTIZ

Nothing like recentering your notions of history. Ortiz takes the reader from the late 1700s to the present and introduces you to figures like Amy Jacques Garvey, José Martí, as well as more familiar ones such as Denmark Vesey and Frederick Douglass. He looks at the history of the United States as one of working class people versus imperialism. Learn a story different than the one they taught in school.

#### *WHITE FRAGILITY: WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT RACISM* BY ROBIN DIANGELO

If you can't handle any of your actions being called out as racist, this is the book for you. DiAngelo explains the systemic nature of racism, and how white people are inherently benefiting from it. She stresses the necessity for self-awareness from white people, being open to feedback, and decentering yourself in the conversation.

#### *EVICTED: POVERTY AND PROFIT IN THE AMERICAN CITY* BY MATTHEW DESMOND

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this 2016 social justice read follows eight Milwaukee families and demonstrates how America's current system benefits the rich while punishing the poor. It's expensive to be poor, and Desmond's excellent sociological work is paired with empathy as he moves into the areas he writes about. This was named one of *Time's* top 10 nonfiction books of the decade.

#### *WE TOO SING AMERICA: SOUTH ASIAN, ARAB, MUSLIM, AND SIKH IMMIGRANTS SHAPE OUR MULTIRACIAL FUTURE* BY DEEPA IYER

Activist Iyer frames this examination of racial tension in America around September 11 and how that day changed South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh communities across the country. She states that while white America has not fully faced its post-9/11 racial anxiety, there are steps it can take towards healing the broken relationship with those it has ostracized or othered.

*THE COLOR OF LAW: A FORGOTTEN HISTORY OF HOW OUR GOVERNMENT SEGREGATED AMERICA* BY RICHARD ROTHSTEIN

Do you think all this \*gestures around\* just naturally happened? Rothstein argues that every level of government, from local to state to federal, has had a hand in purposefully segregating metropolitan areas in America. Racial zoning, public housing, and financial incentives for builders bolstering segregated neighborhoods: all of these were done with intention.

*ONE PERSON, NO VOTE: HOW VOTER SUPPRESSION IS DESTROYING OUR DEMOCRACY* BY CAROL ANDERSON

This book, which also exists in a YA version, goes from Reconstruction America in 1865 all the way to the present day to lay out a clear picture of how voting rights have been suppressed through poll taxes, photo ID requirements, gerrymandering, and straight-up poll closures. Voter suppression is no accident, and Carol Anderson is here to make that abundantly clear.

'The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care' by T.R. Reid

Healthcare is a critical issue for Americans right now. In this must-read book, Reid examines different healthcare systems worldwide, and explores what makes a healthcare system successful (or not successful). It breaks down a complicated topic and makes it easily digestible. You'll walk away from this one understanding exactly why affordable healthcare is so essential to America's well-being.

'Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions' by Valeria Luiselli

In this crucial, heartbreaking read, Valeria Luiselli interviews undocumented Latin American children facing deportation. This is a short book that makes a bold statement on the indignities of our immigration system.

'Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America' by Barbara Ehrenreich

In this book, Barbara Ehrenreich attempts to live off of minimum wage jobs in order to expose the horrific conditions of the "working poor." This one will give you a lot to think — and talk — about.

'Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches' by Audre Lorde

Audre Lorde is essential reading for all Americans. Period. In one of her most famous collection of essays, Lorde lays the groundwork for feminism as we know it today and explores the intricacies of intersectional identities.

'Blueprint for Revolution: How to Use Rice Pudding, Lego Men, and Other Nonviolent Techniques to Galvanize Communities, Overthrow Dictators, or Simply Change the World' by Srdja Popovic and Matthew Miller

One question we have to answer as we gear up to fight back is.... *how?* In *Blueprint for Revolution*, Srdja Popovic delivers a handbook on using nonviolent techniques to create lasting change, whether it's on a local or national scale.

'The War on Choice: The Right-Wing Attack on Women's Rights and How to Fight Back' by Gloria Feldt

This book was published in 2004, but it is still incredibly relevant. In *The War on Choice*, Gloria Feldt explores the historical strategies for attacking women's rights, and explains what pro-choice activists can do to rise up and fight back.

*A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn

Originally published in 1980, this book is now considered a classic. *A People's History* looks at American history from the time of Columbus to President Clinton's first term through the perspective of groups overlooked in classrooms: women, African-Americans, native Americans, immigrants, and others. Zinn rightly shows how many of America's greatest victories such as the women's right to vote, fair wages, and the 8-hour workday came about because of the persistence of these undermined populations. In case you're worried it's out of date, it's been revised frequently throughout the years.

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

This book may be short, but don't be deceived: it's packed with essential insights from a figurehead of social justice causes. In this collection of essays, Davis explores the intersection of black feminism, prison abolitionism, and more through a historical perspective and analysis of today's injustices found in places like Ferguson, Missouri and Palestine. Davis is no stranger to the struggle; since the 1960's, she's been fighting the good fight, so her words ring true, loud, and clear.

*Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay

Roxane Gay's collection of essays proves that both seriousness and humor have a place in the social justice movement. Her razor-sharp writing tackles everything from her love of the color pink to women who love Chris Brown. What does the title mean? In a 2014 interview with *Time*, Gay explained that each essay strives to show how feminism influences her life "for better or worse." One of the key takeaways of the collection is that like humanity, feminism is flawed. Gay, with her honesty and insight, is one of this generation's most important voices. Her other publications include *Hunger: A Memoir of my Body* and *Difficult Women*.

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

This non-fiction book reads like a narrative and that's really what it is – a true and important story. As a young lawyer heading up the Equal Justice Initiative, Stevenson found himself taking on the case of Walter McMillian, a man on death row for a crime he says he didn't commit. *Just Mercy* tells the story of Stevenson working through legal policy and becoming personally transformed by Walter's case. For anyone interested in prisoner rights and the inner workings of the industrial-prison complex, this is a must-read. Published in 2014, the book won a slew of awards including the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. It is currently being adapted into a film starring Michael B. Jordan as Stevenson.

*On the Other Side of Freedom: The Case for Hope* by DeRay McKesson

Activist DeRay McKesson's book begins in 2014, when at 29-years old, he protested with hundreds in the streets of Ferguson. This sparked a fire which led to the creation of the Black Lives Matter movement. McKesson, a leader in the group, uses his book's pages to outline the structure for a new liberation movement. He also explains why organization

and action on a large scale is so important as well as new elements of protest, such as technology. *The Case for Hope* is both an inspirational cry and a practical guide, which are things this time in history needs.

**Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High by Melba Pattillo Beals**

As one of the Little Rock Nine, Melba describes in painful detail exactly how difficult and heartbreaking it was for her and her classmates to be the first black students to attend Little Rock High School.

**Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Written as a series of letters to his son, Coates directly confronts race in America and the impact structural racism plays in our history and modern society.

**Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

With a remarkably blunt and powerful voice, this book tells the story of a young Nigerian woman who emigrates to the United States to attend college.

**Climate Refugees by Collectif Argos**

Climate Refugees present facts via interviews with key people whose homes are threatened or already compromised by rising water or changing weather. Anecdotes and vivid photos give the reader close up views of nine sites threatened by global warming.

***War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race* – Edwin Black**

Arguably one of the best books on the history of the American eugenics movement, and its impact on laws, immigration and the Holocaust.

**The Kikuchi Diary: Chronicle from an American Concentration Camp by Charles Kikuchi Editor: John Modell**

A stunning account of life during WWII as written by a one of the 100,000 Japanese-Americans who were stripped of their rights and forced into internment camps across the United States.

**Freakboy by Kristin Elizabeth Clark**

As Brendan struggles to understand his sexual identity, he writes, "I'm Freakboy and there will never be a place for me. Anywhere."

**If I Was Your Girl by Meredith Russo**

There is a reason 'If I Was Your Girl' was on the Best Book of the Year lists. As Amanda transitions from a boy to girl you will be moved by her struggles and successes.

The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez by Alan Lawrence Sitomer

Sonia is a native-born citizen with Mexican immigrant parents. Her father works faithfully in multiple jobs to put food on the table, but his daughter, Sonia, has big dreams.

Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America's First Black Paratroopers by Tanya Lee Stone

It is a powerful investigation and the true story of the Triple Nickels in the segregated U.S. military during World War II.

The Book of Isaias: A Child of Hispanic Immigrants Seeks His Own America by Daniel Connolly

The biographical story of an immigrant teenage child's journey through the American education system and the trials he faces to succeed.

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

This book helps the reader develop a different perspective regarding race relations and discrimination.

A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison by Dwayne Betts

Betts, currently a poet and Yale-trained lawyer, explores the pull of the streets that led him to a prison sentence for carjacking as a minor and the tactics he used to survive while there.

When the Moon is Low by Nadia Hashimi

This book details the journey of one family of refugees fleeing the Middle East and the injustices that they face.

Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People by William L. Iggiagruk Hensley

This book offers a unique Native perspective on traditional Alaskan Native tradition and culture within a larger encroaching assimilation-based power structure.

Flight by Sherman Alexie

In "Flight," the protagonist time-travels to different moments in U.S. history, witnessing conflict from different points of view and drawing conclusions about injustice, revenge, and the truth of history.

The Pink Triangle by Richard Plant

The Pink Triangle depicts the stagnation of progress for civil rights for homosexuals from before WWII to the present. Whereas the other victims of Holocaust have been given legal recognition, justice and restitution, the homosexual victims are still greatly unrecognized in these areas.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

This story focuses on conflicts of assimilation, clash of cultures, and generational conflict. It follows the story of a family who move from Calcutta to Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts by Maxine Hong Kingston

This work offers opportunities to explore the themes of sexism, racism, assimilation, and stereotypes through the eyes of a Chinese family assimilating into American culture.

None of the Above by I.W. Gregorio

The searing tale of a homecoming queen who realizes she is intersex.