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***“No African Americans take to the streets in protest to demand Whites to love us more. We demand a behavior change!”*** Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.

## February 2020 Newsletter

HAPPY Black History Month!!!!

### **An Interview with Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. on The Black Church and Black History**



Theologian, pastor and civic leader, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. is one of America's most influential leaders. In 2008, Reverend Moss retired from Olivet Institutional Baptist Church located in Cleveland, Ohio, following thirty-three years of distinguished service.

#### **What is the Relationship of the Black Church to Black History?**

The Black Church is Black History, and when I think about the Black Church or the African American church, it is absolutely essential for the future of African Americans. Now, that's a bold statement. Let me give you an example, historically the Black Church is the mother of Black higher education and the Black academy. Without the Black Church, we would not have the family of HBCU's that we have including Morehouse, Virginia Union and Spelman, and not only did our private institutions come out of the Black Church, but also our state institutions as well, like Alabama State, Georgia State and Georgia Southern. In the 1890's the Black Church lobbied for and won the demand for these institutions and we can show that they came directly out of the heart and soul of the Black Church.



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founders and early leaders of these institutions were black pastors and black preachers and one of the great dangers now is, not so much a divorce, but a kind of independent separation of the black church and these Black institutions of higher learning.

### **What Are the Challenges Facing the Black Church?**

One of the great challenges, is the danger of becoming like the oppressor. Some Black Churches are so carried away with success theology and the glamor of the White evangelical church, the White fundamentalists, that there is the temptation to either consciously or unconsciously become like the oppressor, that's a great danger. In

doing this we stand the risk of moving away from a liberation theology to an accommodation theology and that spells death in terms of following the ministry of Jesus Christ. I heard a message by Mortdecai Wyatt Johnson some 60 plus years ago. He talked about what happened in the history of Christianity when the church leadership took off the garments of Christ and put on the robes of Caesar. And I have added to that, they began to dress like Caesar, organize like Caesar and behave like Caesar, and this occurred after, some three plus centuries of Caesar trying to destroy the church. But he failed, and so he joined the church, and now the presence of Caesar has been with us since the 4th Century, but every so often, we disclaim it. Martin Luther did, Calvin did, the Anabaptists did, and so did the African American Church. We were born protesting against Caesar. Just like the early church we had to hide, we had to create a language and codes that the slave master, Caesar could not understand. Consequently, sometimes Caesar was clapping his hands thinking he was being entertained when we were predicating his



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demise... “Everybody talking about heaven ain’t going there.” This is something that we have to communicate intentionally to future generations, but our black institutions are now downplaying the role of black religious studies.

### **What Are Your Thoughts About the Future of the Black Church?**

One force that is going to push us back to the Black Church is the realization of the necessity of the Black Church to combat forces that were made manifest during the four years of Trump. During those years, although he didn’t create it, he simply, you know, packaged it in a way for himself that came hopefully as a wake-up call. Again, I think there’s going to be a necessary reaffirmation of the necessity of the Black Church. Now it may not come in the same language or form that we are accustomed to, but I was talking to someone the other day and they asked me about Black Lives Matter and I said you know, that’s a church movement. The person said, “what are you talking about?” And I said, well one of the earliest experiences was Richard Allen, when

he was snatched up from the altar, and was humiliated, he announced to the world that Black Lives Matter, and he called it the African American Episcopal Church. And alongside that, maybe a few years later, through the establishment of independent African Baptist Churches it was an affirmation that Black Lives Matter -- that Black integrity matters. And in the early 20th Century, the NAACP, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People -- another affirmation that Black Lives Matter. I could go on, but I’m not even sure that all the folk in Black Lives Matter even realize all their rich history. I wish that I could have a conversation as we are having now, but they are carrying on a great African American historical tradition.

Submitted by,



Dr. Kip Banks



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## The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King and Reparations Today

By  
Natalie H. Rozzell



*“Who are we? We are the descendants of slaves. We are the offspring of noble men and women who were kidnaped from their native land and chained in ships like beasts. We are the heirs of a great and exploited continent known as Africa. We are the heirs of a past of rope, fire and murder. I for one am not ashamed of this past. My*

*shame is for those who became so inhuman that they could inflict this torture upon us.”*

*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

### **‘Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?’**

On the third Monday of every January, people all over the country reflect on the work and life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Many organizations and groups march in celebration of the great Civil Rights Leader and observe his birthday as a National Day of Service by volunteering in their communities. In this era of continued police brutality and deaths, Black Lives Matter demonstrations, counter Proud Boys protests, record unemployment and mass evictions, Americans yet again are posed with the question: *What does the work of Dr. King mean to me and my life today?* Furthermore, would he be satisfied with the economic state and politics of Black America in the year 2021?

Using the common indicators of growth and change for Blacks, e.g., homeownership and



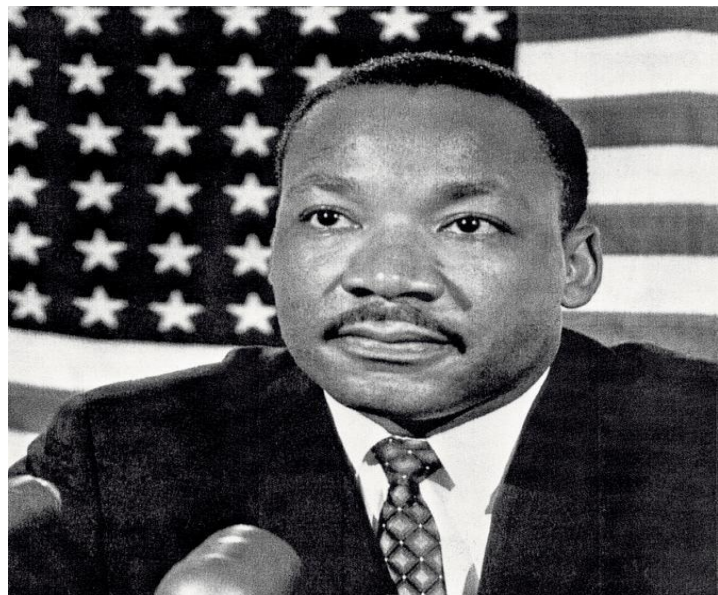
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unemployment, the data today reflects little to no progress since the late 1960 and early 1970s. In terms of homeownership, after the Fair Housing Act was signed in 1968 there was a rate of 41.1% of Blacks owning homes. In 2018, the number lingered at 41.2%. Some experts believe that “reverse redlining” along with unenforced anti-discrimination policies stifled or flatlined black homeownership numbers more than 50 plus years later. As for Black unemployment in 1968, it was at a rate of 6.7%. In 2017, it rose to 7.5% (<https://www.epi.org/publication/50-years-after-the-kenner-commission/>).

