

MC Africa & Diaspora Heritage Committee

Reading List 2023

“I Put A Spell On You: The Autobiography Of Nina Simone” by Nina Simone (2003)

“Often compared to Billie Holiday and Edith Piaf, Simone was known as one of the greatest singers of her generation. She has recorded forty-three albums, ranging from blues to jazz to folk. Her song "Young, Gifted, and Black" became the anthem for the Civil Rights Movement and thrust her beyond international stardom into the center of activism. With undiminished passion and in her unconquerable voice, this is Nina Simone's powerful memoir of her tempestuous life.”

“The Dawning of the Apocalypse: The Roots of Slavery, White Supremacy, Settler Colonialism, and Capitalism in the Long Sixteenth Century” by Gerald Horne (2020)

“*The Dawning of the Apocalypse* is a riveting revision of the “creation myth” of settler colonialism and how the United States was formed. Here, Gerald Horne argues forcefully that, in order to understand the arrival of colonists from the British Isles in the early 17th century, one must first understand the “long 16th century”—from 1492 until the arrival of settlers in Virginia in 1607. In retelling the bloodthirsty story of the invasion of the Americas, Horne recounts how the fierce resistance by Africans and their Indigenous allies weakened Spain and enabled London to dispatch settlers to Virginia in 1607. These settlers laid the groundwork for the British Empire and its “revolting spawn” that became the United States of America.”

Dubois, Laurent et al, editors. *The Haiti Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press (2020).

“The Haiti Reader introduces readers to Haiti's dynamic history and culture from the viewpoint of Haitians from all walks of life. Its dozens of selections—most of which appear here in English for the first time—are representative of Haiti's scholarly, literary, religious, visual, musical, and political cultures, and range from poems, novels, and political tracts to essays, legislation, songs, and folk tales.”

Falola, Toyin. *The African Diaspora: Slavery, Modernity, and Globalization*. University of Rochester Press (2013)

“In this definitive study of the diaspora in North America, Toyin Falola offers a causal history of the western dispersion of Africans and its effects on the modern world. Reengaging old and familiar debates and framing new ones that enrich the discourse surrounding Africa, Falola isolates the thread, running nearly six centuries, that connects the history of slavery, the transatlantic slave trade, and current migrations. A boon to scholars and policymakers and accessible to the general reader, the book explores diverse narratives of migration and shows that the cultures that migrated from Africa to the Americas have the capacity to unite and create a new pan-Africanist movement within the globalized world.”

“How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America” by Clint Smith (2021)

“Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks—those that are honest about the past and those that are not—that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history, and ourselves.”

“Destruction of Black Civilization: Great Issues of a Race From 4500 B.C. To 2000 A.D. “ by Chancellor Williams (1971)

“Chancellor Williams took 16 years of research and field study to compile the book, which was to serve as a reinterpretation of the history of the African race, was intended to be "a general rebellion against the subtle message from even the most liberal white authors and their Negro disciples: 'You belong to a race of nobodies. You have no worthwhile history to point to with pride. The Destruction of Black Civilization is revelatory and revolutionary because it offers a new approach to the research, teaching, and study of African history by shifting the main focus from the history of Arabs and Europeans in Africa to the Africans themselves”.

“From Babylon to Timbuktu: A History of the Ancient Black Races Including the Black Hebrews” by Rudolph R. Windsor (2006)

“This carefully researched book is a significant addition to this vital field of knowledge. It sets forth, in fascinating detail, the history, from earliest recorded times, of the black races of the Middle East and Africa.”

“White Space, Black Hood: Opportunity Hoarding and Segregation in the Age of Inequality” by Sheryll Cashin (2021) “The "ghetto," and all of our ideas about it, performs a political function that reinforces inequality and, as Sheryll Cashin argues, is the key holdover of the supremacist regime that has yet to be dismantled.”

“Akata: The Saga of an American Girl Finding Her Roots” by V. H. Carlos (2022)

“Dubbed the female Alex Haley... but this was not the life she chose for herself. Follow Victoria as she goes on a fulfilling and emotional journey to discover her Kunta Kinte and receive two important apologies that change her and your life forever. Victoria’s mission is to tell the world of these apologies and spark great racial healing in the United States of America.”