

Bibliography for Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK's own writings and speeches.

Strength to Love. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1963. This is a collection of Dr. King's most requested sermons.

Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1958. Dr. King's first book; the story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the beginning of the Nonviolent Civil Rights Movement.

The Trumpet of Conscience. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1968. (Foreword by Coretta Scott King.) This book is taken from the 1967 Massey Lectures which King gave through the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. King addresses issues including the Vietnam War, youth and civil disobedience and concludes with the "Christmas Sermon for Peace."

Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1967. An assessment of America's priorities and a warning that they need to be re-ordered.

Why We Can't Wait. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1963. The essential writings of Martin Luther King, Jr., James M. Washington, ed.

Edited Works of King's Writings and Speeches.

Carson, Clayborne and Shepard, Kris (editors). *A Call to Conscience: The Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* New York: Warner Books, 2001. This collection includes the text of Dr. King's best-known oration, "I Have a Dream," his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, and "Beyond Vietnam," a compelling argument for ending the ongoing conflict. Each speech has an insightful introduction on the current relevance of Dr. King's words by such renowned defenders of civil rights as Rosa Parks, the Dalai Lama, and Ambassador Andrew Young, among others.

A Testament of Hope. San Francisco: Harper & Row Publishers, 1986. A collection of quotations by Dr. King selected by Mrs. Coretta Scott King focusing on seven areas of concern; The Community of Man, Racism, Civil Rights, Justice and Freedom, Faith and Religion, Nonviolence and Peace.

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The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. Volume I: Called to Serve, January 1929-June 1951, Clayborne Carson, Ralph Luker, and Penny A. Russell, eds., Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.

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The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. Volume V: Threshold of a New Decade, January 1959- December 1960, Clayborne Carson, Tenisha Armstrong, Susan Carson, Adrienne Clay, and Kieran Taylor, eds., Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. Volume VI: Advocate of the Social Gospel, September 1948 – March 1963, Clayborne Carson, Susan Carson, Susan Englander, Troy Jackson, and Gerald L. Smith, eds., Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007.

The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. Volume VII: To Save The Soul of America, January 1961 - August 1962, Clayborne Carson and Tenisha Armstrong, eds., Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014.

Online Encyclopedia (King Papers Project)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Encyclopedia <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia>

Books about Martin Luther King, Jr.

Garrow, David J. *Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1986. A massive, Pulitzer Prize winning study, heavily informed by FOIA requested government documents.

Fairclough, Adam. *To Redeem the Soul of America: The SCLC and Martin Luther King, Jr.* Athens: University of Georgia, 1987. A history of the SCLC and its role in bringing about a second reconstruction of the South.

Harding, Vincent. *Martin Luther King: The Inconvenient Hero*. Orbis Books. In these eloquent essays that reflect upon King's legacy over the past two decades and the meaning of his life today, a portrait emerges of a man constantly evolving and going deeper into the roots of violence and injustice—a man whose challenge remains as timely and necessary as ever.

Jackson, Troy, *Becoming King: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Making of a National Leader*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2008. A splendid study, emphasizing how African

American church culture shaped MLK. Jackson had been a staff member at the MLK papers project.

Sitkoff, Harvard, *King: Pilgrimage to the Mountaintop*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2007. Splendid, short, and well-written analysis of MLK's life and career.

Civil Rights History

Branch, Taylor, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988.

Branch, Taylor, *Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-1965*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1998.

Branch, Taylor, *At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-1968*, New York: Simon and Shuster, 2006. This trilogy is splendidly researched and beautifully written.

Hannah-Jones, Nicole, *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*. New York: One World Publishing, 2021. A splendid long view of the centrality and ubiquity of racism and African American efforts to overcome its reality and expressions.

Williams, Yohuru, *Rethinking the Black Freedom Movement*, New York: Routledge, 2015. A splendid summary of the long freedom movement, especially in more recent years.

Memory, heritage, history, and historiography.

Memory consists of recall, including what we “recall” having experienced in and been told about the past. It may be largely verifiably true, riddled with error, or somewhere in between, but many of us are emotionally invested in what we recall about ourselves and others, including what we thought we were taught long ago.

Heritage is another term for cultural memory. It includes shared narratives, rituals, and artifacts that constitute the official version of the past for a particular subgroup of humanity, one that defines its identity around notion of nation, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and often defines itself as the opposite of some other, often something constructed as a threat. Often, people who define themselves in this heritage paradigm construe heritage as the true history of their group and the past in general.

History is a transliterated term from a Greek word that means inquiry. Historians begin their efforts with a question—how did World War II shape African American efforts to improve their economic, social, and legal standing in the United States after World War II, for example. Then, historians gather available evidence—artifacts from the past like letters, diaries, wills, government documents, folklore, cultural expressions (music, drama, art) and tease out defensible answers to the question they posed. This process is iterative: examining evidence often requires refining the initial research question and a careful historian seeks to be informed

by criticism of peers. The result often, but not always, calls into question what the historian and various heritages have held to be true.

Historiography refers to the scholarly debates and conclusions about questions historians have posed. It refers to the ongoing effort to sharpen the understanding that historians have about the past, often informed by new questions and tentative answers grounded in research, as the ongoing saga of humanity not only marches forward in time but also as this long march brings up contemporary issues that lead to fresh historical inquiry.

Here's an example: Barack Obama's election catalyzed popular conversations about the role of race in the United States. For some, it was proof that the United States was post-racial, that Dr. King's "dream" had been realized. For others, things like Birthism and the Tea Party, responses to Obama's election, suggested that racism was deeply entrenched in the United States. There was at least as much continuity as change in the saga of race and racism in the United States. The result was further inquiry into the role race played (and plays) in the United States. The challenge for historians and historiography is that historical inquiry does not often, if ever, lead to unambiguous conclusions, certainly not with the clarity and certainty of scientific measurement in a Chemistry laboratory. The ambiguity and complexity of historical inquiry finds recent expressions in the responses to the 1619 project.