

# **BOOKS OF KNOWLEDGE**

An empowering collection of Books, Reviews and Video resources on the 400 year Black Experience in America

NOVEMBER 2017



**SERIES I**  
*Understanding  
the Ballot, the Book,  
and the Buck*  
*The right to vote &  
economic equity*

## **ABOUT BOOKS OF KNOWLEDGE**

**FREE!** A world-class education by  
world class-experts!

*"I freed a thousand slaves. I could have  
freed a thousand more if only they knew  
they were slaves."*

*- Harriet Tubman*

There are several ideas on empowering underserved communities that have gained historical consensus:

- **To empower Black communities, we must educate them;**
- **To effectively educate our communities we must teach them history.**

GDN has created one of the most empowering education initiatives detailing the 400-year Black experience in America. 'GDN's Books of Knowledge' is a weekly go-to source where you can view videos and read reviews on the best books that contain knowledge required to empower our communities. This free "world-class" education uses books written by acknowledged "world-class" experts.

Each week GDN eNews publishes a book review on a major topic concerning the Black experience in America. In addition to the book review, we provide easy access to a video clip interview of the author to give you even greater insight into the topic. In as little as 1½ hours you can enjoy learning new and insightful information in a convenient format. Don't have time to read? You can simply start a video, look and listen. The choice is up to you!

Concerned leaders and other interested individuals are encouraged to subscribe to our (free) weekly eNews. Share this valuable resource with your families, friends, organizational members and other interested parties. To subscribe to our free eNews go to: [greaterdiversity.com](http://greaterdiversity.com) •



## *From Slavery to the First Reconstruction* *(1619-1865)*

**Be Free or Die:**  
The Amazing Story of Robert Smalls' Escape from Slavery to Union Hero  
*Author: Cate Lineberry*

It was a mild May morning in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1862, the second year of the Civil War, when a twenty-three-year-old enslaved man named Robert Smalls boldly seized a Confederate steamer. With his wife and two young children hidden on board, Smalls and a small crew ran a gauntlet of heavily armed fortifications in Charleston Harbor and delivered the valuable vessel and the massive guns it carried to nearby Union forces. Smalls' courageous and ingenious act freed him and his family from slavery and immediately made him a Union hero. It also challenged much of the country's view of what African Americans were willing to do for their freedom.

In *Be Free or Die*, Cate Lineberry tells the remarkable story of Smalls' escape and his many accomplishments during the war, including becoming the first black captain of an Army vessel. In a particularly poignant moment, Smalls even bought the home that he and his mother had once served in as house slaves.

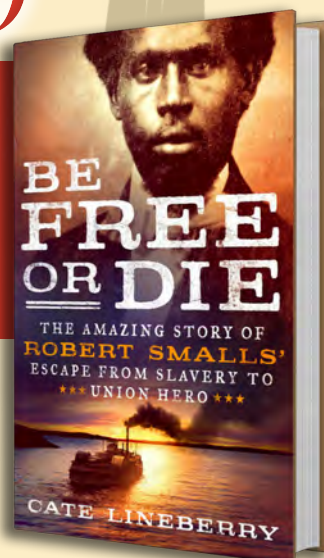
### *Books of Knowledge Link:*

<http://greaterdiversity.com/be-free-or-die-the-amazing-story-of-robert-smalls-escape-from-slavery-to-union-hero/>



### *Video Resources*

<http://www.catelineberry.com/be-free-or-die/>  
<https://www.c-span.org/video/?431001-2/free-die>



*Be Free or Die* is a compelling narrative that illuminates Robert Smalls' amazing journey from slave to Union hero and ultimately United States Congressman. It also gives fascinating insight and knowledge into the country's first efforts to help newly freed slaves while also illustrating the many struggles and achievements of African Americans during the war.

### **— BE FREE OR DIE Q & A —**

#### **What drew you to this story?**

I was amazed at Robert Smalls' extraordinary courage and determination during the Civil War. He was unstoppable. Not only did he save himself and his family from slavery by seizing the Planter, a Confederate steamship, and delivering it to the Union, he helped convince the country that African Americans were willing to fight for their freedom. He even delivered orders from the secretary of war to a brigadier general that authorized the first regiment of black soldiers to serve in the U.S. Army. He was also the first African American to captain an Army vessel. And that was just what he accomplished during the war. He later became one of the first black Congressman and served five terms.

