



Learn More About...

Undoing Racism

An Annotated Bibliography

Click [HERE](#) for more resources on the various interrelated issues affecting racism.

Web Links

Brothers and Sisters All: The Pax Christi Anti-Racism Initiative <http://www.paxchristiusa.org/pc_brothers_sisters.asp>

Brothers and Sisters All is a 20-year initiative to transform Pax Christi USA into an anti-racist, multicultural Catholic peace and justice movement. To accomplish this transformation, Pax Christi USA is committed to transforming its organizational structures, policies, practices, and forms of decision-making to include participation of and accountability to people of color.

MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength) <<http://www.mosesmi.org/>>

MOSES is a congregation-centered, faith-based community organization reflecting the religious, racial, and ethnic diversity of Metropolitan Detroit. MOSES is organized to build an ecumenical, interfaith, multiracial, congregation-centered community organization that will address issues of concern to community residents and members of member congregations through a process of relationship building, evangelizing, training and leadership development, and direct action.

Southern Poverty Law Center <<http://www.splcenter.org/>>

The Southern Poverty Law Center fights all forms of discrimination and works to protect society's most vulnerable members through tolerance education programs, legal cases against white supremacists and tracking of hate groups.

Books

Maurianne Adams et. al. (Eds.), *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice* (New York: Routledge, 2000).

The first reader to cover the scope of oppressions in America, *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice* covers six thematic issues: racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, heterosexism, classism and ableism. The book contains a mix of short personal and theoretical essays as well as entries designed to challenge students to take action to end oppressive behavior and to affirm diversity and racial justice. Each thematic section is broken down into three divisions: Contexts; Personal Voices; and Next Steps and Action.

Diane Bates Morrow, *Persons of Color and Religious at the Same Time: The Oblate Sisters of Providence 1828-1860* (Chapel Hill, NC: The UNC Press, 2002).

Founded in Baltimore in 1828 by a French Sulpician priest and a mulatto Caribbean immigrant, the Oblate Sisters of Providence formed the first permanent African-American Roman Catholic sisterhood in the United States. By their very existence, the Oblate Sisters challenged prevailing social, political, and cultural attitudes on many levels.

Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age* (New York: Henry Holt, 2004).

Dr. Ossian Sweet, grandson of a slave, attempted to move into a working-class white neighborhood. His neighbors, fanned into a panic by avaricious real-estate brokers and the growing presence of the Ku Klux Klan, threaten Sweet and his family with violent eviction. In self-defense, Sweet and his friends arm themselves and end

up killing a member of the mob. The murder indictment of Sweet, his wife and their defenders attracts Clarence Darrow as defense attorney and the newly organized NAACP, which was in the midst of a national campaign against racial restrictions in housing. Boyle, a history professor, brings immediacy and drama to the social and economic factors that ignited racial violence, provoked the compelling court case, and set in motion the civil rights struggle.

Beverly Daniel Tatum, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations* (New York: Basic Books, 1998).

Tatum, a developmental psychologist with a special interest in the emerging field of racial-identity development, is a consultant to school systems and community groups on teaching and learning in a multicultural context. Tatum illuminates why talking about racism is so hard and what we can do to make it easier, leaving her readers more confident about facing the difficult terrain that is anti-racism work. Good for teachers and school settings.

Malcolm Gladwell, *Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking*, (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2005).

Gladwell, translates neuroscience and psychology research into compelling storytelling to persuade readers to think small and focus on the meaning of "thin slices" of behavior, relying on our "adaptive unconscious" for instant and sophisticated information to warn of danger, "read" a stranger, or react to a new idea. The third chapter, "The Warren Harding Error: Why We Fall for Tall, Dark, and Handsome Men," is an eye-opening demonstration of racist messages embedded in our psyches and in our society.

Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook, *A House of Prayer for All Peoples: Congregations Building Multiracial Community* (Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2003).

Contrary to the oft-repeated truism, there are churches in America where Sunday is not the "most segregated day of the week," as Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook convincingly demonstrates in her compelling exploration of congregations tackling racial justice issues. Yet the truism continues to haunt many congregations, and the author reveals what it means to create and live out multiracial community. Focusing on six congregations from different denominations, geographical regions, and settings, the author shows us the joys and struggles in their intentional pursuits of a more diverse and just community.

