

## RENWICK'S LIST OF RACE RELATED BOOKS & VIDEOS

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NOTE: The fact that book, videos, etc., are on this list does not mean that I agree with everything in them. E.g., when some of these books and videos move from their subject into partisan politics, I am not endorsing their candidates or parties! **Rather, these are resources I have read or watched, and I've found something in them that is worthwhile to expand my understanding of the issues, and/or to know what others are thinking.**

### BOOKS

#### 1. Recent Popular

##### How to Be An Anti-Racist (2019) by Ibram X. Kendi

Dr. Kendi's style is invitational: he invites readers into his creative framework for thinking about matters of race, without condemning those who might challenge or disagree with him. Overall he makes me want to listen to what he has to say. To me, his book is weakened by the final chapters which move into realms of sexuality and anti-capitalist economics, and to ideas on implementation that seem unnecessarily coercive.

Some key ideas . . .

- **A racist idea** is one that posits any racial group as being better or worse than another, either biologically, culturally or in any other respect.
- **A racist policy** is any law, process or rule that creates racial inequity.
- **Segregationists** are people who try to get away from Black people
- **Assimilationists** are people who believe Black people as a group can be changed for the better, and the segregationists do not.
- **Both Segregationists and the assimilationists** are challenged by anti-racists
- **An anti-racist** is one who promotes equity among racial groups.
- **An antiracist idea** is one that believes racial groups are equal and that they have neither good nor bad qualities, regardless of any ostensible differences. *An antiracist policy may positively discriminate to achieve greater equity*
- **A racist** is someone – of any skin shade or color -- who communicates ideas that are racist or who supports racist policies, either actively **or by being apathetic.**

##### Why Are All the Children Sitting together in the Cafeteria (1997, completely revised and updated, 2017) by Beverly Tatum.

Dr. Tatum's background in psychology, her years working with students at Mt. Holyoke College in multi-ethnic discussions and as president emerita of Spellman College, a historically Black college, shine through in this excellent – but long – book. Her personal experiences and definitions are extremely helpful.

#### 1. Definition of Terms

- **Prejudice** – a preconceived judgment or opinion, usually based on limited information (Whites and Blacks can be prejudiced)
- **Racism**: A system of advantage (sought or unsought) based on race (In the United States the beneficiaries are only those who are White)
- **White Privilege**: the systematic advantages of being White (Dr. Tatum asks the simple but profoundly perceptive question to white students: "Overall, do you think it is more advantageous to be White or Black?")

#### 2. Understanding Blackness in a White Context

#### 3. Understanding Whiteness in a Black Context

#### 4. Beyond Black and White

#### 5. Breaking the Silence

**Watch:** Beverly Tatum (TED-X Talk) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_TFaS3KW6s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_TFaS3KW6s)

##### White Fragility (2019) by Robin DiAngelo

- Some sections are helpfully provocative with regard to awakening white persons to racism.
- However, I found Dr DiAngelo's style to be confrontational, strongly guilt-oriented, and her central thesis to be unconvincing. The fragility that Dr DiAngelo sees as proof of racism, is, from my experience as a counselor, merely proof of the fragility of humanity as a whole -- in all kinds of matters, and not just matters of race. Further, Dr. DiAngelo's blanket categories of "Black and White" seem to me to fit within Dr. Kendi's definition of "racist"!
- See (the negative) review online in The Atlantic, by African American professor, John McWhorter, The Dehumanizing Condescension of White Fragility.

## 2. Historical /Story

### **Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You. (2020) By Jason Reynolds**

(= A “re-mix” for youth of “Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America” (2017) by Ibram X. Kendi. Dr. Kendi’s introduction is a straightforward summary of his thought as a whole.