These data points not only point to systematic racism, but also to the inaction of our political leadership and our own lack of more critical involvement in the political process. We have failed to hold our representatives accountable and have taken a back seat in shaping policy for our collective uplift. While an entire generation of Black Boomers saw economic growth and opportunities unlike those of their

parents and grandparents, we failed to keep pushing policy for subsequent generations, who now have little to no generational wealth or access to well-paying jobs. With hundreds of years of discrimination and racism and decades of failed, underfunded, and underenforced policies, is there anything that will dig Black America out of this hole? The American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS) believe that a comprehensive reparations program - including cash payments, set-asides, and specifically targeted, transformative policies - is the only answer.





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If King were here today, would he be a proponent for reparations? The answer is a resounding yes! Before Dr. King was killed, he spoke up about reparations and America’s history of cultivating wealth for white Americans through policies and programs which facilitated land and property procurements and economic growth. These specific programs worked to create



generational wealth for white America, which in turn allows them to “ride out” and recover from recessions, market crashes and other economic downturns. In a 1968 speech, Dr. King said *“...not only that, today many of these people are receiving millions of dollars in Federal subsidies...and they are the very people telling the Black man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps. This is what*

*we’re faced with and this is a reality. Now when we come to Washington, in this campaign, we’re coming to get our check!”* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLV5y4utPKI>)

It can be argued that in his speeches and writings, Dr. King strictly dedicated himself to tackling the issue of poverty. He specifically highlighted the unique plight of Blacks and low-income whites. However, he understood that Blacks were at a severe economic disadvantage due to the effects of hundreds of years of slavery and Jim Crow. Moreover, because the traditional American psyche was designed with a perverse obsession with race rather than class, it would be a hard-fought battle to get poor whites to understand the plight of Blacks and that low-income whites are just as affected by class-based policies as Blacks. In MLK’s book ‘Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community’, the issue of willful ignorance is addressed, saying *“Whites, it must frankly be said, are not putting in a*



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*similar mass effort to reeducate themselves out of their racial ignorance. It is an aspect of their sense of superiority that the white people of America believe they have so little to learn.”*



The Martin Luther King Jr holiday was signed into law in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan. It, however, was not fully observed by all 50 states until the year 2000. Was it only racism that kept America from fully committing to the ideals of King? Why has it taken decades for King’s legacy to permeate into the American ethos? It is worth noting that especially in the era of Obama, Roger Ailes, and Fox News, race became an explicit tool used to polarize the

country in an effort to firmly entrench Democratic and Republican voting blocs. Perhaps due to fear of losing the white working and middle class voting bloc, many politicians have chosen to ignore race and believe issues of class should be tackled first.

Some activists and Progressive politicians have taken up King’s mantle in the new “Poor People’s Campaign”, a revitalized movement based on his original call to action in 1968. They propose a strict moral and class-based agenda that unfortunately does not adequately address the specific challenges faced by American Descendants of Slavery. Proposals such as “Medicare For All” and “Cancel Student Debt” which in themselves would benefit people who happen to be Black, do fall short of speaking directly to Black Americans who experience a unique and historically relevant form of systemic racism within the healthcare industry, and do not address the fact that many ADOS don't have money or access to loans to further education



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advancement in the first place. The American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS) have consistently pushed politicians like Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden to specify a targeted Black agenda to address the effects of racial issues. However, upon review of their African American agendas, they have a singular focus on prison and criminal reform, include the issues of other marginalized groups like immigration, and remain largely symbolic rather than transformative without a firm commitment to reparations. Again, it is worth noting that their focus on criminal justice has consistently been linked to broader economic strategies that benefit the rich who manipulate and capitalize off the underpaid labor of working-class Americans.

To this day, scholars, politicians, and celebrities alike evoke the spirit, wisdom, and immortal legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Yet, if we hold up a lens to the current economic and spiritual condition of descendants of slavery in America, and if we

truly seek to understand a way forward using the philosophy espoused by Dr. King, it is astonishing to witness how the uncomfortable question of race has been pushed to the side. In order to make his message more palatable to the world, especially the message shift to economic inclusion before his death, scholars have often modified and taken out of context King's words. It has been articulated with the universal, 'We are the World' naivete. If Dr. King were alive today, while he would be overjoyed to know that his legacy was being used to better humanity, it is hard to believe that he would be satisfied with the current state of Black America as a whole. He lived, fought and died to improve the lives of American descendants of slavery. His work on this earth was entirely dedicated to that very end. Based on the actual data, since we have little indication that the economic condition of ADOS lives have improved very much since 1968, we know that Dr. King would be challenging all Americans - ADOS and allies alike - to keep their eyes on the prize. And that





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prize is economic inclusion, the elimination of the lineage wealth gap and collective uplift for the American Descendants of Slavery who built this country.

ADOS DMV Region has a website at [adosdmv.com](http://adosdmv.com) for anyone interested in advocating for American Descendants of Slavery in Washington, D.C, Maryland and Virginia. You can also contact us to find your local chapter across the country in order to grow politically and find out about state and Federal reparations programs and legislation. Join us as we push the needle for true change for Black America. Visit the National Coalition of Churches for Reparations [NCCFR.org](http://NCCFR.org) or email [contact@nccfr.org](mailto:contact@nccfr.org) or [ADOSPastors@gmail.com](mailto:ADOSPastors@gmail.com) for more information. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Breonna Taylor Grand Jurors File Petition Against Kentucky Attorney General**

By Celine Castronuovo, [The Hill](#).

*Three grand jurors from the investigation into the police raid that killed 26-year-old Breonna Taylor are now calling for Kentucky Attorney*

*General Daniel Cameron (R) to be impeached over allegations that he mishandled the case.*

*The jurors on Friday filed a petition with the state House of Representatives, arguing that Cameron breached the public’s trust and also misrepresented key grand jury findings, according to the Louisville Courier Journal, which first reported the complaint.*



*A press release from the attorney representing the grand jurors, who remained anonymous to protect their identities, said of the jurors, “it is truly a testament to the Kentucky Constitution that they are able to be here today and to expose injustice and demand public accountability.”*

*Attorney Kevin Glogower added, “I am honored and humbled to serve them.”*



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*“The Grand Jurors did not choose this battle,” Glogower said. “This battle chose them. These are randomly selected citizens who were compelled to sit on a grand jury and were terribly misused by the most powerful law enforcement official in Kentucky.”*



*According to Louisville, Ky., public radio station WFPL, Friday’s petition states, “Attorney General Cameron deceived the American people and the citizens of this Commonwealth with regard to his office’s handling and involvement in the Breonna Taylor investigation and the resulting legal actions.”*

The petition also reportedly claims that Cameron improperly used public funds by

joining a lawsuit against Pennsylvania’s 2020 election results, and also supported unlawful actions as a member of the National Association of Attorneys General’s executive committee, which helped fund robocalls telling people to participate in the Jan. 6 pro-Trump march on the Capitol.

