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AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY

A Selected Bibliography

Prepared by Monroe Fordham

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1. General Works

An excellent collection of the writings, speeches, position statements, etc., of Afro-Americans. Covers the period from Colonial America through the post-WW I

Bennett, Lerone, *Before the Mayflower.*
A very readable interpretative history of Afro-Americans written by the editor of Ebony Magazine.


Dinnerstein, Leonard; Nichols, Roger; Reimers, David, *Natives and Strangers: Blacks, Indians, and Immigrants in America.*

Frazier, E. Franklin and Eric Lincoln, *The Negro Church in America/The Black Church Since Frazier*

Frazier, Thomas, *Afro-American History: Primary Sources.*
Speeches and writings of Afro-Americans from the various time periods in American History.

Reprinted texts of important historical documents, and writings and speeches from the various time periods in Afro-American History.

An anthology of interpretative scholarly articles on the history of Afro-Americans.


Franklin, John Hope, and Alfred Moss, *From Slavery to Freedom.*
The standard college textbook on Afro-American History. It is updated every couple of years with an up to date bibliography.

Harding, Vincent, *There is a River: The Black Struggle for Freedom in America.*
An interpretative history of Afro-Americans.

An anthology of interpretative articles on the history of Afro-Americans.


Nieman, Donald, *African-Americans and the Constitutional Order, 1776 to the Present*.

Pohmann, Marcus D., *Black Politics in Conservative America*.


Woodson, Carter, *History of the Negro Church*.

2. **West African Background and the Atlantic Slave Trade**


Davidson, Basil, *Black Mother: The Years of the African Slave Trade*.

Davidson, Basil, *The Lost Cities of Africa*.

Duignan, Peter and Clarence Clendenen, *The United States and the African Slave Trade, 1619-1862*. 
Eltis, David, Economic Growth and the Ending of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Herskovits, Melville, Dahomey: An Ancient African Kingdom.

Herskovits, Melville, Myth of the Negro Past. Challenges many of the myths about the history and culture of West Africa.


Williams, Eric, Capitalism and Slavery. Examines the economic impact that the slave trade had on England.

3. Colonial Period: British North America


Davis, David Brion, The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution.

Frey, Sylvia, Water From The Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age.


Higginbotham, Leon, In the Matter of Color: Race and the American Legal Process; the Colonial Period.


Porter, Dorothy, ed., Early Negro Writings, 1760-1837. Writings, speeches, and position statements of Afro-Americans from the designated period.

Quarles, Benjamin, The Negro in the American Revolution.


4. Slavery


A scholarly history of life and culture in the slave community from the perspective of the slave.

Bontemps, Arna, *Great Slave Narratives.*
A collection of autobiographies written by slaves.


Douglass, Frederick, *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass.*

Fehrenbacker, Don, *Slavery, Law, and Politics: The Dred Scott Case in Historical Perspective.*


One of the standard sources on life in the slave community.


The standard source on the history of "family" in the slave community. Shows that slaves were able to maintain a sense of family despite the hardships of slavery.


Keckley, Elizabeth, *Behind the Scenes, or 30 Years a Slave, and 4 Years in the White House.*

Klein, Herbert, *African Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean.*
Levine, Lawrence, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom.*

Lynd, Staughton, *Class Conflict, Slavery, and the United States Constitution.*

Osofsky, Gilbert, ed., *Puttin' on Ol' Massa.* A collection of slave narratives.

Owens, Leslie H., *This Species of Property: Slave Life and Culture in the Old South.* Examines health, nutrition, and other topics that touch the personal side of slavery.


Starobin, Robert, *Industrial Slavery in the Old South.* Perhaps the standard source on Industrial slavery.

Stampp, Kenneth, *The Peculiar Institution.* The standard source on antebellum slavery.

Starling, Marion, *The Slave Narrative: Its place in American History.*


Wade, Richard, *Slavery in the Cities.* The standard source on urban slavery.


White, Deborah Gray, *Ain't I a Woman: Female Slaves in the Plantation South.*

Webber, Thomas, Deep Like the Rivers: Education in the Slave Quarter Community.

5. Slave Revolts

Aptheker, Herbert, American Negro Slave Revolts.
   The best general history of American slave revolts.


Halasz, Nicholas, Rattling Chains: Slave Unrest and Revolt in the Antebellum South.