Paula Rothenberg, *White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism* (New York: Worth Publishers, 2001).

Rothenberg has compiled and reduced some very important and complex discussions on whiteness from a variety of social contexts. In *White Privilege*, whiteness is traced from its multiple origins and entry points giving a basic understanding on how whiteness developed as a social construct, what whiteness has meant to numerous people, how various "others" have become white, and how whiteness is navigated and construed by people of color.

Kathryn Stockett, *The Help* (London: Penguin Books, 2009)

This novel is set during the nascent civil rights movement in Jackson, Miss., where black women were trusted to raise white children but not to polish the household silver. Eugenia Skeeter Phelan is just home from college in 1962, and, anxious to become a writer, is advised to hone her chops by writing about what disturbs her. The budding social activist begins to collect the stories of the black women on whom the country club set relies and mistrusts, enlisting the help of Aibileen, a maid who's raised 17 children, and Aibileen's best friend Minny, who's found herself unemployed more than a few times after mouthing off to her white employers. The book Skeeter puts together based on their stories is scathing, bringing pride and hope to the black community, while giving Skeeter the courage to break down her personal boundaries and pursue her dreams.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself: U.S. Catholic Bishops Speak Against Racism* (Washington, DC: USCCB Publishing, 1998).

This collection of articles written by bishops on racism includes articles on Catholic social teaching, Catholic expressions/activities, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, hate crimes, healing, and ecumenical/interfaith issues.

Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present* (New York, Harper Collins, 2003).

A People's History of the United States is the only volume to tell America's story from the point of view of America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, working poor and immigrant laborers. The book features insightful analysis of the most important events in our history.

Articles/Papers/Study Guides

American Civil Liberties Union, "Race and Ethnicity in America: Turning a Blind Eye to Injustice," December 2007, <http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/humanrights/cerd_executive_summary.pdf>

This report is a response to the U.S. report to the United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) released earlier in 2007. The U.S. report, which the ACLU called a "whitewash," swept under the rug the dramatic effects of widespread racial and ethnic discrimination in this country. The report details the setbacks in the promotion of racial and ethnic equality, including the government's attack on affirmative action and the courts' curtailment of civil rights. The report finds that discrimination in America permeates education, employment, and the treatment of immigrants, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system.

"Walking Together as Brothers and Sisters: A Pax Christi USA Statement on the Need for a New Dialogue on Race." *Pax Christi USA*, 18 March 2009 <http://www.paxchristiusa.org/news_statements_more.asp?id=1538>

This statement by Pax Christi USA was written in response to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder's call for a new dialogue on race.

Rev. Bryan Massingale, "Poverty and Racism: Overlapping Threats to the Common Good," *Catholic Charities USA*, 15 January 2008, <<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=614>>

This document is intended to start, enrich, and inform a conversation among Catholics and throughout the country, compelling each to serve, educate, and advocate for programs and policies that will foster unity, eliminate racism and significantly reduce poverty in our lifetime.

Barbara A. Moore, CSJ, "LCWR Resolution to Action on Racism" *Leadership Conference of Women Religious*, January 2006, <<http://www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/resolutionstoaction/RTA1-06.pdf>>

This two page resource from the LCWR Global Concerns Committee provides social analysis, theological reflection and actions to address racism.

Heidi Schlumpf, "Owning Unearned White Privilege," *National Catholic Reporter* 26 May 2006, <http://www.natcath.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2006b/052606/052606a.php>

Peggy McIntosh, researcher at the Wellesley Centers for Women, popularized the phrase "white privilege," which was the subject of a recent conference at the University of Notre Dame.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Brothers and Sisters to Us" *USCCB*, 1979, <<http://www.usccb.org/saac/bishopspastoral.shtml>>

In this landmark pastoral letter, the U.S. bishops promote discussion and action against racism, "an evil which endures in our society and in our Church."