Cameron’s office did not immediately respond to The Hill’s request for comment on the impeachment petition.

The grand jury had investigated Louisville police’s execution of a no-knock search warrant at Taylor’s apartment in March 2020, during which several shots were fired, some of which hit and killed Taylor.

Cameron announced in September that the grand jury only levied three charges of wanton endangerment against one of the officers, with none of the officers faced with charges specifically related to Taylor’s death.

Since the grand jury ruling, however, multiple jurors in the case have come forward saying their findings were misrepresented.

In a press conference, Cameron had claimed there were six possible homicide charges brought before the grand jury in their



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investigation. But multiple grand jurors have claimed they weren't given the opportunity to deliberate on additional charges outside of the counts of wanton endangerment.

Attorney Ben Crump, who is representing Taylor's family and previously called the grand jury's September decision "outrageous and offensive," said in a statement shared with The Hill Friday that the impeachment petition from the grand jurors "is an extremely courageous and admirable action."

"They should be applauded for taking a valiant stand for justice and transparency within our institutions, along with reclaiming their voices that AG Cameron attempted to stifle during the grand jury proceedings," said the statement from Crump, along with co-counsels Sam Aguiar and Lonita Baker.

The attorneys argue that Cameron "placed an impossible burden on these citizens when he skewed the circumstances of Bre's death and failed to present the possibility of homicide charges."

"We hope at the very least, this sends the message that no one has the right to take the law into their own hands and manipulate our

processes for their own devious purposes," they added.

The petition to impeach Cameron comes amid similar actions against other Kentucky public officials in recent weeks.



Four citizens of the state have called on the state House of Representatives to impeach



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Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear for executive actions implemented to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, with another against state Rep. Robert Goforth (R) for an incident in which he allegedly attempted to strangle a woman, according to The Associated Press. The case on the alleged assault is pending, and Goforth has pleaded not guilty.

and we were forced to recalibrate and embark on a brand new journey into education.

As teachers, we took for granted the ease of being face-to-face in a classroom with our students, our white boards, Smart boards, and walls surrounding us covered with anchor charts of skills, objectives and standards, and being able to collaborate with our colleagues across the hall. Students took for granted being in a comfortable place with hands-on learning, along with the necessary tools and materials, at the same time being surrounded by friends while building meaningful relationships. Parents never gave a second thought to dropping off their child with caring teachers and staff for eight hours a day. Nor did they imagine all of the effort and energy required to educate, not just their child, but 25 children together in one room. No thoughts until COVID hit and we had to face the reality of virtual learning.

## Six Tips For Virtual Learning

By: CJ Robinson



DC Public Schools Educator

Here are some tips to help make your virtual learning experience a little easier:

1. Treat virtual learning like regular school. Students should have a morning routine that includes getting groomed and dressed for school (not pajamas, or

Love it or hate it, virtual learning is here. When the COVID-19 virus hit us, it hit hard and fast,



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- shirtless), having breakfast, and being at the computer prepared when class is to begin. Students should also have a consistent and reasonable bedtime.
2. Students should have a workspace that is conducive for learning. A clutter-free, quiet area (television off) with the necessary materials and tools at hand for each class.
  3. Parents should have open and honest communication with teachers and understand the expectations and requirements for a successful virtual learning experience. Share your concerns and give feedback about what would make the virtual learning experience better for you and your child.
  4. Encourage students to advocate for themselves. Don't be afraid to ask questions or ask the presenter to slow down or repeat a step.
  5. Know where to go for support. You can get help from school staff, including teachers, administrators, counselors, and social workers. Create a network with other parents. There are many resources for virtual learning.

6. Talk to your child about their feelings. Students are spending most of their time at home away from their friends and classmates. Virtual school was thrust upon us out of necessity, and this can be stressful for students.

*Remember, virtual learning is new to all of us, and we are in this together.*

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## **THE INSURRECTION AT THE CAPITOL - UN-AMERICAN??**



On Wednesday January 6, 2021 we witnessed the component of America that is deep rooted



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within the core of her foundation and these roots have proved to have created a strong, sturdy tree that has generations of hate towards progress, change, and acceptance on its vine. Some say what we observed on this dark day was “un-American,” however I suggest that what we witnessed by this mob was a part of the DNA of America, and some could argue that on this dark day, was America showing that she is not far removed from her original sin.



With the elevation of Donald Trump, White America was able to openly engage in an imperialistic stance that promoted hate towards immigrants, gays, blacks, women, Muslims, democrats, and anyone who did not submit to the power and influence of their social/political structure. It is this segment of America that

flamed the fuel with the birther issue of Barrack Hussein Obama, who castigates the black community as being filled with street thugs, and criminals while refusing to acknowledge police brutality, corruption, and the murders of citizens of color. It is this section of America that celebrates the hate of the Confederate Army who fought to maintain slavery and the largest holocaust ever witnessed in the world. It is this American, who throughout history, call themselves men and women of God, yet prescribe to lynching, beating and killing those who refuse to think like and act accordingly to their will and way. And it is this America who refuses to stand on right and righteousness because the morality of life stands in direct opposition to the loyalty of their race, culture and imperialistic ideology.



There at the seat of government, we saw a mob and/or domestic terrorist with weapons, a



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staging ground for a public hanging, and symbols of racism and hatred, who took over the place where policy is debated and created. The people who claim to support and have the utmost respect for police officers, we witnessed beating officers with their own batons, beating them with sticks, and threatening to kill them. Is this the American way - I ask the question, when has it not been the American way, when terror, rage and intimidation was not prevalent in the life of these United States of America?

Written by: Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.



## **WAS THE MUTINY ON THE CAPITOL AN INSIDE JOB?**



- The Capitol Police Force is a 3,000 member force, but on one of the biggest days of history in America, with all signs of political unrest, only 500 officers were on duty. As a matter of



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fact, the previous shift of Capitol Hill Police was sent home early before the attack nor was an “all hands on deck” called to return to all officers to their post while the Vice President, the Senate, the Congress and their fellow comrades lives were in danger.

- The day before the riot a large delegation of Trump supporters were given a tour that broke Covid-19 protocols. Rioters seemingly knew exactly where they wanted to go in a building that has many offices, meeting rooms, floors and hallways.
- Three days before the insurrection, an internal Capitol Police intelligence report warned of a violent scenario in which ‘Congress itself’ could be the target of Trump supporters. In a 12 page report on January 3, 2021 the intelligence unit for the congressional police force reported that militia groups, white supremacist would focus on

members of Congress and take over the Capitol as a sense of desperation for their cause. The Capitol Police Chief did nothing!

