

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York, NY: The New Press, 2012. 261 pp. ISBN: 978-1-59558-643-8

OVERVIEW

In this book that *Forbes Magazine* describes simply as “Devastating”, Legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that “we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.” 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—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness.

Cose, Ellis. *The Envy of the World: On Being A Black in America*. New York, NY: Washington Square Press, 2002. 160 pp. ISBN: 0-7434-2817-X

OVERVIEW

Black men have never had more opportunity for success than today – yet, as bestselling author Cose puts it, “We are watching the largest group of black males in history stumbling through life with a ball and chain.” Add to that the ravages of AIDS, murder, poverty, illiteracy, and the widening gap separating the black “elite” from the “underclass,” and the result is a paralyzing pessimism. But even as Cose acknowledges the obstacles that confront black men, he refuses to accept them as reasons for giving up; instead he rails against the destructive attitude that has made academic achievement a source of shame instead of pride in many black communities -- and outlines steps black males can take to enhance their odds for success.

West, Cornell. *Race Matters, 25th Anniversary: With A New Introduction*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2017. 128 pp. ISBN: 978-0-80704-122-2

OVERVIEW

First published in 1993, on the one-year anniversary of the Los Angeles riots, *Race Matters* became a national best seller that has gone on to sell more than half a million copies. This classic treatise on race contains Dr. West’s most incisive essays on the issues relevant to black Americans, including the crisis in leadership in the Black community, Black conservatism, Black-Jewish relations, myths about Black sexuality, and the legacy of Malcolm X. The insights Dr. West brings to these complex problems remain relevant, provocative, creative, and compassionate.

In a new introduction for the twenty-fifth-anniversary edition, Dr. West argues that we are in the midst of a spiritual blackout characterized by imperial decline, racial animosity, and unchecked brutality and terror as seen in Baltimore, Ferguson, and Charlottesville. Calling for a moral and spiritual awakening, Dr. West finds hope in the collective and visionary resistance exemplified by the Movement for Black Lives, Standing Rock, and the Black freedom tradition.

Now more than ever, Race Matters is an essential book for all Americans, helping us to build a genuine multiracial democracy in the new millennium.

Rock, Calvin B. *Protest & Progress: Black Seventh-day Adventists Leadership and the Push for Parity*. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2018. 227 pp. ISBN: 978-1-940980-22-5

OVERVIEW

In this book that university professor and church historian Douglas Morgan calls “The most important book published on race relations in the Adventist Church”, Dr. Calvin Rock first gives an overview of [Adventist] history by discussing the successes and failures of four major Black Adventist leadership protest movements: the push for administrative integration, which failed; the push for Regional conferences, which succeeded; the push for Black union conferences, which failed; and the push for a separate and equitable retirement system for Regional conference employees, which succeeded. Rock's personal participation in some of the events adds rich character to the story. Building on that history, he makes his case for the effectiveness and necessity of the current Regional conference system of mission that administers resources according to racial and cultural opportunity.

White, Ellen G. (2010). *The Southern Work*. The Ellen G. White Estate. Retrieved from <https://m.egwwritings.org/en/book/139.2#0>

OVERVIEW

In answer to Ellen White's historic 1891 testimony her son James Edson White began evangelistic and educational work among Southern Blacks, using a missionary boat that plied the Mississippi River. Ellen White produced an ongoing series of testimonies on this subject, which Edson gathered up and published in 1898 and 1901. This reprint of that work, with the inclusion of additional material, reminds us that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, and one in the Spirit.

WEBSITES

To register to vote: <https://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/>

To help with voter registration: <https://www.whenweallvote.org/volunteer/>;
www.indivisible.org

YOUTUBE

“The Hidden Agenda Behind Racism” - Pastor Ivor Myers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpEF8qa4pt4>

“The Wound Part 1 - Racism in the Adventist Church Documentary”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiuh-Hht8ck>

“The Wound Part 2 - Racism in the Adventist Church Documentary”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H41f6v91G6o>

“The Wound Part 3 - Racism in the Adventist Church Documentary”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H41f6v91G6o>