

Racial Justice in America: *Resources for Educating Prosecutors*



Racial injustice pervades American life, affecting our economic, political, and criminal legal systems as well as our culture. To build a justice system that responds to the needs of all communities, prosecutors should root their policies and practice in knowledge of our history of racial injustice and its pernicious legacy.

This collection suggests a range of informational resources—including literature, journalism, film, television, public speeches, music, visual arts, and other works—with which criminal justice practitioners can enhance their understanding of the past and present state of racism in the United States. These resources are offered as possible starting points for prosecutors and the communities they serve to consider their roles in rectifying racial injustice and building a criminal legal system that serves us all.

At an early age I learned that people make mistakes, and you have to decide if their mistakes are bigger than your love for them.

—Angie Thomas, *The Hate U Give*

FICTION & LITERATURE

If Beale Street Could Talk	James Baldwin
An American Marriage	Tayari Jones
Antiracist Baby	Ibram X. Kendi
To Kill A Mockingbird	Harper Lee
The Bluest Eye	Toni Morrison
Beloved	Toni Morrison
Small Great Things	Jodi Picoult
The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas

NON-FICTION & AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The New Jim Crow	Michelle Alexander	So You Want to Talk About Race	Ijeoma Oluo
White Rage	Carol Anderson	The History of White People	Nell Irvin Painter
The Fire Next Time	James Baldwin	Locked In	John Pfaff
Rise of the Warrior Cop	Radley Balko	The Color of Law	Richard Rothstein
Blindspot	Mahzarin R. Banaji	Until We Reckon	Danielle Sered
Prisoners of Politics	Rachel Barkow	How We Fight White	Akiba Solomon &
American Prison	Shane Bauer	Supremacy	Kenrya Rankin
Charged	Emily Bazelon	Just Mercy	Bryan Stevenson
Slavery By Another Name	Douglas Blackmon	The Warmth of Other Suns	Isabel Wilkerson
How It Feels To Be A Problem?	Moustafa Bayoumi	White Like Me	Tim Wise
Chokehold: Policing Black Men	Paul Butler		
All God's Children	Fox Butterworth		
Invisible Punishment	Meda Chesney-Lind		
Between the World and Me	Ta-Nehisi Coates		
When They Call You A Terrorist	Patrisse Cullors		
Arbitrary Justice	Angela J. Davis		
Policing the Black Man	Angela J. Davis		
White Fragility	Robin DiAngelo		
Locking Up Our Own	James Forman Jr.		
On the Run	Alice Goffman		
Killers of the Flower Moon	David Grann		
Racism on Trial	Ian Haney Lopez		
A Colony in a Nation	Chris Hayes		
From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime	Elizabeth Hinton		
The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace	Jeff Hobbs		
A Perilous Path	Sherrilyn Ifill, Loretta Lynch, Bryan Stevenson & Anthony Thompson		
Usual Cruelty	Alec Karakatsanis		
How to Be an Antiracist	Ibram X. Kendi		
Stamped from the Beginning	Ibram X. Kendi		
Devil in the Grove	Gilbert King		
Heavy	Kiese Layman		
They Can't Kill Us All	Wesley Lowery		
An American Genocide	Benjamin Madley		
The Meaning of Life	Marc Mauer & Ashley Nelis		

*We came here to get away from false promises,
from dictators in our neighborhoods,
who wore blue suits and broke our doors down*
—Jimmy Santiago Baca, *Immigrants in Our Own Land*

POETRY

Still I Rise	Maya Angelou
Felon	Dwayne Reginald Betts
Won't You Celebrate with Me	Lucille Clifton
What the Dead Know By Heart	Donte Collins
A Small Needful Fact	Ross Gay
I, Too	Langston Hughes
Immigrants in Our Own Land	Jimmy Santiago Baca

MUSIC

"Lemonade" [Album]	Beyoncé
"Formation" [Video]	Beyoncé
"Letter to the Free"	Common feat. Bilal
"Glory" [Oscar 2015 Performance]	Common & John Legend
"A Change is Gonna Come"	Sam Cooke
"Fight the Power"	Public Enemy
"What's Going On" [1971 Album]	Marvin Gaye
"Strange Fruit"	Billie Holiday
"The Blacker the Berry"	Kendrick Lamar
"Freedom"	Anthony Ramos
"A Seat at The Table" [Album]	Solange
"The Revolution Will Not Be Televised"	Gil Scott-Heron

LECTURES & SHORT VIDEOS

- A Girl Like Me [YouTube]
- Inside the Memorial to Victims of Lynching [60 Minutes]
- The Human Stories Behind Mass Incarceration [TED]
- We Are Witnesses [The Marshall Project]
- We Need to Talk About an Injustice: Bryan Stevenson [TED]

FILM, TV, & DOCUMENTARIES

7 Seconds (2018)
13th (2016)
After Innocence (2007)
American Son (2019)
Beloved (1998)
The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975 (2011)
Burn Motherf*cker Burn! (2017)
Children of the Camps (2003)
Dear White People [Film & TV Series] (2017)
Fruitvale Station (2013)
Get Out (2017)
I Am Not Your Negro (2016)
LA92 (2017)
Mississippi Burning (1988)
Mudbound (2017)
Rosewood (1997)
Selma (2014)
Slavery By Another Name (2012)
We Shall Remain (2009)
When They See Us (2019)
White Like Me (2013)
Whose Streets? (2017)
The Central Park Five (2012)
The Zoot Suit Riots [PBS] (2002)

The past is a life sentence, a blunt instrument aimed at tomorrow.

— Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric*

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, & REPORTS

The Brutal History of Anti-Latino Discrimination in America	Erin Blakemore
Race and Prosecution	John Chisholm, Angela J. Davis & David Noble
Letter from a Birmingham Jail	Martin Luther King Jr.
Speech on the Removal of Confederate Monuments in New Orleans	Mitch Landrieu
Law Enforcement is Still Used as a Colonial Tool in Indian Country	Julian Noisecat
Citizen: An American Lyric	Claudia Rankine
Why We Must Talk About the Asian-American Story, Too	Brando Simeo Starkey
The 1619 Project	The New York Times
Discrimination in America	NPR & Harvard School of Public Health

The Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (IIP) provides a collaborative national platform that brings together prosecutors, policy experts, and the communities they serve to promote data-driven strategies, cutting-edge scholarship, and innovative thinking. The IIP is dedicated to shaping a criminal justice system that promotes community-centered standards of safety, fairness, and dignity.

Find out more about the IIP and our work at prosecution.org. Please share any suggested additions to this list by visiting www.prosecution.org/recommended-reading.

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