#### **Why do you think this story is relevant to readers today?**

Robert Smalls is an American hero who triumphed over incredible difficulties. His story is as inspiring as it is riveting,

**FREE Continued on page 2**



# From *Slavery* to the *First Reconstruction*



GREATER DIVERSITY NEWS  
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Wilmington, NC 28402  
Phone: 910-762-1337  
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National Watts: 1-800-462-0738

**Subscriptions:**  
**\$25.00 Yearly**  
**\$47.50 Two Years**  
**\$67.50 Three Years**

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## Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass

**Author: Fredrick Douglass**

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass is a memoir and treatise on abolition written by famous orator and ex-slave, Frederick Douglass. It is generally held to be the most famous of a number of narratives written by former slaves during the same period. In factual detail, the text describes the events of his life and is considered to be one of the most influential pieces of literature to fuel the abolitionist movement of the early 19th century in the United States. The book encompasses eleven chapters that recount Douglass' life as a slave and his ambition to become a free man. Clearly, in the minds of many, Douglass' work in this Narrative was an incredibly influential piece of literature in the anti-slavery movement. One of the more significant reasons Douglass published his Narrative was to offset the demeaning manner in which white people viewed him. When he spoke in public, his white abolitionists established limits to what he could say on the platform. •

### NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS



FREDERICK  
DOUGLASS



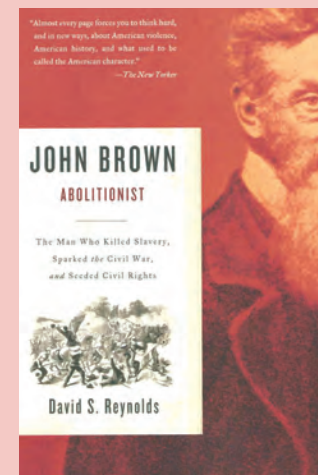
### Video Resource

Fredrick Douglass audio book:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swYQ\\_-TNutI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swYQ_-TNutI)

## John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights

**Author: David S. Reynolds**

A cultural biography of John Brown, the controversial abolitionist who used violent tactics against slavery and single-handedly changed the course of American history. Reynolds brings to life the Puritan warrior who gripped slavery by the throat and triggered the Civil War. Reynolds demonstrates that Brown's most violent acts—including his killing of proslavery settlers in Kansas and his historic raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia—were inspired by the slave revolts, guerilla warfare, and revolutionary Christianity of the day. He shows how Brown seized public attention, polarizing the nation and fueling the tensions that led to the Civil War. Reynolds recounts how Brown permeated American culture during the Civil War and beyond, and how he planted the seeds of the civil rights movement by making a pioneering demand for complete social and political equality for America's ethnic minorities. •



### Video Resource

John Brown Abolitionist:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Hh7D4mUp2g>

## FREE Continued from Front page

and it showcases so many important aspects of our country's history, particularly the struggles of African Americans during the war and immediately following it. Smalls overcame one challenge after another and often managed to bring whites and blacks together. He even helped the family who had once enslaved him, including allowing his former master's wife stay in his home.

### Did you spend time in Charleston and Beaufort while writing the story?

Absolutely. I find spending time in places I'm writing about to be essential to my research even if much has changed over time. It's important to

have a sense of place and understand how geography and culture impact a story.

### Did you contact any of Robert Smalls' family members during your research?

I was fortunate in that Robert Smalls' family is very interested in preserving and promoting his story. His great granddaughter, Dr. Helen Boulware Moore, has created a traveling exhibit on Smalls, and his great, great grandson, Michael Boulware Moore, is the President and CEO of the International African American museum. They have been incredibly supportive of this project.

### What did you learn while writing the book

### that surprised you the most?

I knew going into the project much of what Robert Smalls had achieved, but it was not until I immersed myself in the details of his story that I fully appreciated just how significant his role was in helping change the country's attitude toward African Americans. It's hard to imagine that many people, even in the North, questioned whether blacks would fight for their freedom and their country. Smalls' daring act on May 13, 1862, and the steps he took afterwards, helped change that. And though he was nearly as famous as Frederick Douglass at the time, today many Americans do not know his story. Smalls deserves to be remembered and honored for his heroism and all that he accomplished. •