### **The Color of Compromise, (2019) by Jemar Tisby (Reformed Sem. Graduate)**

An introduction to the history of slavery and issues of race in the United States, from a Christian perspective. Somewhat similar to Stamped from the Beginning

1. The Color of Compromise
2. Making Race in the Colonial Era
3. Understanding Liberty in the Age of Revolution & Revival
4. Institutionalizing Race in the Antebellum Era
5. Defending Slavery at the Onset of the Civil War
6. Reconstructing White Supremacy in the Jim Crow Era
7. Remembering Complicity in the North
8. Compromising with Racism in the Civil Rights Movement
9. Organizing the Religious Right at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
10. Reconsidering Racial Reconciliation in the Age of Black Lives Matter
11. The Fierce Urgency of Now

### **To Be A Slave by Julius Lester (1968)**

A powerful selection of first-person narratives written by slaves in the nineteenth century.

- The Auction Block
- The Plantation
- Resistance
- Emancipation
- After Emancipation

### **Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom (Pulitzer Prize, 2018) by David Blight**

- A detailed portrait of Frederick Douglass and his times. Unafraid to mention deep-seated racism and paternalism in the North, not just the South, and the impact of white Irish immigrants (“poor whites”) on the nineteenth century discussions of equality.

### **Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring (2019) by (U.S. District Judge) Richard Gergel**

- A gripping story of the beginning of the post-WWII struggle for civil rights, and the courage it took to break with negative peer pressure.

### **Just Mercy (2014) by Bryan Stevenson**

- A remarkable story of courage and persistence in pursuit of justice for those wrongfully convicted of murder, and for children tried and sentenced as adults. (The Movie is good. The book is much better!)

Bryan Stevenson’s Christian faith and compassion, though rarely explicit, is palpable. **Watch** his YouTube interview with pastor Tim Keller.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyBfOX5OHRQ>

### **Other**

- The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois (1903). The “classic” exploration of race in America.

### **Christian Authors**

#### **Uncommon Ground (2020) ed. Tim Keller and John Inazu**

A series of essays by 12 Christian authors

#### **Bloodlines: Race, Cross, and the Christian (2011) by John Piper**

Conservative pastor and theologian; somewhat biographical. The best book for a deep bible study on the Bible and race. Excellent suggestions for church follow up. Unexpected emphasis on racism as structural, and references to diverse views within the black Christian community.

#### **One Blood: Parting Words to the Church about Race and Love (2018) by John Perkins**

1. The Church Should Look Like That
2. One Race, One Blood
3. A Lament for Our Broken Past
4. The Healing Balm of Confession
5. Forgiveness: It’s in Our DNA
6. Tear Down This Wall!
7. God Don’t Want No Coward Soldiers
8. Prayer, the Weapon of Our Warfare
9. The Greatest of These Is Love
  - A gentle but clear “entry into the discussion” book
  - Somewhat biographical

**Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America, (2017) by Michael Eric Dyson** (Professor at Georgetown). Dr. Dyson follows an “Order of Worship Service” as he delivers this deeply personal and critical sermon to white America.

## Introductions to the Discussion

### So You Want to Talk About Race (2018) by Ijeoma Oluo

Powerful, personal. This is the “best-seller” but I prefer . . .

### Anxious to talk About It: helping White Christians Talk faithfully about Racism

(2017) Carolyn B. Helsel (White Presbyterian Pastor)

- This is a brief and non-threatening introduction to matters of race designed for group discussion

### Be The Bridge: Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation (2019) by Latasha

**Morrison** (Black author)

1. How We Begin: A Posture of Humility
2. History Keeps Accounts: Awareness of the truth
3. An Invitation to Empathize: Acknowledgment and Lament
4. Removing Roadblocks to Reconciliation: free from Shame and Guilt
5. Where healing Begins: Confession
6. The haling Balm: Seeking and Extending Forgiveness
7. Facing the Oppressed, aching God: repentance
8. Righting the Wrongs: Making Amends
9. Relationships Restored: Reconciliation and restoration
10. Building More Bridges: Reproduction

### Roadmap to Reconciliation 2.0: Moving Communities to Unity, Wholeness and

Justice (2015, 2020) by Brenda Salter McNeil (Black Author)

Introduction: A Prophetic Journey

1. What is Reconciliation
2. Landmarks of Reconciliation
3. Shake it Up
4. A shift in perspective
5. Group Effort
6. Planning for Action
7. Doing Justice
8. Repairing Broken Systems Together
9. Staying the Course

Conclusion: A Vision of a Flourishing Future

[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) – 2016 General Assembly Facing Racism Report and Study Guide.