Mullin, Gerald, Flight and Rebellion: Slave Resistance in 18th Century Virginia.

6. Abolitionists

Aptheker, Herbert, The Negro in the Abolitionist Movement.

Barnes, Gilbert, The Anti-Slavery Impulse, 1830-1844.

Blackett, R.J.M., Building An Anti-Slavery Wall: Black Americans in the Atlantic Abolitionist Movement.


Filler, Louis, The Crusade Against Slavery, 1830-1860.


Kraditor, Aileen, Means and Ends in American Abolitionism: Garrison and His Critics on Strategy and Tactics, 1834-1850.

McPherson, James, The Struggle for Equality: Abolitionists and the Negro in the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Siebert, Wilbur H., The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom.

Quarles, Benjamin, Black Abolitionists.

7. Free Blacks prior to the Civil War
Bell, Howard H., *The Negro Convention Movement*.


Putney, Martha, *Black Sailors: Afro-American Merchant Seamen and Walemen Prior to the Civil War*.

8. **Civil War to 1900**

Ayers, Edward, *Vengeance and Justice: Crime and Punishment in the 19th Century American South*.


Bowen, David W., *Andrew Johnson and the Negro*.

Chalmers, David, *Hooded Americanism: The First Century of the Ku Klux Klan*.


Collum, Danny Duncan, *African Americans in the Spanish Civil War*.
Cornish, Dudley, *The Sable Arm: Negro Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865.*

Cruden, Robert, *The Negro in Reconstruction.*

Franklin, John Hope, *The Emancipation Proclamation*  
Examines the historic forces that led Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

Franklin, John Hope, *Reconstruction After the Civil War.*

Gillett, William, *The Right to Vote.*  
A history of the 15th Amendment.


Harris, William, *The Harder We Run: Black Workers Since the Civil War.*  
Several chapters deal with this time period.

Higginson, Thomas, *Army Life in a Black Regiment.*


Jackson, Luther, *Negro Office Holders in Virginia.*

James, Joseph, *The Framing of the 14th Amendment.*


Afro-Americans in the American West. Has lots of pictures and illustrations.

Levine, Lawrence, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom.*

Litwack, Leon, *Been in the Storm so Long: The Aftermath of Slavery.*  
A social history of the freedmen during the Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction


McPherson, James, *The Negro’s Civil War: How American Negroes Felt and Acted During the Civil War.*

Meier, August, *Negro Thought in America, 1880-1915.*
Examines the major black strategies for racial uplift during the designated period.


Oubre, Claude, *Forty Acres and a Mule: The Freedmens Bureau and Black Land Ownership.*

Painter, Nell, *Exodusters: Black Migration to Kansas After Reconstruction.*

Perman, Michael, *Emancipation and Reconstruction, 1862-1874.*


Quarles, Benjamin, *The Negro in the Civil War.*

Quarles, Benjamin, *Lincoln and the Negro.*


Stampp, Kenneth, *The Era of Reconstruction.*
Contains chapters on the historiography of Reconstruction.

Taylor, Arnold, *Travail and Triumph: Black Life and Culture in the South Since the Civil War.*


Wharton, Vernon L. *The Negro in Mississippi 1865-1890.*


Williamson, Joel, *The Origins of Segregation.*


A history of the origins of legal segregation.

9. **1900 through WW II**


Cripps, Thomas, *The Negro in American Films, 1900-1942.*

Ferguson, Blanche, *Countee Cullen and the Harlem Renaissance.*

Franklin, John Hope and August Meier, *Black Leaders of the Twentieth Century.*

Goldfield, David, *Promised Land: The South Since 1945.*

Harris, William, *The Harder We Run: Black Workers Since the Civil War.*

Several chapters deal with this period.

Huggins, Nathan, *Harlem Renaissance.*

Hughes, Langston, *The Big Sea.*


Johnson, James Weldon, *Black Manhattan.*

Kirby, John, *Black Americans in the Roosevelt Era: Liberalism and Race*.


Lewis, David, *When Harlem was in Vogue*.


Meier, August; Elliott Rudwick, *Black Detroit and the Rise of the UAW*.


Peterson, Robert, *Only the Ball Was White: A History of Legendary Black Players and All-Black Professional Teams*.

Rampersad, Arnold, *The Life of Langston Hughes*.