# *From Reconstruction to* *Brown v. Board of Education* (1865-1954)

## The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow

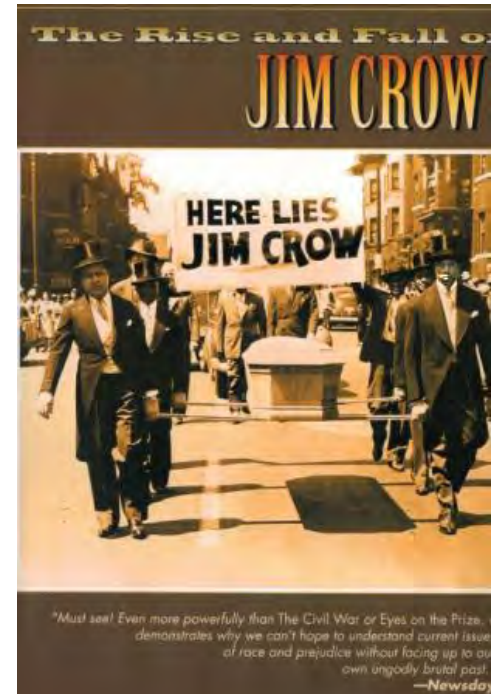
EMANCIPATION ENDED SLAVERY,  
BUT NOT ITS LEGACY.

A landmark four-part series, THE RISE AND FALL OF JIM CROW explores segregation from the end of the civil war to the dawn of the modern civil rights movement. Lynchings and beatings by night. Demeaning treatment by day. And a life of crushing subordination for Southern blacks that was maintained by white supremacist laws and customs known as "Jim Crow." It was a brutal and oppressive era in American history, but during this time, large numbers of African Americans and a corps of influential black leaders bravely fought against the status quo, amazingly acquiring for African Americans the opportunities of education, business, land ownership, and a true spirit of community. •

### — Video Resources —

The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow | PBS | 4 Episodes

- 
**Part I: Promises Betrayed (1865 - 1896)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3IxWEK0uJA>
- 
**Part II: Fighting Back (1896 - 1917)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utwESZPd7Gk>
- 
**Part III: Don't Shout Too Soon (1918 - 1940)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWEbqU9CfYl>
- 
**Part IV: Terror and Triumph (1940 - 1954)**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vadRcW\\_r-SE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vadRcW_r-SE)



## Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism

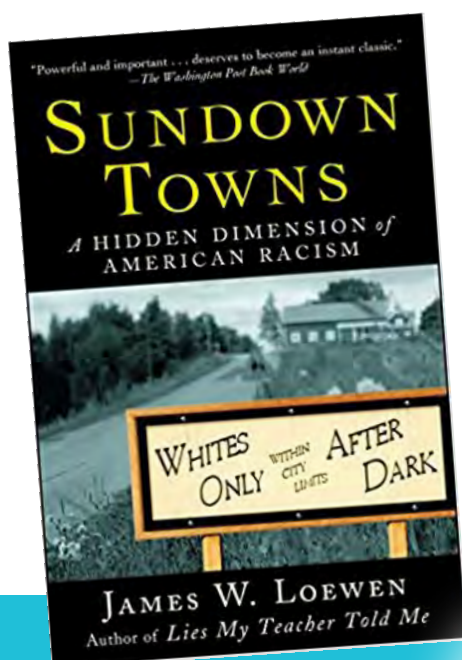
**Author: James W. Loewen**

Best selling author of 'Lies My Teacher Told Me', James W. Loewen, exposes the secret communities and hotbeds of racial injustice that sprung up throughout the twentieth century unnoticed, forcing us to reexamine race relations in the United States.

In this groundbreaking work, bestselling sociologist James W. Loewen, author of the national bestseller Lies My Teacher Told Me, brings to light decades of hidden racial exclusion in America. In a provocative, sweeping analysis of American residential patterns, Loewen uncovers the thousands of "sundown towns"—almost exclusively white towns where it was an unspoken rule that blacks could not live there—that cropped up throughout the

twentieth century, most of them located outside of the South. These towns used everything from legal formalities to violence to create homogenous Caucasian communities—and their existence has gone unexamined until now. For the first time, Loewen takes a long, hard look at the history, sociology, and continued existence of these towns, contributing an essential new chapter to the study of American race relations.

Sundown Towns combines personal narrative, history, and analysis to create a readable picture of this previously unknown American institution all written with Loewen's trademark honesty and thoroughness. •





# The Civil Rights Movement



## Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement

**Author: John Lewis**

The award-winning national best seller, *Walking with the Wind*, is one of our most important records of the American civil rights movement. Told by John Lewis, who Cornel West calls a “national treasure,” this is a gripping first-hand account of the fight for civil rights and the courage it takes to change a nation.