- Capitol police relinquishes post and refuses to hold their ground against angry mob putting lives in jeopardy.
- Police seen taking selfies with domestic terrorist.



- With over 25 police departments and federal protection agencies in Washington, D.C. no other forces were assigned to protect and serve the march or the Capitol. Once the Capitol was taken over, the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police was deployed to





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save the Capitol. For weeks, on social media, these terrorist openly discussed the idea of a violent protest on the day Congress met to certify results.



- A day before the riot, the FBI Norfolk, Virginia office issued an explicit warning that extremist were preparing to travel to Washington, D.C. to commit violence and ‘war’ according to an internal document. The document stated that there was a social media thread that discussed specific calls for violence to include stating, “Be ready to fight...Congress needs to hear glass breaking, doors being kicked in, and blood from their BLM and Antifa slave

soldiers being spilled. Get violent. Stop calling this a march, or a rally, or a protest. Go there ready for war. We get our President or we die. Nothing else will achieve this goal.” The FBI did nothing!

- The National Guard was not deployed until 2 hours after the call for help and assistance.
- There have been suspicious suicides of Capitol Police officers after the insurrection
- It has been discovered that the Proud Boys leader, Enrique Tarrío is a government informant.
- 50 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officers and agents were staged inside a federal government building just 13 blocks away from the Capitol, however they were not deployed. However, during a protest in front of the White House for the death of George



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Floyd this summer, these same officers and agents were deployed.

- Side doors is said to have been opened to allow entrance to the mob.



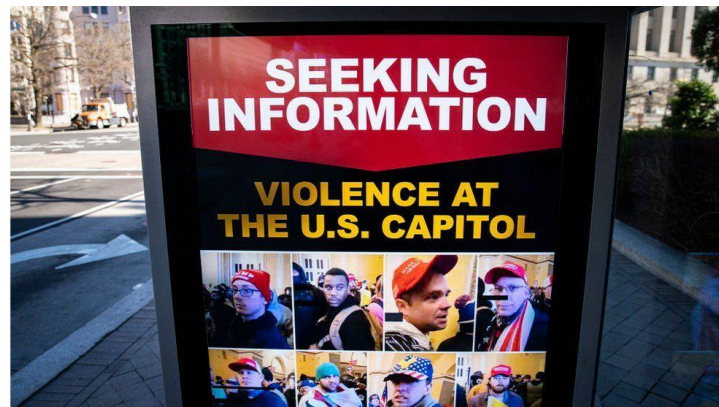
- Rep. Ayanna Pressley’s panic button was taken out and missing on the day of the assault.

Written by:

Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.

**BECOME A PARTNER**

## **Capitol Rioters Arrest**



Michael Sherwin, US Attorney for the District of Columbia, says they have identified 400 suspects and arrested 135 to date in connection with the Capitol siege. He said the list of suspects is "growing by the hour," but conceded they might not have probable cause to charge all 400.

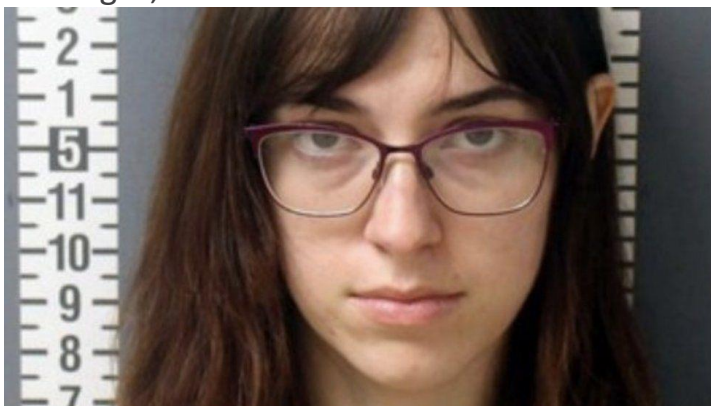


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### What's the latest?

A laptop stolen from the offices of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi during the riot has not been recovered, a court has heard. Investigators have searched the home and car of a Pennsylvania woman accused of helping steal the device, but to no avail, says her lawyer. Riley June Williams, 22, of Harrisburg, was released from jail last week and is under electronic monitoring at her mother's house. She has been restricted from internet use after prosecutors said she tried to delete her accounts and urged others to delete messages, too.



The FBI has said Ms Williams' former romantic partner tipped off authorities that she had appeared in pictures of the Capitol riot. She

allegedly claimed she hoped to sell the laptop to Russian intelligence. She is facing multiple charges, including aiding and abetting the theft of government property.

A man allegedly seen in viral photos carrying a Confederate flag in the Capitol during the riots was charged on 14 January. According to court documents cited by the Delaware News Journal, the duo got into the Capitol building through a window that Hunter helped break, before they "verbally confronted" US Capitol Police officers and the son took a selfie.



Mr. Seefried Sr told investigators he normally flies the battle flag outside his home in Laurel, Delaware. The Confederate flag is widely seen



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as a racist symbol as it was the banner of the slaveholding southern states that lost the US Civil War (1861-65).

A left-wing activist was also arrested after tweeting video of himself inside the US Capitol as protesters breached security. John Sullivan, 26, was charged with entering a restricted building and violent entry or disorderly conduct. He claimed in media interviews that he was just "documenting" the rampage, though the affidavit notes he has no press credentials.



Mr Sullivan can be heard saying in a video he filmed of the Capitol riot: "Let's burn this shit down." He has identified himself in media interviews as a Black Lives Matter supporter,

but rejects any association with antifa, a loosely affiliated group of far-left protesters. Following the death of George Floyd last year, Mr Sullivan founded an activist group called Insurgence USA that advocates for racial justice. He was charged in July 2020 with felony riot and criminal mischief over civil unrest in Provo, Utah. Mr Sullivan - who was reportedly turned into authorities by his younger brother - was released without bail.

Two men who were pictured bringing plastic restraints into the Capitol were also arrested this month. Authorities say Eric Gavelek Munchel is the individual seen carrying a number of plastic zip ties inside the Senate chamber. He was detained in Tennessee. Larry Rendell Brock, who is accused of entering the Capitol with a white flex cuff - a restraining device used by law enforcement - was arrested in Texas.





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His ex-wife turned him in. "When I saw this was happening, I was afraid he would be there," she told investigators, describing how she felt when she heard about the riots. Then she saw the images, and she recognized her former husband: "It is such a good picture of him." So far, neither has been accused of plotting to use the restraints, but face disorderly conduct and violent entry charges.