## Articles

- The Economist, July 2020. “The new Ideology of Race and What’s Wrong with It” <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/07/09/the-new-ideology-of-race>
- Statement of Brian Blount, May 31, 2020, President, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA. <https://presnb.com/2020/statement-from-union-seminary-president-brian-blount-on-the-death-of-george-floyd/>

## VIDEOS: Documentaries (many more)

- Reconstruction: America After the Civil War (2019 PBS) Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- Mr. Civil Rights -- Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP (2104 Documentary)

## Also Movies

- Marshall (movie 2017)
- The Color Purple (movie, 1985; book, 1982)
- Selma (movie 2014)
- Hidden Figures (movie 2017)
- Green Book (movie 2018)
- (Marvel’s) Black Panther (movie 2018)

## WEB Videos

Phil Vischer, “The History of Race” (20 minutes; creator of “Veggie Tales”)

<https://digg.com/video/phil-vischer-veggie-tales-history-of-race>

Tim Keller, “Racism and Corporate Evil: A White Guy’s Perspective”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhJcTKTVG0>

Tom Skinner (Urbana, Inter-Varsity, 1970) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvKQx4ycTmA>

## Conservative Black Voices

### Unified: How Our Unlikely Friendship Gives Us Hope for a Divided Country

Sen. Tim Scott & Rep. Trey Gowdy

**Thomas Sowell** (prolific) Hoover Institute “A Conflict of Visions: The Two Visions”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGvYqaxSPp4&list=PL43DD7F5427E0D629&app=desktop>

### Walter E. Williams (Professor Economic, George Mason) Is Racism Responsible for Today’s Black Problems?

[https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/07/29/black-family-structure-racism/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=black-family-structure-racism?utm\\_source=TD5\\_Email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=MorningBell&mkt\\_tok=evjpljoiTm1RNvUQmlaamhtWmpFdyislnQOiwZHbwdIRRNkTvYSYMKozUzhFRFRvM01wM01ibDVoQzV3dFpVWnpDMmRtOWNST2g4TFBMMWFkOEtOOEVRdWtqRESPU0d0bUxDYOdWY3e4eWxTNIHyOGZ8cU5rSXN1NDQrZlBtO3N350tidmJCaDVWRW5B20t3cWQvcVVVldKaj9](https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/07/29/black-family-structure-racism/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=black-family-structure-racism?utm_source=TD5_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MorningBell&mkt_tok=evjpljoiTm1RNvUQmlaamhtWmpFdyislnQOiwZHbwdIRRNkTvYSYMKozUzhFRFRvM01wM01ibDVoQzV3dFpVWnpDMmRtOWNST2g4TFBMMWFkOEtOOEVRdWtqRESPU0d0bUxDYOdWY3e4eWxTNIHyOGZ8cU5rSXN1NDQrZlBtO3N350tidmJCaDVWRW5B20t3cWQvcVVVldKaj9)

Voddie Baucham, Founders Ministries “Ethnic Gnosticism”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp3nV6S\\_fyU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp3nV6S_fyU)

Unified: How Our Unlikely friendship Gives Us Hope for A Divided Country, 2018, pp161ff, 188ff EDITED/ABBREVIATED

TIM

**Americans know the meaning of the initials DWB:** Driving While Black. During one particular year in my time as an elected official, I was pulled over seven times. Was I speeding on one or two of those occasions? Most likely, yes. But the vast majority of times, I was pulled over for driving a new car in the wrong neighborhood, or for some other equally questionable reason.

Surprisingly, I have **even experienced racial profiling on Capitol Hill.**

In 2015, almost five years into my government service, I entered one of the congressional buildings with my Senate lapel pin on. As I walked in, the security officer stopped me and said, "I recognize the pin, but I don't recognize you! So what are you trying to say? I thought to myself. Either you think I'm committing a crime by impersonating a member of Congress or ... what? He asked to see my ID, and of course I showed it to him, but why should I have had to? Later that evening, I received a call from a Capitol Police supervisor, apologizing for the incident-**the third such call** I had received in the past year or so.

