

Recommended Reading: US Black History, Civil Rights History, and Black-Jewish Relations

[*The Warmth of Other Suns*](#) by Isabel Wilkerson (2011)

In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize–winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history. She interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to new data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves.

[*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*](#) by Michelle Alexander (2010)

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.

[*The Fire Next Time*](#) by James Baldwin (1963)

With clarity, conviction, and passion, James Baldwin delivers a dire warning of the effects of racism that remains urgent nearly sixty years after its original publication in the same year as the March on Washington.

[*March*](#) by Congressman John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated and lettered by Nate Powell (2013-16)

The March trilogy is an autobiographical black and white graphic novel trilogy about the Civil Rights Movement, told through the perspective of civil rights leader and U.S. Congressman John Lewis.

[*The King Era*](#) by Taylor Branch

A narrative history of the United States during the civil rights era, in three parts:

Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63 (1988)

Pillars of Fire: America in the King Years 1963-65 (1998)

At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years 1965-68 (2006)

Also: ***The King Years: Historic Moments in the Civil Rights Movement*** (2013)—a shorter, one-volume summary of the trilogy.

[*The Quiet Voices: Southern Rabbis and Black Civil Rights, 1880s to 1990s*](#) by Mark Bauman and Berkley Kalin (1997)

Essays examining the various roles played by southern rabbis in the struggle for black civil rights since Reconstruction. Contributors explore the extent to which some led while others succumbed to societal pressure in an effort to be accepted rather than risk being persecuted.

[*The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race, and American Identity*](#) by Eric L. Goldstein (2008)

The Price of Whiteness documents the uneasy place Jews have held in America's racial culture since the late nineteenth century. The book traces Jews' often tumultuous encounter with race from the 1870s through World War II, when they became vested as part of America's white mainstream and abandoned the practice of describing themselves in racial terms. Goldstein concludes that while Jews' status as white has opened many doors for them, it has also placed limits on their ability to assert themselves as a group apart.

[Going South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement](#) by Debra Schultz (2002)

Organized around a rich blend of oral histories, *Going South* follows a group of Jewish women—come of age in the shadow of the Holocaust and deeply committed to social justice—who put their bodies and lives on the line to fight racism.

[Troubling the Waters: Black-Jewish Relations in the American Century](#) by Cheryl Lynn Greenberg (2006)

Tracing the growth, peak, and deterioration of black-Jewish engagement over the course of the twentieth century, Greenberg shows that the history of this relationship is very much the history of American liberalism—neither as golden in its best years nor as absolute in its collapse as commonly thought.

[Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s](#) by Marc Dollinger (2017)

Undermining widely held beliefs about the black-Jewish alliance, Dollinger describes a new political consensus, based on identity politics, that drew blacks and Jews together and altered the course of American liberalism.