One of the most striking images from that day showed a man wearing a hoodie with the words: "Camp Auschwitz". Auschwitz was a Nazi extermination camp where more than a million people, mostly Jews, were murdered during World War Two by Germany. For many, the slogan showed some of the dark forces behind the protests. Mr Packer was arrested

in Virginia and has been charged with trespassing in a federal building and "violent entry and disorderly conduct" on Capitol grounds.

Jacob Anthony Chansley, known as Jake Angeli or as he describes himself the "Q Shaman", is a well-known follower of the unfounded QAnon conspiracy theory who lives in Glendale, Arizona. QAnon supporters believe President Trump and a secret military intelligence team are battling a deep state cabal of Satan-worshipping pedophiles in the Democratic Party, media, business and Hollywood. Known for appearing with a painted face, fur hat and horns while carrying a "Q sent me" banner in public, Mr Chansley, 33, has been charged with violent entry and disorderly conduct after appearing in multiple images inside the halls of Congress and the Senate chamber. According to a local ABC news station, a judge has agreed that Mr Chansley should be "provided food in line with a shaman's strict organic diet" after he refused to eat the meals provided at the jailhouse.



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Through his attorney, the defendant has requested a pardon from Mr Trump, citing "the peaceful and compliant fashion in which Mr Chansley comported himself" during the riot.



Doug Jensen, 41, from Des Moines, Iowa, appeared in one of the most widely shared videos of the riots showing a lone African American officer holding back the mob. Mr. Jensen has been arrested and faces five

federal charges, including violent entry and disorderly conduct and obstructing a law enforcement officer during a civil disorder. In it, he can be seen chasing a police officer up a flight of stairs inside the Capitol wearing a shirt with the QAnon slogan "trust the plan". The Capitol police officer hailed as a 'hero' Mr Jensen later identified himself on his Twitter account, tweeting: "You like my shirt?" and "Me..." under images of him inside the Capitol shared by fellow QAnon supporters. On his Twitter, Mr Jensen regularly expresses support for President Trump, engages with well-known QAnon accounts, and tweets QAnon phrases such as WWG1WGA - short for "where we go one we go all" - a rallying cry for the conspiracy's adherents.





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Richard Barnett is the man pictured with his feet on a desk in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office. He was also pictured outside the Capitol with a personalized envelope he took from her office. He's been arrested for unlawful entry, disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, and theft of public money, property, or records. Mr Barnett is 60 years old and from Arkansas.

Local media reports say Mr Barnett is involved in a group that supports gun rights, and that he was interviewed at a "Stop the Steal" rally following the presidential election - the movement that supports President Trump's unsubstantiated claims of election fraud.



#### **Other arrests include:**

**Nicholas Rodean** - The Maryland man was fired from his job after he was seen wearing his work ID badge to the riot

**Aaron Mostofsky** - The 34-year-old son of a Brooklyn judge was freed after posting a \$100,000 bail. Pictures from the riot showed him wearing furs and a police tactical vest that he is accused of stealing

**William Pepe** - The New York City transit worker was suspended without pay after officials said he called out sick from work to travel to Washington and participate in the riot

**Andrew Williams** - The Florida firefighter was arrested after a picture online showed him wearing a Trump hat and pointing to a placard bearing the name of Democrat Nancy Pelosi

**Josiah Colt** - The Idaho man was pictured dangling from a Senate balcony after rioters stormed the chamber and is facing charges of disorderly conduct and trespassing



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**Adam Johnson**, 36, of Florida, was photographed holding up the House speaker's lectern and smiling during the Capitol siege. He has been charged with theft of government property and the lectern has since been returned

**Jenny Cudd** is the owner of a flower shop who once ran for mayor in Midland, Texas. According to officials, she posted a video where she said: "We did break down Nancy Pelosi's office door"

**Klete Keller**, a two-time Olympic gold medalist swimmer, has been charged after online sleuths spotted that he wore his Olympic jacket to the Capitol

**Robert Sandford**, a recently retired firefighter from a Philadelphia suburb, is accused of assaulting officers by throwing a fire extinguisher at them

**Jacob Fracker** and **Thomas Robertson**, off-duty police officers from Rocky Mount, Virginia, are accused of trespassing and violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds

**Jon Schaffer**, the guitarist from heavy metal band Iced Earth, faces six charges, including engaging in an act of physical violence in a Capitol building. He was allegedly among rioters who sprayed Capitol police with bear spray

**Tam Pham** quit his job as a Houston police officer after his police chief told reporters he had been part of the crowd that "penetrated" Congress. The FBI says they found deleted selfies from inside the Capitol during a search of his phone



**Joseph Randall Biggs**, 37, a Florida-based member of the Proud Boys, faces multiple





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charges including obstructing an official proceeding and unlawful entry

**Patrick Edward McCaughey III**, of Connecticut is accused of assaulting a police officer with a clear plastic shield in a melee that was caught on camera

**Suzanne Ianni**, 59, started anti-gay organization "Super Happy Fun America" and travelled to DC with fellow Massachusetts resident Mark Sahady, 46, police say. They are both charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct

**Jorge Riley**, a Republican activist from California, resigned his position in the state assembly after images on his social media accounts showed him inside the breached Capitol

**Samuel Camargo**, 26, returned to Florida after the riot. He turned himself into Washington DC authorities two weeks later after returning the Capitol for the Biden Inauguration

**Michael Joseph Foy**, 29, is a Marine veteran from Michigan accused of assaulting officers

with a hockey stick he was allegedly carrying during the riot

Report taken from BBC News

## **THE STACEY ABRAMS BOUNCE BACK**

We all witness how Stacey Abrams lost her campaign for the governor seat in Georgia, due to voter suppression in the African American community. However, instead of Abrams disappearing in a life of anger and bitter, she showed the entire world how to bounce back. Stacey Abrams went from losing a close race to becoming the engine of change in Georgia, registering thousands of democrats and legally challenging the entire election system in Georgia to rid the state of decades of unintegral voting practices.