In 1957, a teenaged boy named John Lewis left a cotton farm in Alabama for Nashville, the epicenter of the struggle for civil rights in America. Lewis’ adherence to nonviolence guided that critical time and established him as one of the movement’s most charismatic and courageous leaders. Lewis’ leadership in the Nashville Movement—a student-led effort to desegregate the city of Nashville using sit-in techniques based on the teachings of Gandhi—set the tone for major civil rights campaigns of the 1960s. Lewis traces his role in the pivotal Selma marches, Bloody Sunday, and the Freedom Rides. Inspired by his mentor, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Lewis’ vision and perseverance altered history. In 1986, he ran and won a congressional seat in Georgia, and remains in office to this day, continuing to enact change.

The late Edward M. Kennedy said of Lewis, “John tells it like it was...Lewis spent most of his life walking against the wind of the times, but he was surely walking with the wind of history.” •

## Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement A Radical Democratic Vision

**Author: Barbara Ransby**

One of the most important African American leaders of the twentieth century and perhaps the most influential woman in the civil rights movement, Ella Baker (1903-1986) was an activist whose remarkable career spanned fifty years and touched thousands of lives.

A gifted grassroots organizer, Baker shunned the spotlight in favor of vital behind-the-scenes work that helped power the black freedom struggle. She was a national officer and key figure in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, one of the founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and a prime mover in the creation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Baker made a place for herself in predominantly male political circles that included W. E. B. Du Bois, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King Jr., all the while maintaining relationships with a vibrant group of women, students, and activists both black and white.

In this deeply researched biography, Barbara Ransby chronicles Baker's long and rich political career as an organizer, an intellectual, and a teacher, from her early experiences in depression-era Harlem to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Ransby



*Fannie Lou Hamer (l) and Ella Baker (r), in 1964 at a Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party meeting*

shows Baker to be a complex figure whose radical, democratic worldview, commitment to empowering the black poor, and emphasis on group-centered, grassroots leadership set her apart from most of her political contemporaries. Beyond documenting an extraordinary life, the book paints a vivid picture of the African American fight for justice and its intersections with other progressive struggles worldwide across the twentieth century. •



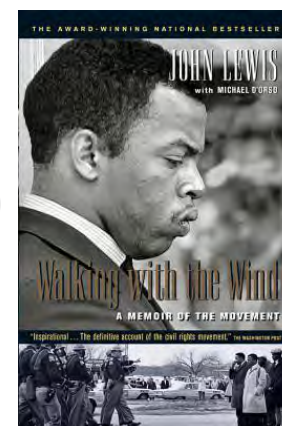
**EMPOWERING**  
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**EDUCATION**  
A suggested reading priority of books has been developed for your convenience. Learn from "world-class" experts in as little as 1 1/2 hours on average per topic.

*"I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves."*  
- Harriet Tubman

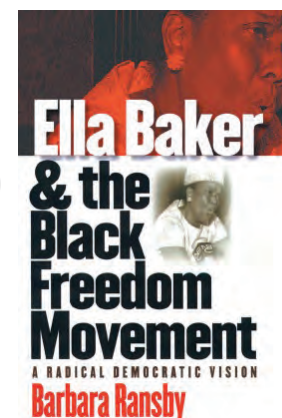


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**Walking With the Wind:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hy4YphjK6N8>



**Ella Baker & the Black Freedom Movement:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3308UdloIU>



**America in the 20th Century  
The Civil Rights Movement**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1YPMIHI-88>





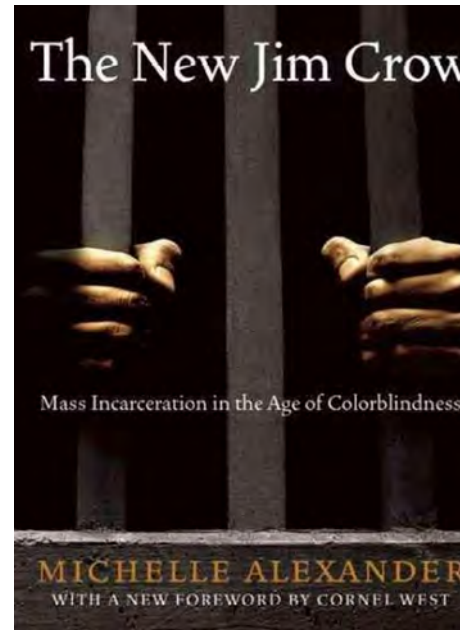
# Mass Incarceration

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

**Author: Michelle Alexander**

The New Jim Crow is a stunning account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement. Since its publication in 2010, the book has appeared on the New York Times bestseller list for more than a year; been dubbed the “secular bible of a new social movement” by numerous commentators, including Cornel West; and has led to consciousness-raising efforts in universities, churches, community centers, re-entry centers, and prisons nationwide. The New Jim Crow tells a truth our nation has been reluctant to face.

