

A Selection of **Basic Books** **on Race & Being White in America** *for Episcopalians June 2020*

**“The problem of the
twentieth-~~twentieth~~-
first century is the
problem of the color
line” –W.E.B. DuBois,
*Souls of Black Folk***

Basic Books (Current General Canon)

How to Be an Antiracist

Ibram X. Kendi, 2019. The current term-defining book.

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism.

Robin DiAngelo, 2018. NYTimes bestseller explores the emotions and behaviors of white people that prevent meaningful cross-racial dialogue.

Waking Up White

Debby Irving, 2014. Inspiring autobiographical journey from white oblivion to white awareness. One of the two books that accompany the film-based dialogue series ***Sacred Ground*** (Episcopal Church)

Basic Books with Christian, Beloved Community Context

Jesus and the Disinherited

Howard Thurman, 1949. Thurman, first African American Dean of Marsh Chapel, Boston U., mentored Martin Luther King, Jr., who carried this book with him as he shaped the non-violent message of the civil rights movement. It answers the question “What does Christianity have to say to those with their backs against a wall?”

The Cross & the Lynching Tree

James Cone, 2011. Long-time African American professor of systematic theology at Union Theological Seminary NYC shows how the thousands of men and women who died on lynching trees were the body of Christ crucified all over again.

Stand Your Ground—Black Bodies and the Justice of God

Kelly Brown Douglas, 2015. Dean of Episcopal Divinity School at Union and African American mother, Dr. Douglas writes a brief, lucid account of the historical, cultural, and religious forces that have given rise to our “stand your ground” culture that defines the lives that matter. Anglo-Saxon exceptionalism from Tacitus to Manifest Destiny to Florida.

Reconstructing the Gospel—Finding Freedom from Slaveholder Religion

Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, 2018. Wilson, a white Baptist minister and colleague of Rev. William Barber, writes an honest, personal reckoning with the “mangled slaveholding religion that continues to pass for the gospel in the United States” and exorcises “the demons of racism and white supremacy that have plagued the body of Christ.”

America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege & the Bridge to a New America

Jim Wallis, 2016. “It's time for white Christians to be more Christian than white” –Wallis. How facing this sin can liberate us to live out our true mission of love and justice.

The Radical King

Martin Luther King, Jr., edited & introduced by Cornel West, 2012. A compilation of King's most radical sermons/speeches/essays where he deployed his intellectual genius to express a radical love—“Christocentric in content and black in character”—in a revolutionary, unsanitized, anti-racist, anti-colonial witness.

Deeper Dive—History

The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery & the Making of American Capitalism

Edward Baptist, 2014. “A myth-busting work that pursues how the world profited from American slavery... This is a complicated story involving staggering scholarship that adds greatly to our understanding of the history of the United States.” –Kirkus Reviews