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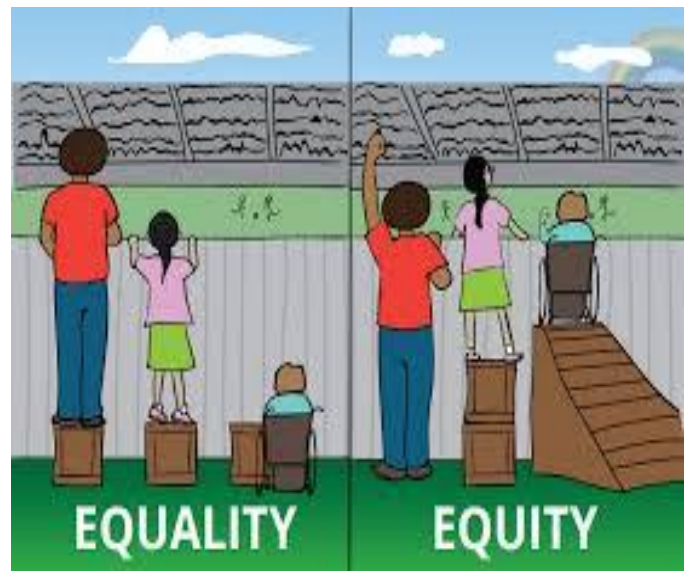
Abrams delivered the good! Pastor Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, both won their Senate seats because of the hard work of Ms. Abrams who inspired the African American community in Atlanta to get out to vote which essentially boosted the senate seats to victory. Abrams is the living embodiment of the Holy Scripture, Ecclesiastes 9:11, that says, *“the race isn’t given to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but to those who endure until the end.”*

Written By:  
Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.

## **BIDEN PUTS EQUITY ISSUES IN PLAY – IS THIS THE PROGRESS WE NEED?**

On January 26, President Biden gave a great speech and signed Executive Orders concerning racial equity. He outlined his vision and agenda that he hopes would displace the disparities in the African American community

created by the systems of racism and injustices. His focus was on housing and criminal justice. Biden directed Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to take steps necessary to redress racially discriminatory federal housing policies that have contributed to wealth inequality for generations. The President also signed an Executive Order to end the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) use of private prisons.



These orders build on actions the President took during his first week in office to advance equity, which historians have described as one of the most robust efforts to advance racial



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justice in the first weeks of any new administration. On his first day in office, President Biden signed an unprecedented Executive Order establishing a whole-of-government initiative to address racial equity and support underserved communities, and redress systemic racism in federal policies, laws, and programs. He took immediate action to roll back harmful policies, such as President Trump’s 1776 Commission and ban on diversity and inclusion training for federal employees and contractors. In the days ahead, President Biden will reinvigorate the federal government’s role as a model employer by expanding and building on the efforts of the Obama-Biden Administration, by requiring all agencies to take affirmative steps to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as by requiring accessibility.

Furthermore, President Biden directed the Department of Agriculture to address the growing crisis of hunger facing more than one in five Black and Latino households by increasing access to nutritious food for millions of children missing meals due to school closures, issuing new guidance to help an additional 12 million Americans access nutrition assistance, and beginning the process to increase the value of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to better reflect today’s grocery costs. The President extended the pause on federal student loan payments and collections, protecting borrowers burdened by educational debt, who are disproportionately Americans of color. He extended the federal government’s foreclosure and eviction moratoriums until February 28, 2021, helping families who are more likely to be rent burdened to stay safely housed. President Biden directed the Department of Treasury to take steps to make the delivery of stimulus benefits more equitable to help the 8 million households, many of whom are families of color, who never received the first stimulus checks they were entitled to. And, the President began the process of requiring





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federal contractors to pay a \$15 minimum wage and provide emergency paid leave to workers bringing financial relief to low wage workers.

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## **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KAREN BRAU**



I am grateful for the opportunity to greet this faith filled community. I write as a beloved child of God, a Lutheran pastor in the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a disciple of Jesus Christ who daily remembers my baptismal promises that include working for justice and peace.

I met Rev Gilbert when he phoned me after our church was attacked by a white supremacist group, on 12/12/20. That night, a column of men advanced on our church grounds, intimidated congregational leaders and took our Black Lives Matter sign.

The congregation I serve in Washington, DC, was built in 1873, and is located 7 blocks north of the White House and Black Lives Matter Plaza. The founding pastor of Luther Place Church, The Rev. Dr. John Butler, served as Chaplain of the House and Senate. He was an honorary pallbearer at the funeral of Frederick Douglass held in 1895, at our neighbor church, Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Rev. Dr. Butler was known as an abolitionist — a rare Lutheran orientation.

Ministries of mercy, justice and peace have always been part of Luther Place, and since its inception, the congregation has been



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navigating issues of race and racism as a white led institution.

Our Lutheran liturgical tradition begins Sunday worship with a confession of sin, a practice that has us confessing sin as individuals and as people who are part of systems and structures that are sinful. This regular repentance has us turning again and again to a God of grace and mercy.

And we humbly acknowledge the temptations of “cheap grace.” That’s the grace you give to yourself, in part because the other “costly grace,” happens on a journey of discipleship that can be very demanding.

On Saturday 12/12/20 we had been in prayer all day with a collective of DC congregations. As houses of worship attentive to our context, we knew 12/12/20 was a day that required a web of care in the midst of planned White supremacist gatherings with the strong potential of violence.

We were hoping to conclude our collective prayer time with a 9pm praying of the Night time hour, or Compline, outside Luther Place

Church in front of the Martin Luther Statue. We had been praying outdoors on Saturday nights at a social distance and with masks since the beginning of the pandemic.



That night, our leaders who were outside noticed the white supremacists, in their matching garb, advancing on the church from the South. Our leaders rushed into the building for safety. In the sanctuary, we sat looking up at stained glass windows of Martin Luther, Martin Luther King Jr., Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Harriet Tubman. In the presence of holy agitators, we gathered ourselves and we prayed in community. We were safe.

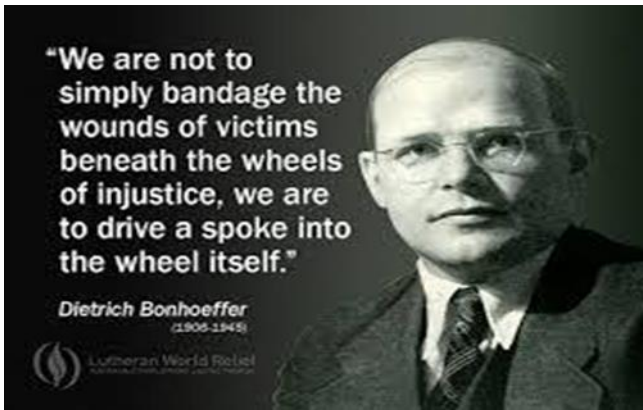
When Rev. Gilbert called, after expressing his care and support, he referenced German Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We



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briefly talked about Bonhoeffer’s witness and resistance to Hitler in Nazi Germany in the 1930’s and 1940’s.



Part of Bonhoeffer’s activism was ignited in New York City when he studied at Union Seminary from 1930-1931. In New York, The Harlem Renaissance and the Black Church cultivated an awakening in Bonhoeffer around religion and race. He was taken under the wing of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, where The Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Sr. served as the pastor. At Abyssinian, the music and preaching brought a joy and thrill in worship that was unlike anything Bonhoeffer had ever experienced in Germany, or at Union Seminary. The collective community taught

him about Jesus who walked with people in various ways all along their tedious journey.