As the United States celebrates its “triumph over race” with the election of Barack Obama, the majority of black men in major urban areas are under correctional control or saddled with criminal records for life. Jim Crow laws were wiped off the books decades ago, but today an extraordinary percentage of the African American community is warehoused in prisons or trapped in a parallel social universe, denied basic civil and human rights—including the right to vote; the right to serve on juries; and the right to be free of legal discrimination in employment, housing, access to education and public benefits. Today, it is no longer socially permissible to use race explicitly as a justification for discrimination, exclusion, and social contempt. Yet as civil-rights-lawyer-turned-scholar



Michelle Alexander demonstrates, it is perfectly legal to discriminate against convicted criminals in nearly all the ways in which it was once legal to discriminate against African Americans. Once labeled a felon, even for a minor drug crime, the old forms of discrimination are suddenly legal again. In her words, “we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.”

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. •


**Books of Knowledge Link:**  
<http://greaterdiversity.com/book-review-the-new-jim-crow-mass-incarceration-in-the-age-of-colorblindness/>



### Video Resources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Pb6y9rNKmo>



## BECOMING MS. BURTON

*From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women*

**SUSAN BURTON & CARI LYNN**



One woman’s remarkable odyssey from tragedy to prison to recovery—and recognition as a leading figure in the national justice reform movement.

“Susan’s life story is one our nation desperately needs to hear and understand. This is a story about personal transforma-

tion and collective power. It is about one woman’s journey to freedom, but it will help free us all.” —Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*.

Susan Burton’s world changed in an instant when her five-year-old son was killed by a van driving down their street.

Consumed by grief and without access to professional help, Susan self-medicated, becoming addicted first to cocaine, then crack. As a resident of South Los Angeles, a black community under siege in the War on Drugs, it was but a matter of time before Susan was arrested. She cycled in and out of prison for over fifteen years; never was she offered therapy or treatment for addiction. On her own, she eventually found a private drug rehabilitation facility.

Once clean, Susan dedicated her life to

supporting women facing similar struggles. Her organization, A New Way of Life, operates five safe homes in Los Angeles that supply a lifeline to hundreds of formerly incarcerated women and their children—setting them on the track to education and employment rather than returns to prison. *Becoming Ms. Burton* not only humanizes the deleterious impact of mass incarceration, it also points the way to the kind of structural and policy changes that will offer formerly incarcerated people the possibility of a life of meaning and dignity.

### About Susan Burton

*Susan Burton is the Founder and Executive Director of A New Way of Life, a nonprofit that provides housing and other support to formerly incarcerated women.*

*She is nationally known as an advocate for restoring basic civil and human rights to those who have served time.*

*Not only has Susan received the prestigious Citizen Activist Award from the Harvard Kennedy School of Law. In 2015, on the 50th Anniversary of Selma and the Voting Rights Act, Susan Burton was named by the Los Angeles Times as one of eighteen New Civil Rights Leaders in the nation.*



*Susan has been a Starbucks® “Upstander,” a CNN Top 10 Hero, a Soros Justice Fellow, a Women’s Policy Institute Fellow at the California Women’s Foundation, A Violence Prevention Fellow with the California Wellness Foundation, and is the co-author, with Cari Lynn, of *Becoming Ms. Burton* (The New Press). She lives in Los Angeles. •*



### Books of Knowledge Link:

<http://greaterdiversity.com/becoming-ms-burton/>



### Video Resources

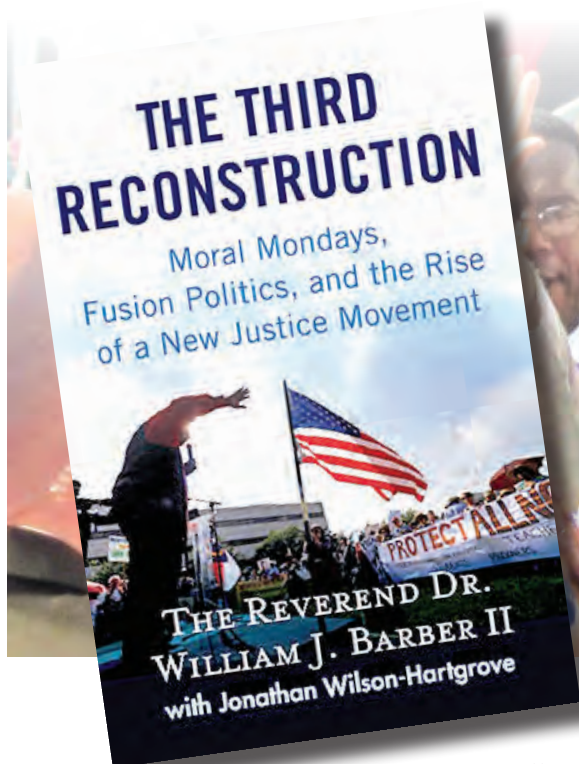
<http://www.npr.org/2017/05/16/528587632/after-6-prison-terms-a-former-inmate-helps-other-women-rebuild-their-lives>



