Title: BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME
Author: COATES, TA-NEHISI

Columnist and editor for the Atlantic Monthly examines the history of contentious race relations in America. He reflects on the ways racial inequality plays out in his personal past and in the twenty-first century, and imagines the world his teenage son may inherit. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2015.

BR 21183 DB 82201

Title: BLACK AGAINST EMPIRE: THE HISTORY AND POLITICS OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY
Author: BLOOM, JOSHUA

Comprehensive history of the Black Panther Party emphasizing its political ideology. Chronicles the transformation of a local group—organized in 1966 Oakland, California, by community college students Bobby Seale and Huey Newton to prevent police brutality—into an international entity. 2013.

DB 76438

Title: BLACKBALLED: THE BLACK VOTE AND U.S. DEMOCRACY
Author: PINCKNEY, DARRYL, 1953-

A meditation on a century and a half of participation by African Americans in U.S. electoral politics. Pinckney investigates the struggle for black voting rights from Reconstruction through the civil rights movement to Barack Obama’s two presidential campaigns. Includes the essay “What Black Means Now.” 2014.

DB 80879
Title: BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION: A CIVIL RIGHTS MILESTONE AND ITS TROUBLED LEGACY

Author: PATTERSON, JAMES T.  
Original Date: 2001

Examines the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned state-sponsored racial segregation in America’s public schools. Explores the decision’s context, the subsequent progress of social equality, and events that have surrounded efforts to implement the court’s guidelines. 2001.

DB 53365

Title: BUTLER: A WITNESS TO HISTORY

Author: HAYGOOD, WIL  
Original Date: 2013


BR 20212   BR 20291   DB 77491

Title: DEATH OF A KING: THE REAL STORY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.’S FINAL YEAR

Author: SMILEY, TAVIS, 1964-  
Original Date: 2014

Author of The Covenant with Black America (DB 62404) examines the twelve months leading up to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968. Discusses attacks on his message by the press and his rejection by the black middle class, militants, and politicians. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2014.

DB 80571
Title: ESCAPING THE DELTA: ROBERT JOHNSON AND THE INVENTION OF THE BLUES
Author: WALD, ELIJAH
Original Date: 2004

Author of How the Beatles Destroyed Rock ‘n’ Roll (DB 71861) researches the origins of Mississippi Delta blues. Recaps the life of African American singer Robert Johnson (1911-1938) and his influence on white performers who revived the genre in the 1960s. Debunks stereotypes and myths surrounding the music. 2004.

DB 74297

Title: EYE ON THE STRUGGLE: ETHEL PAYNE, THE FIRST LADY OF THE BLACK PRESS
Author: MORRIS, JAMES MCGRATH
Original Date: 2015

Morris examines the life of journalist Ethel Lois Payne (1911-1991), a groundbreaking African American journalist and a significant figure during the civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s. Morris draws on personal papers, oral histories, FBI documents, and newspapers to capture her life, career, achievements, and legacy. Some violence. 2015.

DB 81681

Title: GATEWAY TO FREEDOM: THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
Author: FONER, ERIC, 1943-
Original Date: 2015

Historian Eric Foner explores primary sources to revisit this largely mysterious aspect of the history of American slavery, including detailed records of slave escapes kept by one of the Underground Railroad’s organizers. Introduces many largely unknown figures and discusses the controversy surrounding the sectional crisis of the 1850s. 2015.

DB 80793   LB 08115
Title: GOING DOWN JERICHO ROAD: THE MEMPHIS STRIKE, MARTIN LUTHER KING’S LAST CAMPAIGN

Author: HONEY, MICHAEL K.  
Original Date: 2007

Chronicles the dramatic events in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968, concerning the sanitation workers’ strike for union rights that led to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Assesses the strikers’ impact on the civil rights movement. Includes oral histories of participants. 2007.

DB 66008

Title: LIFE UPON THESE SHORES: LOOKING AT AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, 1513-2008

Author: GATES, HENRY LOUIS, JR.  
Original Date: 2011

History of African Americans in the United States from colonial days to the 2008 election of president Barack Obama. Discusses black conquistadors accompanying Spanish explorers to the New World. Examines both the acquisition and freeing of slaves as well as the civil rights movement. Highlights individual contributions. 2011.

