

## Juneteenth: A Suggested Reading List

On June 19th, 1865, the last of the enslaved people in Galveston, Texas were told by Union soldiers that they were free, two years following the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln. On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed the bill into law, making Juneteenth the 11th holiday recognized by the federal government. On this day, many communities come together to celebrate African-American cultural heritage and the symbolic day of freedom for the Black community. Here are a few titles to learn more about Juneteenth and related historical issues. *Compiled by Alma Simmons*

- Atakora, Afia, [\*Conjure Women: A Novel\*](#), (2021)
- Bay, Mia, [\*To Tell the Truth Freely: The Life of Ida B. Wells\*](#), (2010)
- Bennett, Lerone, [\*Before the Mayflower\*](#), (1962)
- Berlin, Ira, [\*The Long Emancipation: The Demise of Slavery in the United States\*](#), (2015)
- Blight, David, [\*Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom\*](#), (2018)
- Clarke, John Henrik, [\*African People in World History\*](#), (1993)
- Cotham, Edward T., [\*Juneteenth: The Story Behind the Celebration\*](#), (2021)
- Deon, Natasha, [\*Grace: A Novel\*](#), (2016)
- Douglass, Frederick, [\*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave\*](#), (1845)
- DuBois, W.E.B., [\*The Souls of Black Folk\*](#), (1903)
- Dunbar, Erica Armstrong, [\*She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman\*](#), (2019)
- Ellison, Ralph, [\*Juneteenth: A Novel\*](#), (2000)
- Foner, Eric, [\*Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation and Reconstruction\*](#), (2005)
- Franklin, John Hope, [\*Reconstruction After the Civil War\*](#), (2013)
- Gates, Henry Louis, [\*Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow\*](#), (2019)
- Gordon-Reed, Annette, [\*On Juneteenth\*](#), (2021)
- Hannah-Jones, Nikole, [\*The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story\*](#), (2021)
- Hunter, Tera W., [\*To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War\*](#), (1997)
- Kendi, Ibram X. and Keisha Blain (eds.), [\*Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019\*](#), (2022)
- Mitchell, Mary Niall, [\*Raising Freedom's Child: Black Children and Visions of the Future After Slavery\*](#), (2008)
- Morrison, Toni, [\*Beloved\*](#), (1987)
- Oakes, James, [\*Freedom National: The Destruction of Slavery in the United States, 1861-1865\*](#), (2013)
- Painter, Nell Irvin, [\*Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol\*](#), (1996)
- Smith, Clint, [\*How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America\*](#), (2022)
- Walker, Margaret, [\*Jubilee\*](#), (1966)
- Washington, Booker T., [\*Up from Slavery\*](#), (1901)
- Willis, Deborah, [\*Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery\*](#), (2013)