# *The Third Reconstruction: Continuing the Fight for Social, Economic & Political Justice*

## The Third Reconstruction

Author: Rev. William Barber



Over the summer of 2013, the Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II led more than a hundred thousand people at rallies across North Carolina to protest restrictions to voting access and an extreme makeover of state government. These protests—the largest state government–focused civil disobedience campaign in American history—came to be known as Moral Mondays and have since blossomed in states as diverse as Florida, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Ohio, and New York.

At a time when divide-and-conquer politics

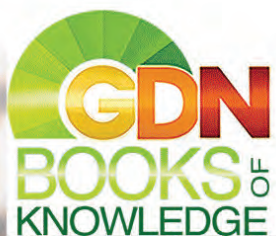
are exacerbating racial strife and economic inequality, Rev. Barber offers an impassioned, historically grounded argument that Moral Mondays are hard evidence of an embryonic Third Reconstruction in America.

The first Reconstruction briefly flourished after Emancipation, and the second Reconstruction ushered in meaningful progress in the civil rights era. But both were met by ferocious reactionary measures that severely curtailed, and in many cases rolled back, racial and economic progress. This Third Reconstruction is a profoundly moral awakening of justice-loving people united in a fusion coalition powerful enough to reclaim the possibility of democracy—even in the face of

corporate-financed extremism.

In this memoir of how Rev. Barber and allies as diverse as progressive Christians, union members, and immigration-rights activists came together to build a coalition, he offers a trenchant analysis of race-based inequality and a hopeful message for a nation grappling with persistent racial and economic injustice. Rev. Barber writes movingly—and pragmatically—about how he laid the groundwork for a state-by-state movement that unites black, white, and brown, rich and poor, employed and unemployed, gay and straight, documented and undocumented, religious and secular. Only such a diverse fusion movement, Rev. Barber argues, can heal our nation's wounds and produce public policy that is morally defensible, constitution-

ally consistent, and economically sane. “The Third Reconstruction” is both a blueprint for movement building and an inspiring call to action from the twenty-first century’s most effective grassroots organizer. •



Empowering  
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be-free-or-die-the-amazing-story-  
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slavery-to-union-hero/](http://greaterdiversity.com/be-free-or-die-the-amazing-story-of-robert-smalls-escape-from-slavery-to-union-hero/)

### Video Resources

[https://www.c-span.org/vid-  
eo/?413531-3/washington-journal-  
william-barber-morality-us -politics](https://www.c-span.org/video/?413531-3/washington-journal-william-barber-morality-us-politics)

Book Review: [http://www.beacon.  
org/The-Third-Reconstruction-  
P1139.aspx](http://www.beacon.org/The-Third-Reconstruction-P1139.aspx)

Discussion Guide: [http://www.  
uuabookstore.org/Assets/PDFs/  
third\\_recon\\_disc\\_guide.pdf](http://www.uuabookstore.org/Assets/PDFs/third_recon_disc_guide.pdf)



# Policing the Black Man

**Author: Angela J. Davis, Esq.**

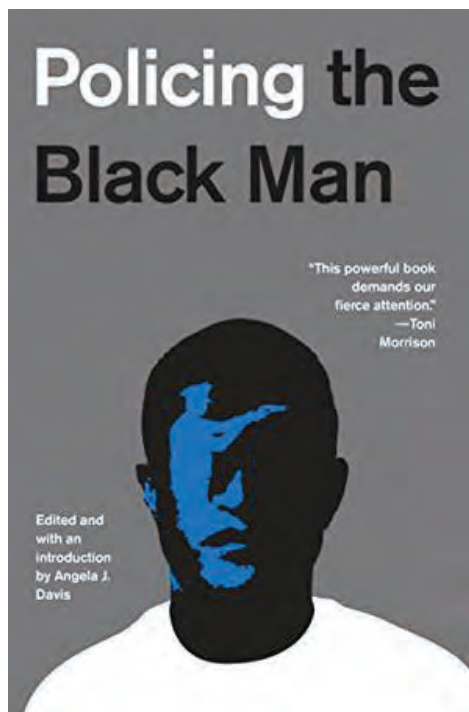
A comprehensive, readable analysis of the key issues of the Black Lives Matter movement, this thought-provoking and compelling anthology features essays by some of the nation's most influential and respected criminal justice experts and legal scholars.

