For Further Reading

Nonfiction: Apartheid and its Aftermath

**After Mandela** (2012) 598 pages
Douglas Foster

Douglas Foster, a leading South Africa authority with early, unprecedented access to President Zuma and to the next generation in the Mandela family, traces the nation’s entire post-apartheid arc, from its celebrated beginnings under “Madiba” to Thabo Mbeki’s tumultuous rule to the ferocious battle between Mbeki and Jacob Zuma. *After Mandela* provides a sobering portrait of a country caught between a democratic future and a political meltdown.

**Lost and Found in Johannesburg** (2014) 353 pages
Mark Gevisser

Two searing contemporary dramas—one violent, one quiet—frame this gripping memoir by eminent South African journalist Gevisser. Born in Johannesburg in 1964, the year Mandela was jailed for life, Gevisser remembers his privileged childhood in a walled white world. Then, in the mid-1990s, visiting Johannesburg, (after years at Yale and then in Paris) Gevisser is held hostage at gunpoint, bound and gagged with two women friends when three brutal robbers break into their home. Is his assailant a prisoner from the apartheid war? An honest blend of sympathy and fury drives the story.

**Country of My Skull** (1999) 464 pages
Antjie Krog

After Nelson Mandela’s release from prison in 1990, repressive laws mandating separation of the races were thrown out and Mandela created the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by the renowned cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Established in 1995, the commission faced the awesome task of hearing the testimony of the victims of apartheid as well as the oppressors. Krog, a South African journalist, recounts the drama, the horrors, the wrenching personal stories of the victims and their families.

**A Rainbow in the Night** (2009) 288 pages
Dominique Lapierre

Author and philanthropist Lapierre offers a harrowing overview of South African history, from Jan Van Riebeeck’s first Dutch farming settlement to the presidential election of Nelson Mandela. This is an epic account of South Africa’s tragic history and the heroic men and women—famous and obscure, white and black—who have, with their blood and tears, brought to life the country that is today known as the Rainbow Nation. Lapierre’s presentation of the horrific facts of official racism is riveting and demonstrate how which blacks were regarded as foreigners in their own land.
Conversations with Myself (2010) 454 pages  
Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela is widely considered to be one of the most inspiring and iconic figures of our age. Now, after a lifetime of taking pen to paper to record thoughts and events, hardships and victories, he has bestowed his entire extant personal papers, which offer an unprecedented insight into his remarkable life. Conversations with Myself allows, for the first time, unhindered insight into the human side of the icon.

491 Days: Prisoner Number 1323/69 (2014) 264 pages  
Winnie Mandela

On a freezing winter’s night, a few hours before dawn on 12 May 1969, security police stormed the Soweto home of Winnie Mandela and detained her in the presence of her two young daughters. She was rounded up in a group of other anti-apartheid activists under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act, designed for the security police to hold and interrogate people for as long as they wanted. Readers gain insight into the brutality she experienced, her depths of despair as well as her resilience and defiance under extreme pressure.

A Burning Hunger: One Family’s Struggle Against Apartheid (2006) 472 pages  
Lynda Schuster

If the Mandelas were the generals in the fight for black liberation, the Mashininis were the foot soldiers. Theirs is a story of exile, imprisonment, torture, and loss, but also of dignity, courage, and strength in the face of appalling adversity. Originally published in Great Britain to critical acclaim, A Burning Hunger tells a deeply moving human story and is one of the seminal books about the struggle against apartheid. Schuster richly portrays this remarkable family and in so doing reveals black South Africa during a time of momentous change.

We Are Not Such Things (2016) 544 pages  
Justine Van Der Leun

The story of Amy Biehl is well known in South Africa: After the twenty-six-year-old white American Fulbright scholar was brutally murdered on August 25, 1993, during the final, fiery days of apartheid by a mob of young black men in a township outside Cape Town, her parents’ forgiveness of two of her killers became a symbol of the Truth and Reconciliation process in South Africa. Van Der Leun reveals how reconciliation is impossible without an acknowledgment of the past, a lesson just as relevant to America today as to a South Africa still struggling with the long shadow of its history.
**Fiction: Apartheid**

*The Syringa Tree* (2007) 262 pages  
Pamela Gien

In this heartrending and inspiring novel set against the gorgeous, vast landscape of South Africa under apartheid, award-winning playwright Pamela Gien tells the story of two families—one black, one white—separated by racism, connected by love. It chronicles a relationship that spans four generations between two South African families—one black and one white—and two children born into the same household.

*Electric Fences and Other Stories* (2016) 144 pages  
Gugu Hlongwane

Understated yet graphic and moving stories set in the South African townships of Durban, during and after apartheid. The female protagonists contend with forms of racism, male violence, and sheer poverty as they go about their lives and find dignity as mothers, daughters, students, and lovers. An unforgettable collection.

*Mother to Mother* (2000) 224 pages  
Sindiwe Magona

*Mother to Mother* explores the South African legacy of apartheid through the lens of a woman who remembers a life marked by oppression and injustice. Magona decided to write this novel when she discovered that Fulbright Scholar Amy Biehl, who had been killed while working to organize the nation’s first ever democratic elections in 1993, died just a few yards away from her own permanent residence in Guguletu, Capetown.

