



### New resources on current issues

When 26 states felt it necessary to call out the National Guard to deal with demonstrations from coast to coast, Library Director Pamela Williams decided to review resources available to our patrons, via e-books and audiobooks, that would provide opportunity for thoughtful reflection, information and informed conversations on the general issue of race relations in the United States. She found the pickings slim and thus ordered books in electronic format (since we cannot access our paper holdings currently). Here are descriptions of a few of the books and a complete list of these new (to us) resources that are available to you now.

I should add that I've read none of these. Thirty years ago, I was current on such books, and I am impressed how far behind I am and that there's been some excellent serious writing recently. At least some of these books are now on my list. It's not a bad idea to put down the remote control and read – in fact, a good idea any week.

Let's start with a book that could hardly get more acclaim, **Between the World and Me** by Ta-Nehisi Coates, a memoir in the form of a letter to his adolescent son published in 2015. No less a luminary than Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison called this book, "required reading." Coates' book is a Pulitzer Prize finalist that in addition to spelling out his concerns to his son, "gives a transcendent vision for a way forward." Coates uses personal experience, deep historical investigation, and current situations to talk to his son about what it means to be a black man in America – all it implies.

**When Helping Hurts – How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor and Yourself** by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert is an analysis of mistakes made in trying to address poverty and how to do better, "from the inside out and not the outside in." Since even the current pandemic hits hardest in poor communities, this also seems like a relevant issue.

**A Racial Healing Handbook** by Anneliese A. Singh has its purpose in its extended subtitle, "Practical Activities to Help Confront Systemic Racism and Engage in Collective Healing." This book is a year old and an optimistic book by an educator (an optimistic profession). Singh is professor and associate dean of Education at the University of Georgia and offers ways forward in thinking where we all are and where we'd like to be together.

Next up is **White Fragility: Why It Is So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism** by Robin Di Angelo who examines the defensive posture people assume when discussing this topic. Other than extremists who openly embrace racism, most of us don't want to think of ourselves in this light and thus adopt certain defensive maneuvers rather than stop to ask ourselves if we hold any elements of this.

Then there is **White Rage** by Carol Anderson. Anderson is an historian at Emory University, and her book is another one that garnered a lot of positive notice and made numerous "best" lists. She takes the long view befitting her profession going back to the resistance to ending slavery and makes the case that resistance has consistently continued through every other element of progress to civil rights up to now.

Here are other some more resources now available: Mikki Kendall's **Hood Feminism**, Ibram X. Kendri's **How to be an Antiracist** and **Stamped from the Beginning**, and Glennon Doyle's **Untamed**.

Remember, the way to get electronic resources right now is through **Overdrive** and the **Libby app**. Check our website homepage for links on how to navigate Overdrive and Libby if you haven't done so before. So many resources await everyone at no cost to you.

Pam also notes that she processes at least five new library cards per week, so if you need one, email the library or call and leave a message. Someone will get back to you, and you can have a card without stopping in. You can also get a library password to access electronic resources. We may be closed, but we are here for you.

Letting Pam have the final word this week, "It's important to get resources into people's hands while issues are on their minds and in their hearts."