*“An absorbing anthology, scholarly yet approachable.”*

Policing the Black Man explores and critiques the many ways the criminal justice system impacts the lives of African American boys and men at every stage of the criminal process, from arrest through sentencing. Essays range from an explication of the historical roots of racism in the criminal justice system to an examination of modern-day police killings of unarmed black men. The contributors discuss and explain racial profiling, the power and discretion of police and prosecutors, the role of implicit bias, the racial impact of police and prosecutorial decisions, the disproportionate imprisonment of black men, the collateral consequences of mass incarceration, and the Supreme Court's failure to provide meaningful remedies for the injustices in the criminal justice system. Policing the Black Man is an enlightening must-read for anyone interested in the critical issues of race and justice in America.

A professor at American University's Washington College of Law, Davis (Arbitrary Justice: The Power of the American Prosecutor, 2007, etc.) used her platform to pull together this collection of essays from a variety of scholars and writers. Providing useful context, the editor points out that black males have never fared well when confronted by police and prosecutors across the U.S.

For a couple of centuries, in fact, black men could rarely convince white authorities of the breadth and depth of the injustices. In recent decades, new technology, including smartphones and body cameras, combined with the sounding board of social media have removed doubt about the credibility of many victims. In the introduction, Davis invokes the names of numerous dead black males, placing special emphasis on the killing of Trayvon Martin five years ago by George Zimmerman. While soliciting the essays, Davis offered an expanded definition of the word “policing,” showing how much of the foundation of policing black males rests on racial profiling by law enforcement. In her powerful essay, law professor Renée McDonald Hutchins explains what the law does and does not say about racial profil-



ing, how police agency policies are drafted in light of the law, and how the on-the-street practices of racial profiling sometimes violate both the letter and spirit of laws and policies.

While many of the essays focus on the police, Davis focuses on her specialty, prosecutors, and how their untrammelled authority is a major part of the problems within the criminal justice system. While the essays lean toward narrating the problems rather than proposing comprehensive solutions, the final essay links multigenerational poverty of black males with violence and an absurd level of incarceration. Other contributors include Bryan Stevenson, Sherrilyn Ifill, and Marc Maurer.

An absorbing anthology, scholarly yet approachable. •

# Using the Power of Freemasonry in the Struggle for Civil Rights

**Author: John Wesley Dobbs:**

Many Freemasons believe that we should only take part in marches, demonstrations, politics or activism as individuals and never as Freemasons. I wish these brothers were at Big Bethel A.M.E. Church (Atlanta, GA) in the 1940s when Grand Master John Wesley Dobbs debated Attorney A.T. Walden. Grand Master John Wesley Dobbs was able to use his influence to fill Big Bethel A.M.E. Church with thousands of Freemasons. During the debate, after Dobbs spoke and before Walden was given the opportunity to speak, Dobbs gave a Masonic Sign and the thousands of Masons gathered in the Room cleared out! Grand Master John Wesley Dobbs truly knew the power of Freemasonry and how to use Freemasonry and politics for a purpose.

John Wesley Dobbs was initiated in 1911 into Prince Hall Masonry, a fraternal order that attracted socially conscious leaders within the Black middle class. Dobbs was elected Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masons of Georgia in 1932, thereby earning the nickname “The Grand”. Through his leadership position within Prince Hall Masonry in Georgia, he tried to instill in Atlanta's African-American community the same core values he strived to pass on to his children.

## John Wesley Dobbs Protesting

Dobbs fervently believed that African-American suffrage was the key to racial advancement. He announced a goal of registering 10,000 Black voters in Atlanta and preached the importance of voter registration in Masonic halls, in African-American churches, and on street corners. Dobbs also founded the Atlanta Civic and Political League in 1936 and with Attorney A. T. Walden, co-

founded the Atlanta Negro Voters League in 1946. Both of these leagues advocated voter registration and Black political unity.