*Hum if You Don’t Knows the Words* (2017) 420 pages  
Bianca Marais

This heart-wrenching debut is set in Johannesburg in the 1970s, a time of great upheaval and violence. It features a young white girl, Robin, whose parents have been killed, and a visiting Xhosa woman, Beauty, searching for her own daughter, who has disappeared in the Soweto uprisings. Perfect for readers of *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Help*. 
**Nonfiction: Race and the Criminal Justice System in America**

**Agaat** (2010) 630 pages  
Marlene Van Niekerk

Set in apartheid South Africa, Agaat portrays the unique, forty-year relationship between Milla, a sixty-seven-year-old white woman, and her black maidservant turned caretaker, Agaat. In 1950s South Africa, life for white farmers was full of promise —young and newly married, Milla raised a son and created her own farm out of a swathe of Cape mountainside with Agaat by her side. By the 1990s, Milla’s family has fallen apart, the country she knew is on the brink of huge change, and all she has left are memories and her proud, contrary, yet affectionate guardian. With haunting, lyrical prose, Marlene van Niekerk creates a story about love and loyalty.

**The Monster's Daughter** (2016) 455 pages  
Michelle Pretorius

At once a shocking, unputdownable thriller and a brilliantly imagined journey through South Africa's troubled history. Pretorius's epic debut weaves present and past together into a hugely suspenseful, masterfully plotted thriller that calls to mind Lauren Beukes's *The Shining Girls* and Tana French's *The Secret Place*. With an explosive conclusion, it marks the emergence of a thrilling new writer.

**The New Jim Crow** (2010) 352 pages  
Michelle Alexander

In this incisive critique, former litigator-turned-legal-scholar Michelle Alexander provocatively argues that we have not ended racial caste in America: we have simply redesigned it. Alexander shows that, by targeting black men 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 color blindness.

**American Prison** (2018) 368 pages  
Shane Bauer

In 2014, Shane Bauer, an award-winning investigative journalist, was hired for $9 an hour to work as an entry-level prison guard at a private prison in Winnfield, Louisiana. Four months later, his employment came to an abrupt end. But he had seen enough, and in short order he wrote a blistering indictment of the private prison system and the powerful forces that drive it. *American Prison* is a necessary human document about the true face of justice in America.
**Chokehold: Policing Black Men** (2017) 256 pages  
Paul Butler

Cops, politicians, and ordinary people are afraid of black men, resulting in laws and practices that treat every African American man like a thug. In this explosive new book, an African American former federal prosecutor shows that the system is working exactly the way it’s supposed to. Black men are always under watch, and police violence is widespread—all with the support of judges and politicians.

**Between the World and Me** (2015) 176 pages  
Ta-Nehisi Coates

In this captivating memoir, written as a series of letters to his teenaged son, Coates walks us through the course of his life, from the tough neighborhoods of Baltimore in his youth, to Howard University—which Coates dubs “The Mecca” for its revelatory community of black students and teachers—to the broader Meccas of New York and Paris. He describes his observations and the evolution of his thinking on race. Coates is direct and uncommonly insightful and original in this a powerful and exceptional book.

**Policing the Black Man** (2017) 336 pages  
Angela Davis (editor)

A comprehensive, readable analysis of the key issues of the BlackLivesMatter 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. They 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.

**Not a Crime to be Poor** (2017) 224 pages  
Peter Edelman

Georgetown law professor Peter Edelman, a former staffer to Robert F. Kennedy, explains how Ferguson is everywhere in America today. Through money bail systems, fees and fines, strictly enforced laws and regulations against behavior including trespassing and public urination that largely affect the homeless, and the substitution of prisons and jails for the mental hospitals that have traditionally served the impoverished, we have effectively made it a crime to be poor.
Locking Up Our Own (2018)  352 pages
James Forman

Washington, DC, public defender-turned- Yale University clinical law professor Forman traces the growth of the carceral state that now holds behind bars about one in every four adult black males. Taking a different turn from much of the literature on the topic, the author focuses on black-on-black attitudes and actions as he recollects his Washington experience.

The Black and the Blue (2018) 256 pages
Matthew Horace

Veteran police officer and CNN law enforcement analyst Matthew Horace offers an unforgettable account of the racism, bigotry, and colorlines that permeate America’s law enforcement culture, institution, and system, and lays out a blueprint for change. He dissects some of the nation’s most highly publicized police shootings to explain how the bias that black and white police harbor bring detrimental outcomes to the people they serve.

Writing My Wrongs (2017) 288 pages
Shaka Senghor

At age 11, Shaka Senghor’s life began to unravel as his parent’s marriage failed and he was beaten by his mother. An honor roll student, he had dreamed of becoming a doctor. Instead, he ran away from home, turned to drug dealing to survive, and ended up in prison for murder at the age of 19. Writing My Wrongs is a page-turning portrait of life in the shadow of poverty, violence, and fear; an unforgettable story of redemption, reminding us that our worst deeds don’t define us; and a compelling witness to our country’s need for rethinking its approach to crime, prison, and the men and women sent there.

Blood in the Water (2017) 752 pages
Heather Ann Thompson

On September 9, 1971, nearly 1,300 prisoners took over the Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York and held guards and civilian employees hostage to protest years of mistreatment. On September 13, the state abruptly ended talks and took the prison back by force. Thirty-nine men were killed, hostages as well as prisoners, and close to one hundred were severely injured. Thompson sheds new light on one of the most important civil rights stories of the last century, exploring every aspect of the uprising and its legacy from the perspectives of all of those involved.