

Faith, Race and Money

A reading list for individual and group reflection about these critical issues of our day

The following resources are recommended to read concerning current events happening in our country and around the world around the topic of race. The first category of books, Faith, Race and Money, takes on issues of race and money from a faith perspective. The second category, Race, Money and Justice, provide insights on current challenges surrounding race, money and justice, but without a direct faith perspective. In both cases the books are listed in order of most accessible to the more in-depth and in some cases, more challenging and convicting.

Faith, Race and Money



The Color of Compromise

by Jemar Tisby*

A timely narrative of how people of faith have historically – up to the present day – worked against racial justice. And a call for urgent action by all Christians today in response. The Color of Compromise is both enlightening and compelling, telling a history we either ignore or just don't know. Equal parts painful and inspirational, it details how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices. You will be guided in thinking through concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church.



White Awake

by Daniel Hill **

Daniel Hill will never forget the day he heard these words: "Daniel, you may be white, but don't let that lull you into thinking you have no culture. White culture is very real. In fact, when white culture comes in contact with other cultures, it almost always wins. So, it would be a really good idea for you to learn about your culture." Confused and unsettled by this encounter, Hill began a journey of understanding his own white identity. Today he is an active participant in addressing and confronting racial and systemic injustices. And in this compelling and timely book, he shows you the seven stages to expect on your own path to cultural awakening. It's crucial to understand both personal and social realities in the areas of race, culture, and identity. This book will give you a new perspective on being white and also empower you to be an agent of reconciliation in our increasingly diverse and divided world.



The Myth of Equality

by Ken Wytsma **

Is privilege real or imagined? It's clear that issues of race and equality have come to the forefront in our nation's consciousness. Every week, yet another incident involving racial tension splashes across headlines and dominates our news feeds. But it's not easy to unpack the origins of these tensions, and perhaps we wonder whether any of these issues really has anything to do with us.



Trouble I've Seen

by Drew Hart*

What if racial reconciliation doesn't look like what you expected? The high-profile killings of young Black men and women by white police officers, and the protests and violence that ensued, have convinced many white Christians to reexamine their intuitions when it comes to race and justice. In this provocative book, theologian and blogger Drew G. I. Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, anti-Black stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy. He argues that white Christians have repeatedly gotten it wrong about race because dominant culture and white privilege have so thoroughly shaped their assumptions. He also challenges Black Christians about neglecting the most vulnerable in their own communities.



Woke Church

by Eric Mason*

The prophets of old were not easy to listen to because they did not flatter. They did not cajole. They spoke hard words that often chafed and unsettled their listeners. Like the Old Testament prophets, and more recent prophetic voices like Frederick Douglass, Dr. Eric Mason calls the evangelical church to a much-needed reckoning. In a time when many feel confused, complacent, or even angry, he challenges the church to: Be Aware – Be Redemptive – Be Active.



Who Will Be A Witness?

by Drew Hart*

Churches have begun awakening to social and political injustices, often carried out in the name of Christianity. But once awakened, how will we respond? *Who Will Be a Witness?* offers a vision for communities of faith to organize for deliverance and justice in their neighborhoods, states, and nation as an essential part of living out the call of Jesus. Author Drew G. I. Hart provides incisive insights into Scripture and history, along with illuminating personal stories, to help us identify how the witness of the church has become mangled by Christendom, white supremacy, and religious nationalism. Hart provides a wide range of options for congregations seeking to give witness to Jesus' ethic of love for and solidarity with the vulnerable.

Race, Money and Justice



Unbanking of America

by Lisa Servon*

A startling and absorbing exposé about Americans who are fleeing our broken banking system in growing numbers, and how alternatives are rushing in to do what banks once did. What do an undocumented immigrant in the South Bronx, a high-net-worth entrepreneur, and a twenty-something graduate student have in common? She looks closely at the workings of a *tanda*, an informal lending club. And she delivers engaging, hopeful portraits of the entrepreneurs reacting to the unbanking of America by designing systems to creatively serve many of us.



