

MC Africa & Diaspora Heritage Committee

Reading List 2022

***“When they call you a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir”* by Patrice Khan Cullers and Asha Bandele (2018)** Leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement have been called terrorists, a threat to America. But in truth, they are loving women whose life experiences have led them to seek justice for those victimized by the powerful. In this meaningful, empowering account of survival, strength, and resilience, Patrice Cullers and Asha Bandele seek to change the culture that declares innocent black life expendable.

***“The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood”* by Helene Cooper (2009).** Journalist Helene Cooper is “Congo,” a descendant of two Liberian dynasties—traced back to the first ship of freemen that set sail from New York in 1820 to found Monrovia. She examines the violent past of her home country Liberia and the effects of its 1980 military coup in this deeply personal memoir and finalist for the 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award.

***“Prejudential: Black America and the Presidents”* by Margaret Kimberley (2020).** PREJUDENTIAL is a concise, authoritative exploration of America’s relationship with race and black Americans through the lens of the presidents who have been elected to represent all of its people. Over the course of 45 chapters—one for each president—Margaret Kimberley enlightens and informs readers about the attitudes and actions of the highest elected official in the country.

***“Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism”* by Kwame Nkrumah (1966).** Kwame Nkrumah's Neo-Colonialism is the classic statement on the post-colonial condition. African, Caribbean and Third World nation-states after flag independence find they have achieved government or state power but still cannot control the political economies of their country as they appear to be directed from the outside by multi-national corporations. Many African Americans use this analysis to suggest even when Black people win elections they really are not in charge and this is consistent with the theory found in this work."--Matthew Quest.

***“The Myth and Propaganda of Black Buying Power”* by Jared Ball (2020).** This Palgrave Pivot offers a history of and proof against claims of "buying power" and the impact this myth has had on understanding media, race, class and economics in the United States. For generations Black people have been told they have what is now said to be more than one trillion dollars of "buying power," and this book argues that commentators have misused this claim largely to blame Black communities for their own poverty based on squandered economic opportunity.

“How to Be an Antiracist” by **Ibram X Kendi (2019)** In this #1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER, Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.

“Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome” by **Dr. Joy Degruy (2017)**. With over thirty years of practical experience as a professional in the mental health field, Dr. DeGruy encourages African Americans to view their attitudes, assumptions, and behaviors through the lens of history and so gain a greater understanding of how centuries of slavery and oppression have impacted people of African descent in America. *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome* helps to lay the necessary foundation to ensure the well-being and sustained health of future generations and provides a rare glimpse into the evolution of society's beliefs, feelings, attitudes and behavior concerning race in America.

“Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America” by **James Forman Jr. (2017)**. Former public defender James Forman, Jr. is a leading critic of mass incarceration and its disproportionate impact on people of color. *Locking Up Our Own* enriches our understanding of why our society became so punitive and offers important lessons to anyone concerned about the future of race and the criminal justice system in this country.

“White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide” by **Carol Anderson (2016)**. From the end of the Civil War to our combustible present, an acclaimed historian reframes the conversation about race, chronicling the powerful forces opposed to black progress in America. Compelling and dramatic in the unimpeachable history it relates, *White Rage* will add an important new dimension to the national conversation about race in America.

“Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America” by **Ibram X. Kendi (2016)** is a non-fiction book about race in the United States that won the National Book Award for Nonfiction.

“The 1619 Project”:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>