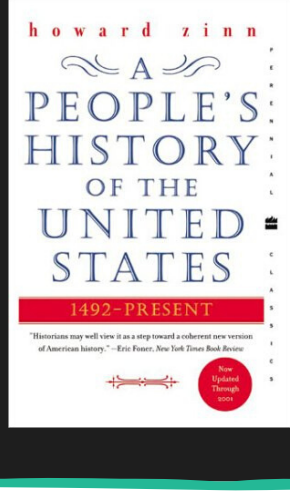




8 BOOKS THAT DEEPEN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF RACE AND RACISM IN AMERICA

In an effort to deepen our understanding of race and racism in America, we're turning to authors to shed light on how we got to where we are, how to have civil discourse about inflammatory topics, and steps that we can take individually and collectively to heal.



1. A People's History of the United States

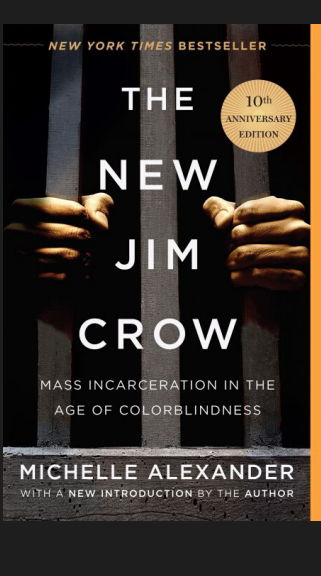
By: **Howard Zinn**

Why pick it up: Zinn shows that many of America's greatest battles – fights for fair wages, eight-hour workdays, child labor laws, health and safety standards, universal suffrage, women's rights, racial equality – were carried out at the grassroots level, against bloody resistance.

2. The Racial Contract

By: **Charles W. Mills**

Why pick it up: "Fish don't see water, men don't see patriarchy, and white philosophers don't see white supremacy. We can do little about fish. Now Charles Mills has made it clear how whites dominate people of color, even (or especially) when they have no such intention. He asks whites not to feel guilty, but rather to do something much more difficult – understand and take responsibility for a structure which they did not create but still benefit from." – Jennifer Hochschild, Princeton University



3. The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

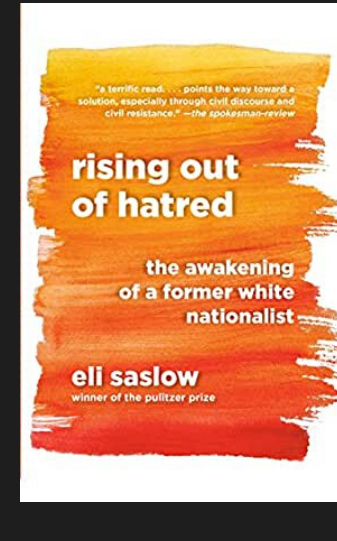
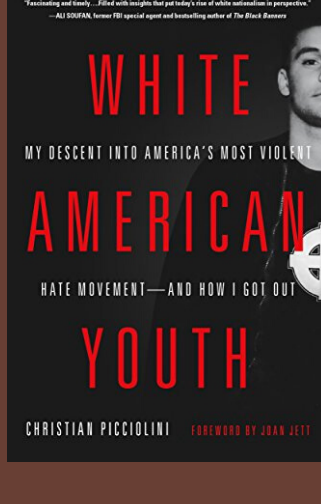
By: **Michelle Alexander**

Why pick it up: Alexander shows that, by targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. The New Jim Crow challenges the civil rights community – and all of us – to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America.

4. White American Youth: My Dissent Into America's Most Violent Hate Movement – And How I Got Out

By: **Christian Piccolini**

Why pick it up: As featured on the TED stage, a stunning look inside the world of violent hate groups by a onetime white supremacist leader who, shaken by a personal tragedy, abandoned his destructive life to become an anti-hate activist.



5. Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist

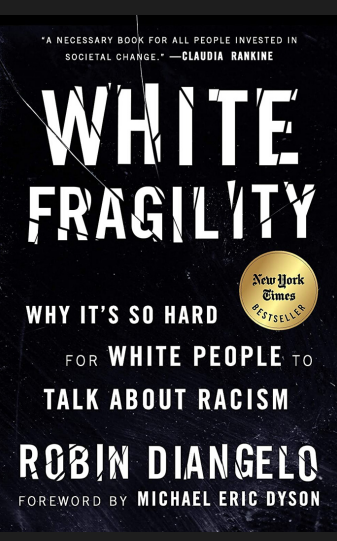
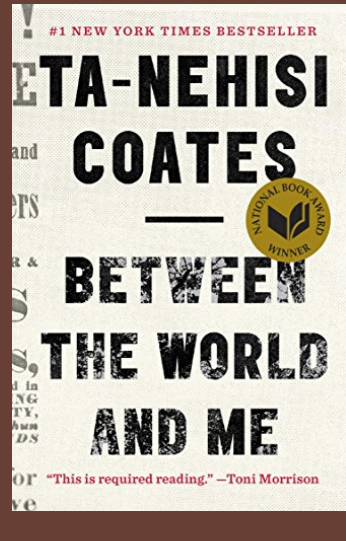
By: **Eli Saslow**

Why pick it up: "No one can match Pulitzer Prize winner Eli Saslow's skill at telling the most improbable, humane, and riveting tales of our time. Anyone despairing at the hate that has fueled so much of America's politics ought to read this unforgettable story." – Jane Mayer, New York Times bestselling author.

6. Between the World and Me

By: **Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Why pick it up: Beautifully woven from personal narrative, reimagined history, and fresh, emotionally charged reportage, *Between the World and Me* clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendent vision for a way forward.



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

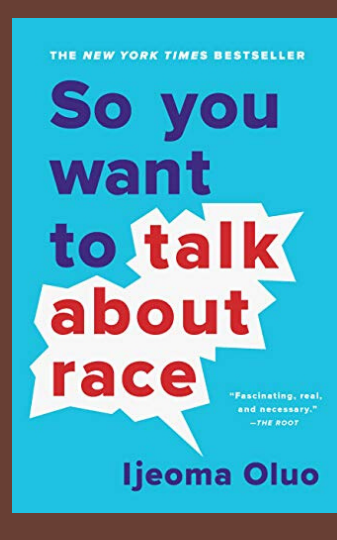
By: **Robin DiAngelo**

Why pick it up: DiAngelo invites us to have courageous conversations about the culture of complicity. To eradicate racism, she encourages white people to relinquish ingrained hyper-attachment to individualism and embrace predictable patterns of their own racial group. Her book provides strategies for people who truly endeavor to be a part of the solution.

8. So You Want to Talk About Race

By: **Ijeoma Oluo**

Why pick it up: Whether you're beginning your journey to understanding racism in America or believe yourself to be well-versed on the subject, this book is a tool to help broach conversations and help us work toward a better world for people of color from all walks of life.



What books are you reading to understand and dismantle racism?