Thankfully, I have not endured bodily harm at the hands of the police, unlike others, **but I have felt the pressure** that is applied by the scales of justice. When they are askew, I have felt the anger, frustration, sadness, and humiliation that come with feeling as if you've been targeted for nothing more than being yourself.

A . . . former staffer . . . expressed the frustration so well: "There are few things more damaging to the soul than to know you're following the rules and being treated as if you're not."

Situations like the ones I've described may not happen a thousand times a day, but they happen far too often. Speaking from experience. I can say they are not easily forgotten. *It's humiliating to be falsely accused. It makes a person feel small. And it can be dangerous when the one accusing you is in a position of authority. To view someone as guilty by association-simply because of race, religion, or nationality-is demeaning and detrimental to our democracy.* Incidents like these have caused a **deep divide between people of color and law enforcement in many cities and towns across the nation.** There is a trust gap, a tension, that has been growing for decades. Tragically, some incidents have ended in bodily harm, or even death. We're all too familiar with those African Americans are often disappointed with the justice system. They feel as if lady Justice is holding scales that are out of balance. Lady Justice may be the only part of the legal system that is truly blind; it seems too many people involved notice skin color much more than we would like. When you can lose your freedom-or your life-over unfairness in the justice system, it undermines the rule of law and our basic human dignity in a most critical part of the American landscape!

TREY

At a Pastor/Police Roundtable in Greenville, I asked the participants what came to mind **when they heard "law and order" and "public safety."** A young black pastor was candid enough to speak up. "I hear code talk," he said. "I hear, 'Lock up people of color' or 'Lock up young black males,'"

Wow. To me, "law and order" does not mean "Let's lock 'em all up." It means "Let's keep everyone safe. Let's keep all people of good conscience safe."

TIM

Every family wants to live in a place where "law and order" is a positive term.

**But historically speaking, the phrase "law and order" has felt like a threat to the freedom of black people.** Many of us are old enough to remember a guy with a bullhorn or a fire hose. We picture somebody wanting to forcibly remove us and lock us all up. When anyone says that "stop and frisk" policies are not unconstitutional, it feels unsettling to me. It feels alarming to think that someone has legal authorization to stop and frisk me, based on a hunch and nothing else. That's terrifying to people who have experienced a loss of freedom because of someone else's abuse of power. There are phrases and word choices that can evoke a sense of danger, even in someone who is comfortable with law enforcement and supportive of police officers. That sense of danger only becomes more real when policies are put in place to make those dangers legal.

TREY

At face value, the law applies equally across the board, regardless of race; but in its application, it plays out differently. Our drug laws are a perfect example of the difference,

When I worked at the U.S. Attorney's office, from 1994 to 2000, possession of 500 grams of powder cocaine would result in a mandatory minimum prison sentence of five years. That was a race-neutral standard; it applied to everyone. At the same time, possession of only 5 grams of cocaine base, or what is commonly called crack cocaine, would result in the same mandatory minimum five years in prison. Again, a race-neutral standard based on the amount of the controlled substance one had in his or her possession.

So at face value, the law was neutral. But it was not at all neutral in its application-for one simple reason: powder cocaine was the drug of choice primarily for white defendants, whereas crack cocaine was more likely the drug of choice for black defendants.

Even if the intention behind the disparity was completely neutral-and you're free to decide that for yourself-the net effect of the law was de facto discriminatory.

One could certainly argue, "Well, you shouldn't be selling drugs." That's true, but it's not the end of the analysis. If people are selling drugs, which they are doing, why not punish them equally? 'Why not have equal sentencing standards, whether the drug is heroin, crack cocaine, or methamphetamine?'

Let's at least acknowledge the tragic truth that a generation of young black men have received longer prison sentences than their white counterparts because they possessed a less-expensive form of the same drug-the only real difference being the addition of baking soda, which most of us have in our kitchens.