Transformation is a hope of good religion, yet its arrival is not predicative; however, in stories from Bonhoeffer’s friend and classmate Myles Horton, there are observations about how Bonhoeffer changed during his time in New York.

Horton would go on to become one of the founders of the Highlander Folk School, which began with a focus on labor organizing in the 1930’s. In the 1950’s the Highlander Folk School would shift it’s direction to Civil Rights. In time, Horton would get to know Rosa Parks, Ella Baker and Martin Luther King, Jr.

While still students in NYC, Horton listened to Bonhoeffer as he enthusiastically explained learning about real religion in NYC, not at Union Seminary, but at Abyssinian Baptist Church. And reportedly, one day when Horton asked the stodgy and proper Bonhoeffer how he was, Bonhoeffer exclaimed, “I’m Blessed!”

During his time in the United States, Bonhoeffer traveled to the south which



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further woke him up to the significance of racism encoded in Jim Crow Laws.

When Rev. Gilbert brought up Bonhoeffer as a Lutheran witness, I tried to brush him off. Maybe because I sensed he was offering a holy agitation and a reminder of “costly grace.”

American amnesia around history is real, and we can gloss over the cost of over 6 million Jews and more who were exterminated by Hitler and the Nazi regime. We must not forget the machines of death that were legal because of genocidal policies.

Since Trump’s election, I have agitated the congregation I serve as well as Lutheran Church leaders around organized injustice and cruelty. I have preached on the overt racism and white supremacist ideals operationalized in violence towards children ripped from their parents and locked in cages and the cycle of ongoing police brutally murdering Black and brown people.

And none of those stories are new.

During the Trump presidency, when I’ve brought up to Lutheran leaders about how I thought we were in a “Bonhoeffer,” like moment, and that meant it was to time openly call out and resist the evil before us, I was dismissed as being too dramatic and untimely. I was reminded that pointed comments “cost,” too much.



A stance of active resistance to Hitler and the Third Reich, cost Bonhoeffer his life. He was executed by hanging on April 9, 1945 at the Flossenburg Concentration Camp.

I write this reflection a few days after January 27th, which is designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In 1945, 76



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years ago, the Auschwitz Concentration camp was liberated by allied troops.

During Trump’s presidency, who we are as a nation has been in full view. We can name the events, policies and people that make this real.

As a white woman pastoring a white led church, part of my call is to dig into what repentance looks like in our day. This work includes having us release any image of a white God whose white son Jesus rationalizes a cycle of racial violence in graphic and subtle ways.



Unlearning is part of repentance. Going deeper in faith formation is part of repentance too.

Rev. Gilbert called me after our church was attacked by White Supremacists and he invited me into community for support, and now he has given me a space to write. This path to finding words and wisdoms to address the lingering and devastating residues of white supremacy culture is not a path any of us can travel alone. Solidarity is required. Can we be in solidarity with Black liberation movements?

In our Night Prayer Compline service, we offer a call and response chant to God:

Hear my prayer O Lord; listen to my cry.  
Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings.  
In hope I shall see you; when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

After Trump, and with the reality of ongoing Trumpism, what can a movement of faith filled solidarity look like?

May that be a question that some of us live together, now.

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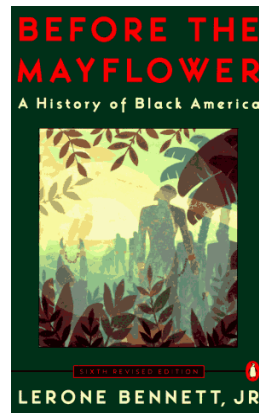
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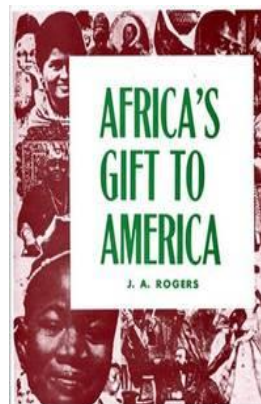
## A Recommended Booklist for Black History Month

*(A BOOK - A MONTH)*

February is Black History Month and with this event normally comes the rise in attention to historical achievements by African Americans. Television, radio, internet viewings and workplaces around the country provide snippets of this or that event or person which played a role in developing or shaping America. These programs and events only provide a capsule of a larger more interactive and complex picture. However, if you are like me, you may want more but unfortunately you may not have the time necessary for research on books or reading something overly academic, and or just cannot afford to spend a great deal of money on purchasing books. Well in order to help you in this search I have developed a listing of twelve books that are interesting, lively, easy to read, and relatively inexpensive while at the same time providing you with a great deal of information. Below, is my recommended list of books that will help you get there.



**Before the Mayflower** – by Lerone Bennett, Jr. is an outstanding general history of Africans Americans and their history in the United States. This book documents many key events and major contributions. The book sells for approximately \$15.00.



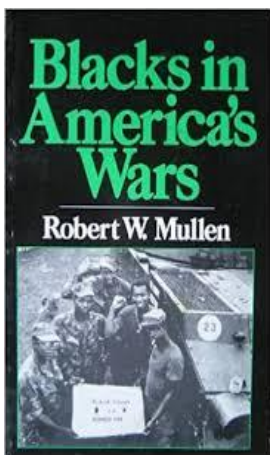
**Africa's Gift to America** – by J.A. Rogers is another outstanding and enjoyable book to read. This book specifically cites little known facts concerning individual achievements by African Americans that have



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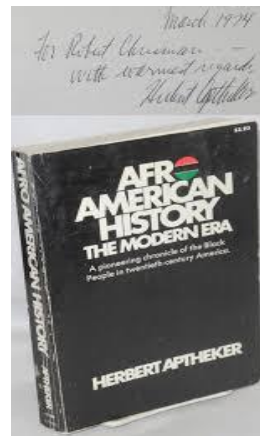
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often been overlooked by historians and scholars. This book sells for approximately \$25.00. (Note, this book may be hard to find in a bookstore so you may have to order it. However, it is definitely worth the investment).



**Blacks in America's Wars –**

by Robert W. Mullen is a small book (roughly only 100 pages) but it is loaded with interesting information about the contributions of African Americans in America's wars and military. This book is a must have and sells for approximately \$10.00.



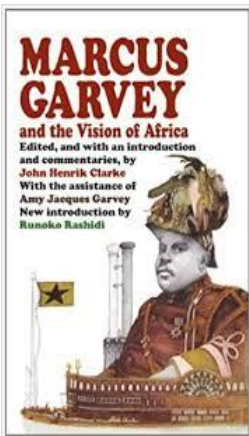
**Afro-American History the**

**Modern Era** - by Herbert Aptheker documents major moments in the African American community from the period of 1900 until the late 1960's. Mr. Aptheker does an outstanding job in covering events during this period that reflected the mood of the community and its interaction with the larger American society. This book sells for approximately \$20.00.