DB 75408

Title: MALCOLM X: A LIFE OF REINVENTION

Author: MARABLE, MANNING, 1950-2011  
Original Date: 2011


DB 7293
Title: MARCH ON WASHINGTON: JOBS, FREEDOM, AND THE FORGOTTEN HISTORY OF Civil Rights
Author: JONES, WILLIAM POWELL, 1970- Original Date: 2013
Examines the economic goals of the 1963 civil rights march on Washington, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. Focuses on labor union leader A. Phillip Randolph and his quest for fair employment, as well as the role of black women’s groups. 2013.
BR 20200 DB 77242

Title: MEDICAL APARTHEID: THE DARK HISTORY OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION ON BLACK AMERICANS FROM COLONIAL TIMES TO THE PRESENT
Author: Washington, Harriet A. Original Date: 2007
Documents the use of African Americans in nonconsensual, nontherapeutic research by private institutions and the federal government. Recounts instances of drug and radiation testing, involuntary sterilization, and surgical experimentation. Cites the mid-twentieth-century Tuskegee Syphilis Study. Examines racial and ethical issues in the medical field. Nat’l Book Critics Circle Award. 2006.
DB 66297

Title: MEN WE REAPED: A MEMOIR
Author: WARD, JESMYN Original Date: 2013
Prize-winning author of Salvage the Bones (DB 74033) reflects on the deaths of five young African American men with whom she grew up—including her only brother. Explores being poor and black in the South and the attendant substance abuse, broken families, and lack of opportunity. Violence and strong language. 2013.
DB 78283
Title: MOM AND ME AND MOM

Author: ANGELOU, MAYA

Original Date: 2013

Author of I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (DB 57200) chronicles her relationship with her mother. Discusses being raised by her grandmother from ages three to thirteen and recounts her growing adoration of her mother during Angelou’s teen years. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2013.

BR 20070   DB 76616

Title: NEW BLACK: WHAT HAS CHANGED—AND WHAT HAS NOT—WITH RACE IN AMERICA

Author:  

Original Date: 2013

Collection of eleven essays exploring how the African American experience in America in the early twenty-first century has changed since the 1960s, as well as how it has not. An essay by Cristina Rodriguez, a law professor at Yale, discusses immigration and civil rights. 2013.

DB 79483

Title: NOTES FROM NO MAN’S LAND: AMERICAN ESSAYS

Author: BISS, EULA

Original Date: 2009

Observations about racial identity and racism in twenty-first-century America based on the author’s experiences as she traveled the country. In “Land Mines” Biss reflects on her teaching stint in Harlem and on our educational system. Some strong language. Nat’l Book Critics Circle Award. 2009.

DB 72586
Title: PARTING THE WATERS: AMERICA IN THE KING YEARS 1954-1963
Author: BRANCH, TAYLOR

Wide-ranging chronicle of a turbulent decade when the civil-rights movement launched its determined, nonviolent battle for America’s social conscience and soul. Branch focuses on the period that begins with Martin Luther King’s 1954 arrival as pastor of Montgomery’s Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and ends with the assassination of President Kennedy. Pulitzer Prize for History 1989.

DB 29759

Title: PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
Author: GARDNER, CHRIS (CHRIS P.)

African American philanthropist recalls his life, from a harsh Milwaukee upbringing to a successful career as a stockbroker. Discusses his homelessness as a single father in San Francisco and stresses the discipline, self-motivation, and community help that saved him. Strong language, some descriptions of sex, and some violence. Bestseller. 2006.

DB 63857

Title: SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS ME
Author: HALL, RON

A friendship begins between two men of vastly different backgrounds when wealthy international art dealer Ron Hall volunteers at a homeless shelter at the insistence of his wife, Deborah. He meets Denver Moore, a man who left a hard life as an unpaid sharecropper in Louisiana for the streets of Fort Worth. When Deborah is diagnosed with colon cancer, their friendship grows even stronger. 2006.

DBC 00008   DT 06944   LB 06315
Title: SLAVERY BY ANOTHER NAME: THE RE-ENSLAVEMENT OF BLACK AMERICANS FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO WORLD WAR II

Author: BLACKMON, DOUGLAS A.  Original Date: 2008

Wall Street Journal reporter details the use of African American forced labor that began in the South during Reconstruction. Examines archives to document the way national industries acquired uncompensated labor via convict leasing—a practice that was allegedly supported at all levels of government. Violence and strong language. Pulitzer Prize. 2008.

DB 69134

Title: TWELVE YEARS A SLAVE

Author: NORTHUP, SOLOMON, 1808-1863?  Original Date: 1853


BR 20377   DB 77891   LB 07930

Title: WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS: THE EPIC STORY OF AMERICA’S GREAT MIGRATION

Author: WILKERSON, ISABEL  Original Date: 2010


DB 71929