Record, Wilson, *The Negro and the Communist Party*.

Reed, Merl E., *The President’s Committee on Fair Employment Practices*.

Scott, Emmett, *Negro Migration During the War*.

Silvera, John D., *The Negro in World War II*.

Sitkoff, Havard, *A New Deal for Blacks: The Emergence of Civil Rights as a National Issue: The Depression Decade*.


Williamson, Joel, *A Rage for Order: Black-White Relations in the American South Since Emancipation*.


**10. Post WW II and the Civil Rights Movement**

Abernathy, Ralph D., *And The Walls Came Tumbling Down*.

Albert, Peter J. and Ronald Hoffman, eds., *We Shall Overcome: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Black Freedom Struggle*.


Barbour, Floyd, *A New black Consciousness*.


Bell, Derrick, *Race, Racism, and American Law*. This book covers the entire time span of Afro-American History. It is listed here because it deals with the topic of civil rights.


Berry, Mary Frances, *Black Resistance/White Law*.

Blaustein, Albert and R. Zangrando, eds., *Civil Rights and the Black American*. This book covers the entire time span of Afro-American history. It is listed here because it focuses on civil rights.

Branch, Taylor, *Parting of the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963*.

Burk, Robert, *The Eisenhower Administration and Black Civil Rights*.


Carmichael, Stokely and Charles V. Hamilton, *Black Power*.


Davis, Angela, *Women, Culture, and Politics*.

Delfiume, Richard, *Desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces*.

Dorsen, Norman, *Discrimination and Civil Rights*.

Fager, Charles, *Selma: The March that Changed the South*.

Forman, James, *The Making of Black Revolutionaries*.

Garrow, David, *Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference*.

Garrow, David, *Protest at Selma: Martin Luther King and the Voting Rights Act of 1965*.

Garrow, David, *The F.B.I. and Martin Luther King*.


Goodwin, Richard, *Remembering America: A Voice From the Sixties*.


15

Harris, Fred and Roger Wilkins, ed., *Quiet Riots: Race and Poverty in the U.S.*

Harris, Robert, *The Quest for Equality.*

Hogan, Lawrence, *A Black National News Service.*

Holt, Len, *The Summer that Didn’t End.*

James, Joseph, *The Framing of the 14th Amendment.*

Jones, James H., *Bad Blood; The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment.*

Kellogg, Charles, *NAACP.*

King, Jr., Martin Luther, (James M. Washington, ed.) *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Speeches and Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

King, Martin Luther, *Stride Toward Freedom.*

King, Martin Luther, *Why We Can’t Wait.*


Lincoln, C. Eric, *Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Profile.*


McPherson, James, *The Struggle for Equality.*

Meier, August and Elliott Rudwick, *Black Protest Thought in the 20th Century.*


Miller, Loren, *The Petitioners: The U.S. Supreme Court and the Negro.*

Moody, Anne, *Coming of Age in Mississippi.*


Nieman, Donald, *Promises to Keep: African-Americans and the Constitutional Order, 1776 to the Present.*

Raines, H., *My Soul is Rested: Movement Days in the South.*


Sellers, Cleveland, with Robert Terrell, *The River of No Return: The Autobiography of a Black Militant and the Life and Death of SNCC.*


Tygiel, Jules, *Baseball’s Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy.*


Zepp, Jr., Ira S., *The Social Vision of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Ziegler, Benjamin, *Desegregation and the Supreme Court.*


11. History of Racial Attitudes


Davis, David B., *The Problem of Slavery in the Age of the Revolution.*

Davis, David B., *The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture.*

Fredrickson, George, *White Supremacy: A Comparative Study of American and South African History*
Fredrickson, George, *The Black Image in the White Mind*.


Jordon, Winthrop, *The White Man’s Burden: Historical Origins of Racism in the U.S.*


Williamson, Joel, *A Rage for Order: Black-White Relations in the American South Since Emancipation*.


**12. Pictorial Histories**

Adams, Russell, *Great Negroes Past and Present*.

Ebony Pictorial History of Black America, 3 vols.

Franklin, John Hope, *An Illustrated History of Black Americans*.


Hughes, Langston and Milton Meltzer, ed., *A Pictorial History of the Negro in America*.

Locke, Alaine, *The Negro in Art: A Pictorial Record*.