Evicted

by Matthew Desmond*

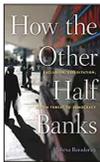
From Harvard sociologist Matthew Desmond, a landmark work of scholarship and reportage that will forever change the way we look at poverty in America. In this brilliant, heartbreaking book, Matthew Desmond takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of eight families on the edge. Arleen is a single mother trying to raise her two sons on the \$20 a month she has left after paying for their rundown apartment.



Color of Money

by Mehrsa Baradaran*

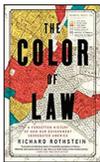
A deep accounting of how America got to a point where a median white family has 13 times more wealth than the median Black family. Baradaran focuses on a part of the American story that's often ignored: the way African Americans were locked out of the financial engines that create wealth in America. When the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, the Black community owned less than 1 percent of the total wealth in America. More than 150 years later, that number has barely budged. *The Color of Money* seeks to explain the stubborn persistence of this racial wealth gap by focusing on the generators of wealth in the Black community: Black banks.



How the Other Half Banks

by Mehrsa Baradaran*

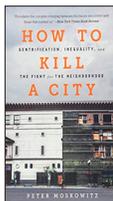
The United States has two separate banking systems today – one serving the well-to-do and another exploiting everyone else. *How the Other Half Banks* contributes to the growing conversation on American inequality by highlighting one of its prime causes: unequal credit. Mehrsa Baradaran examines how a significant portion of the population, deserted by banks, is forced to wander through a Wild West of payday lenders and check-cashing services to cover emergency expenses and pay for necessities – all thanks to deregulation that began in the 1970s and continues decades later.



Color of Law

by Richard Rothstein*

Exploding the myth of de facto segregation arising from private prejudice or the unintended consequences of economic forces, Rothstein describes how the American government systematically imposed residential segregation: with undisguised racial zoning; public housing that purposefully segregated previously mixed communities; subsidies for builders to create whites-only suburbs; tax exemptions for institutions that enforced segregation; and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods.



How to Kill a City

by Peter Moskowitz **

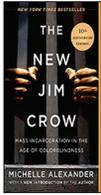
A journey to the front lines of the battle for the future of American cities, uncovering the massive, systemic forces behind gentrification – and the lives altered in the process. The term gentrification has become a buzzword to describe the changes in urban neighborhoods across the country, but we don't realize just how threatening it is. It means more than the arrival of trendy shops, much-maligned hipsters, and expensive lattes. The very future of American cities as vibrant, equitable spaces hangs in the balance.



Race for Profit

by Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor*

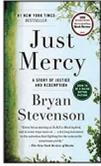
By the late 1960s and early 1970s, reeling from a wave of urban uprisings, politicians finally worked to end the practice of redlining. Reasoning that the turbulence could be calmed by turning Black city-dwellers into homeowners, they passed the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, and set about establishing policies to induce mortgage lenders and the real estate industry to treat Black homebuyers equally. The disaster that ensued revealed that racist exclusion had not been eradicated, but rather transmuted into a new phenomenon of *predatory inclusion*.



The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the age of color blindness (2020 edition)

by Michele Alexander*

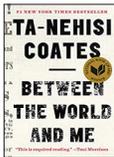
Seldom does a book have the impact of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. Since it was first published in 2010, it has been cited in judicial decisions and has been adopted in campuswide and communitywide reads. Most important of all, it has spawned a whole generation of criminal justice reform activists and organizations motivated by Michelle Alexander's unforgettable argument that, "We have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." As the *Birmingham News* proclaimed, it is "undoubtedly the most important book published in this century about the U.S."



Just Mercy

by Bryan Stevenson*

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship – and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.



Between the World and Me

by Ta-Nehesi Coates*

This book offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of "race," a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of Black women and men – bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a Black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

*Denotes an author of color

**Denotes a white author