Due largely to Dobbs's efforts, African-Americans achieved two significant political victories in the late 1940's. In the spring of 1948, Atlanta mayor William B. Hartsfield



fulfilled a promise he had made to Dobbs by hiring eight African-American police officers. Although they could patrol only Black neighborhoods and could not arrest Whites, the hiring was a significant challenge to segregation. The following year Hartsfield fulfilled another campaign promise by installing street lamps on Auburn Avenue, the center of Atlanta's Black community. Both of these achievements served to solidify Dobbs's position as a leader. Dobbs himself coined the term “Sweet Auburn”, an expression of the area's (Sweet Auburn Ave) thriving businesses and active social and civic life.

During the 1950s, Dobbs continued his work toward African-American equality. He constantly pressed Hartsfield to fulfill other promises made to the Black community. Dobbs's influence began to wane as the decade ended due to his arthritis and inability to consistently get out of bed and a younger generation of African-American leaders emerged at the forefront of the Civil Rights struggle in Atlanta. When Dobbs finally made his transition in 1961, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the speakers at his funeral, and Thurgood Marshall, NAACP attorney and future Supreme Court justice, served as a pallbearer. •



## Books of Knowledge Link:

<http://greaterdiversity.com/be-free-or-die-the-amazing-story-of-robert-smalls-escape-from-slavery-to-union-hero/>



## Video Resources

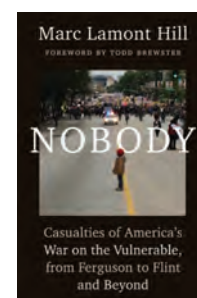
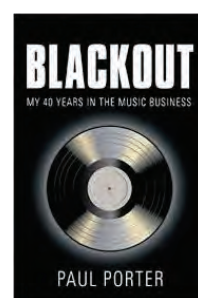
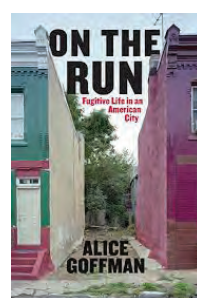
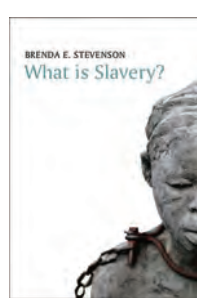
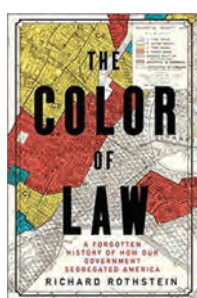
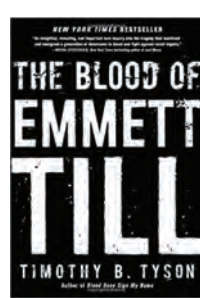
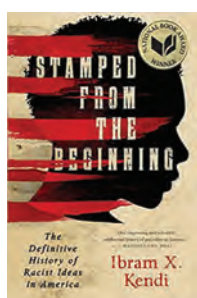
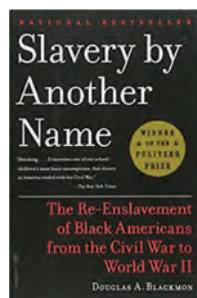
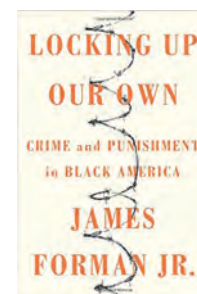
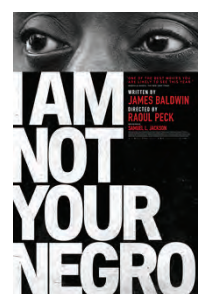
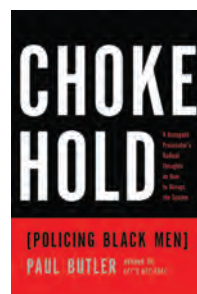
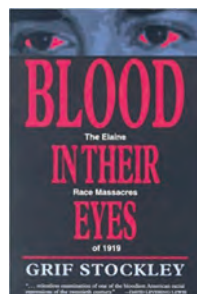
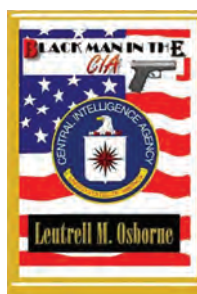
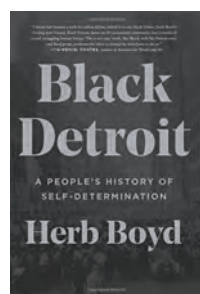
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