**13. Bibliographies**


McPherson, James M., et. al., *Blacks in America: Bibliographical Essays.*


Perry, Magaret, *The Harlem Renaissance: An Annotated Bibliography.*


Pyatt, Sherman, *Martin Luther King: An Annotated Bibliography.*


Smith, Dwight, ed., *Afro-American History: A Bibliography.*


Stevenson, Rosemary, *Index to Afro-American Reference Resources.*


14. Biographies

Adams, Russell L., Great Negroes, Past and Present
Barthelemy, Anthony G., Collected Black Women's Narratives.
Bennett, Lerone, Pioneers in Protest.
Bontemps, Arna, ed., Great Slave Narratives.

Donnell, Sylvania, Profiles of Negro Womanhood (Negro Heritage Library).
  Biographical sketches of outstanding Afro-American women.
Duberman, Martin B., Paul Robeson

Ebony Success Library
  Vol. I, 1000 Successful Blacks (Biographical Sketches).
  Vol. II, Famous Blacks Give Secrets to Success.


Gilmore, Al-Tony, Bad Nigger: The Life of Jack Johnson.
Jacobs, Harriet, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.
Johnson, John H., Succeeding Against the Odds: The Augobiography of John H. Johnson.
Jones, Beverly Washington, Quest for Excellence: The Life and Writings of Mary Church Terrell, 1863-1954.
Keckley, Elizabeth, *Behind the Scenes: or Thirty Years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House.*

Contains over 300 biographies of famous Afro-Americans.

Metcalf, George, *Black Profiles.*
Biographical sketches of 13 noted Afro-Americans


Rampersad, Arnold, *The Life of Langston Hughes.*


Robinson, Wilhelmena, *Historical Negro Biographies.*

Rose, Phyllis, *Jazz Cleopatra: Josephine Baker in her Time.*


Seacole, Mary, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands.*


Simmons, Rev. William J., *Men of Mark.*
(178 biographical sketches of Afro-Americans who lived during or before the 1880s).


Stewart, Maria W.; Jarena Lee; Julia A.J. Foote; Virginia Broughton, *Spiritual Narratives.*


Tygiel, Jules, *Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy.*

15. **Afro-Americans in Science and Medicine**

Buckler, Helen, *Dr. Dan, Pioneer in American Surgery. Story of Dr. Daniel Hale Williams.*


Hayden, Robert C., *Seven Black American Scientists.*


Manning, Kenneth, *Black Apollo of Science: The Life of Ernest E. Just.*


Morvis, Herbert M., *The History of the Negro in Medicine.*

Reitzes, Dietrich, *Negroes in Medicine.*


16. **Afro-Americans in Literature and Drama**


Bogle, M. Donald, *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mamies, and Bucks: An Interpretive History in American Films.*

Bond, Frederick W., *The Negro and the Drama.*


Brown, Sterling, *Negro Poetry and Drama.*

Butcher, Margaret Just, *The Negro in American Culture,* chapters V-IX.


Cooper, Wayne, *Claude McKay: Rebel Sojourner in the Harlem Renaissance.*

Cripps, Thomas, *Slow Fade to Black: The Negro in American Film, 1900-1942.*


Patterson, Lindsay, ed., *Anthology of the American Negro in the Theater.*


17. *Afro-Americans in Music and Art*

Butcher, Margaret Just, *The Negro in American Culture*, Chapters III, IV, and X.

Courlander, Harold, *Negro Folk Music U.S.A.*


Gayle, Jr., Addison, ed., *Black Expression: Essays by and about Black Americans in the Creative Arts.*


Jones, LeRoi, *Blues People.*

Kotsky, Frank, *Black Nationalism and the Revolution in Music.*


Locke, Alain, *The Negro in Art: A Pictorial Record.*

Locke, Alain, *Negro Art: Past and Present.*

Oliver, Paul, *The Story of the Blues.*

Patterson, Lindsay, *The Negro in Music and Art.*

Porter, James, *Modern Negro Art.*


Turner, Darwin and Jean Bright, ed., *Imagery of the Negro in American Art.*


**18. Afro-Amercians and the U.S. Military**


Fletcher, Marvin, *The Black Soldier and Officer in the U.S. Army, 1891-1917.*


19. Afro-American Historiography


20. Teaching Aids


Harris, Robert L., *Teaching Afro-American History.*