Periodicals/Newsletters

NCCJ newsletter <<http://www.nccjtwma.org/whoweare/newsletters.html>>

Teaching Tolerance <<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/newsletter/index.jsp>>

Audio/Visual/Interactive Resources

Judy Baca, "Telling Our Stories: Art and Community," Judy Baca 30-minute plenary presentation at the 2003 Bioneers Conference.

Judy Baca discusses the art projects she has initiated in poor and working class neighborhoods where beauty is considered superfluous. Her goal is to create monuments that excavate the untold stories of marginalized people to bring the past into the present and change the future.

J.L. Chesnut, "Bringing Justice to African American Farmers," 30-minute plenary presentation at the 2000 Bioneers Conference.

J.L. Chestnut, an Alabama civil rights attorney, discusses the class action litigation he successfully brokered against the odds for African American farmers.

Crash. Prod. Bull's Eye Entertainment, 2005

Several stories interweave during two days in Los Angeles involving a collection of inter-related characters whose stereotypes affect their judgment, beliefs and actions. A politically nervous district attorney and his high-strung wife get car-jacked by an oddly sociological pair of young black men; a rich black T.V. director and his wife get pulled over by a white racist cop and his reluctant partner; a detective and his Latina partner and lover investigate a white cop who shot a black cop. Writer/director Paul Haggis spins every character in unpredictable directions, refusing to let anyone sink into a stereotype.

Wade Davis, "Light at the Edge of the World: Reinventing the Poetry of Diversity," 30-minute plenary presentation at the 2001 Bioneers Conference.

Disappearing plants, animals, cultures, languages, ancient skills and visionary wisdom must be rescued through the poetry of diversity.

Driving Miss Daisy. DVD and VHS. The Zanuck Company, 1990

An elderly Jewish widow living in Atlanta can no longer drive. Her son insists she allow him to hire a driver, which in the 1950s meant a black man. She resists any change in her life but, Hoke, is hired by her son. The film spans over twenty years of the pair's life together as they slowly build a relationship that transcends their differences.

In the Heat of the Night. Prod. The Mirisch Corporation, 1967

After a wealthy northern factory owner is murdered, racist Mississippi cops accuse African American Virgil Tibbs of the crime. Once they learn that he is a renowned Philadelphia homicide detective, they reluctantly seek his help. As Tibbs displays his skills as a detective, he begins to win the respect, protection and ultimately friendship of the Police Chief Bill Gillespie.

Oren Lyons, "The Roots of American Democracy," Oren Lyons 30-minute plenary presentation at the 2003 Bioneers Conference.

Oren Lyons discusses the Iroquois concept of making all decisions based on the health and welfare of the next seven generations and the role of leadership and community in accomplishing that mission.

Malcolm X. Prod. 40 Acres and Mule Film Works, 1992

This biopic, adapted from the biography by Alex Haley and directed by Spike Lee, traces the life of the controversial and influential Black Nationalist leader Malcolm X, played by Denzel Washington.

Rabbit Proof Fence. Prod. Australian Film Commission, 2002

This is the true story of Molly Craig, a young black Australian girl who leads her younger sister and cousin in an escape from an official government camp, set up as part of an official government policy to train them as domestic workers and integrate them into white society. Molly guides the girls on an epic journey, one step ahead of the authorities, over 1,500 miles of Australia's outback in search of the rabbit-proof fence that bisects the continent and will lead them home.

Race: The Power of an Illusion. Prod. California Newsreel, 2003 <<http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CN0149>>

The division of the world's peoples into distinct racial groups has become so deeply imbedded in our psyches, so widely accepted, many would promptly dismiss as crazy any suggestion of its falsity. Yet, that's exactly what this provocative three-hour series by California Newsreel claims. *Race: The Power of an Illusion* questions the very idea of race as biology, suggesting that a belief in race is no more sound than believing that the sun revolves around the earth. Yet race still matters. Just because race doesn't exist in biology doesn't mean it isn't very real, helping shape life chances and opportunities.

To Kill a Mockingbird. Prod. Universal, 1962

Through the eyes of "Scout," a feisty six year old tomboy, the movie carries us on an odyssey

through the fires of racism and injustice in 1932 Alabama. Gregory Peck gives a stirring and Oscar-winning performance as a Southern lawyer who believes in the dignity of all people.