

Anti-Racism Knowledge Guides

Committing to the work of anti-racism in your own life is the start of a lifelong fight against oppression and journey towards justice. This is hard work; the abundant fruits of which you may not see in your lifetime. But you **will** see progress. These guides are intended to help guide you towards deeper study and change in your own life and micro environment (self, family, friends) and prepare you for direct action in the macro environment (systems, institutions, society at large).

BETTER INFORMATION. BETTER OUTCOMES.

HOW TO USE THESE GUIDES:

These guides are for people committed to an anti-racist lifestyle. Anyone can use these guides, but they are made specifically for people who may have little knowledge around issues of race, racism and its intersections, and race-based oppression in the United States. People with a deep interest in doing the personal work of unlearning, examining, and interrogating personal beliefs, ideas, and actions will find these guides most effective.

Start at the beginning. This series of guides should be used in order. You wouldn't watch a movie starting 37 minutes in, so please don't jump in to these in the middle. Even if you sign up for the list during the third month, go back and start with Volume I. These guides are intentionally curated following a linear path of learning that builds on itself each month.

You know you, so use your best judgment. That said, these guides are intended for independent study, so use your own best judgment on how you interact with them. They are not a syllabus or exhaustive resource, but simply a starting point to give you a generalist knowledge base and provide a foundation for digging deeper and building on that knowledge.

Each guide includes carefully curated resources based on a specific topic.



WATCH



LISTEN



SHORT
READ



LONG
READ



TAKE
ACTION

THESE GUIDES ARE PREPARED FROM THE BELIEFS THAT:

(1) In order to do better, you must have better information from which to develop your own opinions, judgments, and action plans;

(2) Change at the individual (micro) level is critical to enacting change at the institutional (mezzo) and systemic (macro) levels. Collective action first requires individual introspection and commitment to personal change; and

(3) Individual change should be informed by historical context, lived experience, and a greater understanding of theoretical and conceptual frameworks upon which interventions, advocacy campaigns, and other methods of change are based.

On the Origins of Race & Whiteness Part I

Explore theories of race, its origins, and the changing nature of whiteness as a construct. Before engaging anti-racist work on a large scale, there must be some understanding of the underlying theoretical framework upon which much of the conversation, activism, and change efforts rest. A key part of this is getting acquainted with whiteness and its use throughout history.



SCENE ON RADIO PODCAST:

Seeing White, Season 2 Ep. 2
"How Race Was Made"
 Season 2 Episode 2

Listen to part one of a two-episode series on whiteness and the origins of race as an idea.

[Listen to Scene on Radio](#)



TIM WISE: ON WHITE PRIVILEGE (CLIP)

Tim Wise is an educator and writer who has spent nearly 30 years studying anti-racism. This short clip is from a longer talk Tim Wise gave on the topic of white privilege generally. The 9:30 clip gives a quick primer on how race was leveraged to "divide and conquer" after the notion took hold that economic status could unite people of different colors against the economically elite.

[Watch on YouTube](#)



UNDERSTANDING WHITENESS

Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre

A quick read from a Canadian resource that provides good foundational understanding for the distinctions between "white" as a racial ideology and "whiteness" as a social construct.

[Read on ACLRC](#)
[Download PDF copy](#)



"WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY RACE IS A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT" by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Early race theory argued that race was biological and therefore certain groups of people were scientifically inferior as a matter of fact. That point of view has been largely abandoned and replaced with the idea that race is a construct into which we are socialized. This piece for the Atlantic offers some additional perspective and explanation for the idea that race is a construct -- not real, but with very real consequences.

[Read on The Atlantic](#)
[Download PDF copy](#)



NYT OPINION: "WHAT IS WHITENESS?"

by Nell Irvin Painter

Nell Irvin Painter is a Harvard educated historian on faculty at Princeton University. She is known as an historian on "whiteness" whose research centers around the 19th Century United States South. This piece for the New York Times examines whiteness and presents an argument for a non-binary approach to whiteness as an identity.

[Read it on The New York Times](#)
[Download PDF Copy](#)



TAKE ACTION

INWARD: Reflect on your own beliefs about whiteness and how those beliefs have shaped your ideas about power structures, norms, and identity.

OUTWARD: Google is your best friend. Look for groups or activists in your area who are already working on action campaigns around "hot" issues (e.g., violence by police, statues, etc). Do something: sign a petition, write or call a law maker, or amplify the work of someone in the field.

FURTHER READING: If you purchased or rented *Understanding and Dismantling Racism* by Joseph Barndt, read the section on Exploring Race in Chapter 2 (p. 62-73 in 2007 paperback).