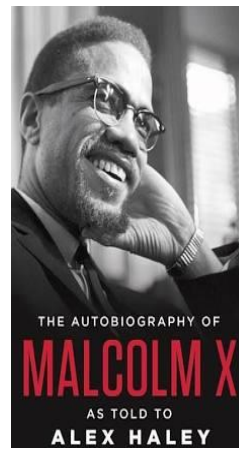
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### **Marcus Garvey and His**

**Vision for Africa** – edited by Amy Jacques Garvey and John Henrik Clarke. This book is an excellent eyewitness account of the rise and fall of one of the great figures in American as well as African American history. The Garvey movement was one of the finest movements of African people in the diaspora. This movement rose to great heights but never achieved fulfilment due to jealousy, incompetence, naivety, lack of understanding, and most deadly of all government interference. This book is a must read and sells for approximately \$25.00.



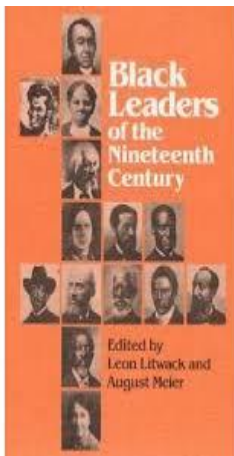
### **Autobiography of Malcom X –**

this book which was written by the great African American writer Alex Haley is one of the most exciting and tragic stories ever told. Malcolm X was and continues to be misunderstood and seldom understood. If you want an understanding of how Malcolm X got to be Malcolm X please read this book. This book sells for approximately \$10.00.

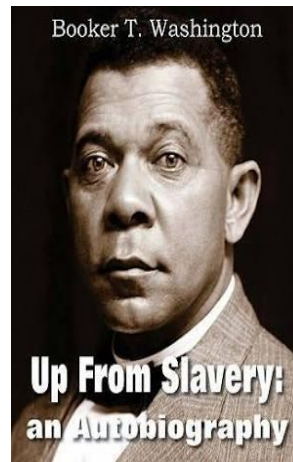


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**Black Leaders of the Nineteenth Century** – edited by August Meir and Leon Litwack. This book provides biographical summaries of perhaps the greatest African Americans this country has produced. The nineteenth century was the defining moment in the history of America (i.e., slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, etc.) and the African Americans listed were all dedicated to the challenge. This is the largest of the books listed but it is an absolute gold mine of valuable information. This book sells for approximately \$30.00.

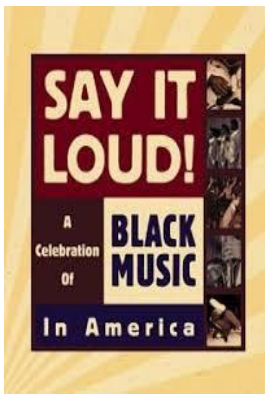


**Up From Slavery** – by Booker T. Washington is an autobiography on (prior to President Barack Obama) the most powerful African American in American history. This book captures Booker T. Washington’s amazing story from slavery to his rise as the most famous Black man in the world during his lifetime. This book is an American Classic and should be read by every American. The approximate selling price for this book is \$10.00.



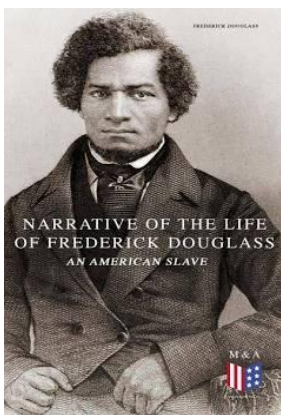
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**Black Music in America – by**

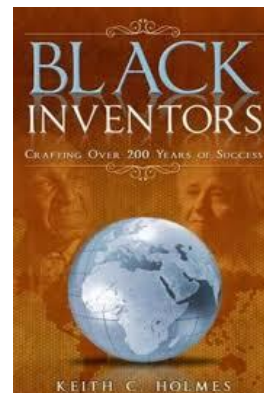
James Haskins. If you want to find out who put the soul in soul music than I strongly recommend you read this delightful and easy to read book. This book sells for approximately \$10.00.



**Narrative Of The Life Of**

**Frederick Douglass An American Slave -** written by Frederick Douglass. This book is one of the best books produced on the realities and harshness of American slavery.

What makes this book so unique is that it was written by Douglass a former slave who survived one of the most inhumane ordeals known to man and later rose to become one of the greatest statesmen this nation has ever produced. Approximate selling price for this masterpiece is \$10.00.



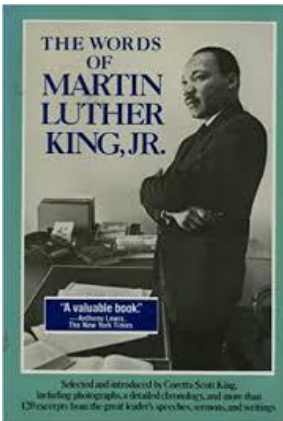
**Black Inventors from Africa**

**to America - by C.R. Gibbs.** This book cites the tremendous contributions African people and African Americans in particular have made to humanity and the world through invention and innovation. This book sells for approximately \$20.00.



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### The Words of Martin

**Luther King, Jr.** - Selected and introduced by his wife Coretta Scott King. This small book lists many of the key quotes and speeches by one of the greatest orators and humanitarians in human history. This book should be a mandatory read for every human on planet Earth. This book sells for approximately \$10.00.

**Author:** Jerome D. Davis is a Historian of African peoples and a graduate of Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana. He is also a retired United States Military Officer and Iraq War Veteran.



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# IMMUNE SYSTEM BOOSTER TIPS



Get enough sleep, anywhere from 7 to 9 hours per night



Manage your stress by taking time to practice self-care, like reading a book



Eat healthy foods, including lots of nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables



Stay active; for optimal immune functioning, stick with moderate activity levels

## IN THE COMMUNITY





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***\*\*\*\*\*In the month of January, The Center was able to provide over 20 families with groceries to last for at least 2 or 3 weeks.***





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- The New Macedonia Baptist Church, Pastor Patrick J. Walker
- Centerpoint Baptist Church, Pastor Orlando Bego
- African American Religious Affairs, Rev. Leslie Watson Wilson
- People For The American Way
- Faith Strategies LLC



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- Pastor Kip Banks
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**STAY TUNED – GOD IS DOING SOMETHING BIG!!**



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***“No African Americans take to the streets in protest to demand Whites to love us more. We demand a behavior change!”*** Rev. George C. Gilbert, Jr.