

Feeling ready to learn more about racism, but not sure where to start?

by Harleen Kaur

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**Here are some ways you can start an anti-racist education practice at home!**

# First off, what is racism?

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Racism can be confusing to spot at first. That's because it is both a social practice and theory. Racism is "an action and a rationale for action, or both at once. Racism always takes for granted the objective reality of race, as just defined." In other words, it already has a set of beliefs of what race is, as real and self-evident, and applies "a social, civic, or legal **double standard based on ancestry**" to two things: *decisions throughout life* and to *the belief system surrounding the double standard*. The way you knowingly or unknowingly practice racism in social life, influences your ability to understand racism. (17)

**But, why is that?** Because race "is not an idea but an ideology. It came into existence at a discernable historical moment for rationally understandable historical reasons and is subject to change for similar reasons." (121) In the U.S., "race" emerged to rationalize the "contradiction between slavery and liberty by defining Afro-Americans as a race; Afro-Americans resolved the contradiction more straightforwardly by calling for the abolition of slavery" (141).

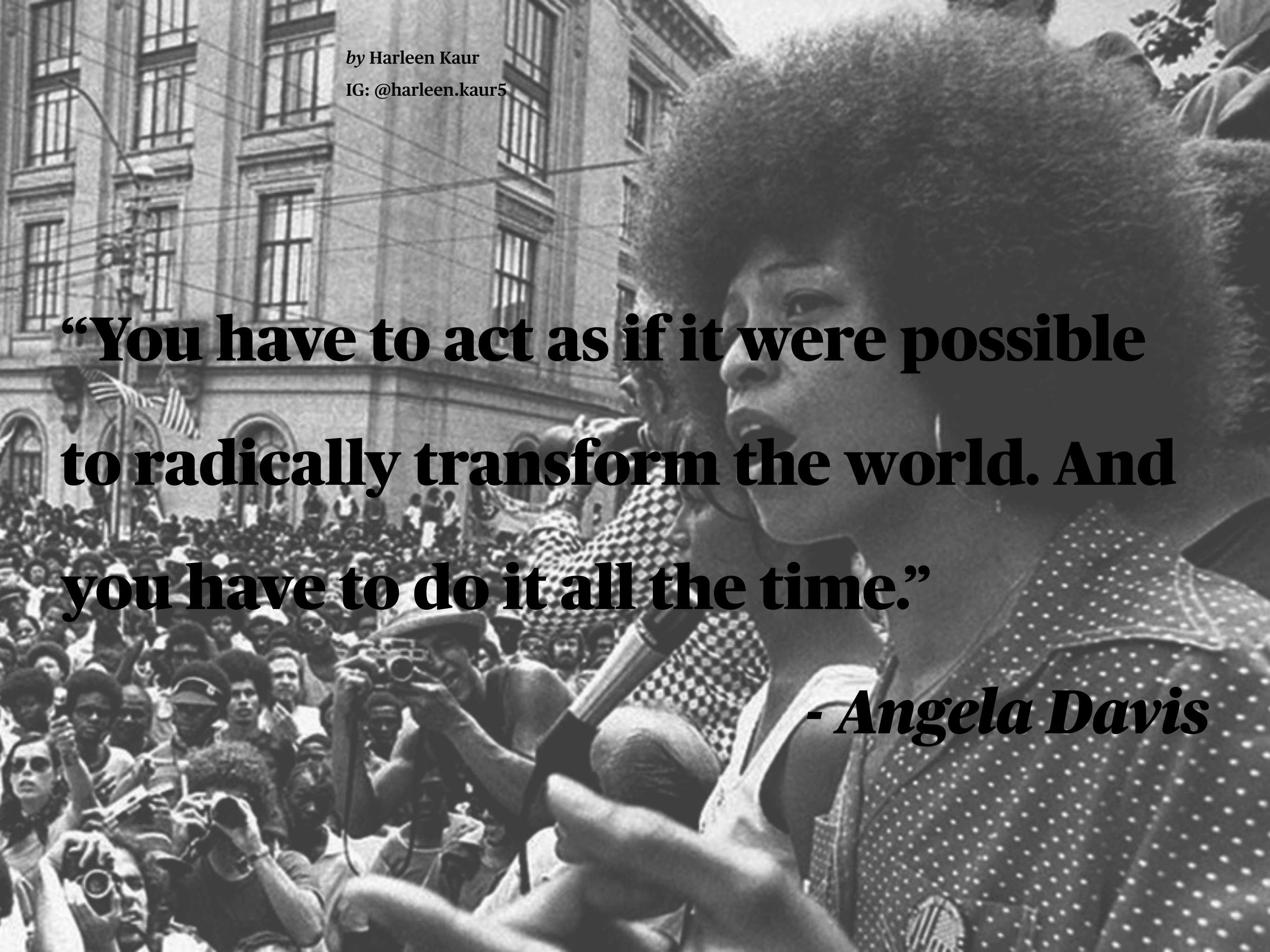
**Since then, racism has changed and adapted** because "ideologies are real, but it does not follow that they are scientifically accurate, or that they provide an analysis of social relations that would make sense to anyone who does not take ritual part in those social relations." (134)



## RACECRAFT

*The Soul of Inequality  
in American Life*

KAREN E. FIELDS AND BARBARA J. FIELDS

A black and white photograph of Angela Davis speaking at a microphone to a large crowd. She is in the foreground, wearing a dark, polka-dot jacket, with her mouth open as if speaking. The background shows a dense crowd of people, many holding cameras, and a multi-story building with many windows. The image is overlaid with text.

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**“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.”**

***- Angela Davis***

# What does anti-racist mean?

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Anti-racism, simply, is the “**active process** of identifying and eliminating racism by changing systems, organizational structures, policies and practices and attitudes, so that power is redistributed and shared equitably.”<sup>1</sup>

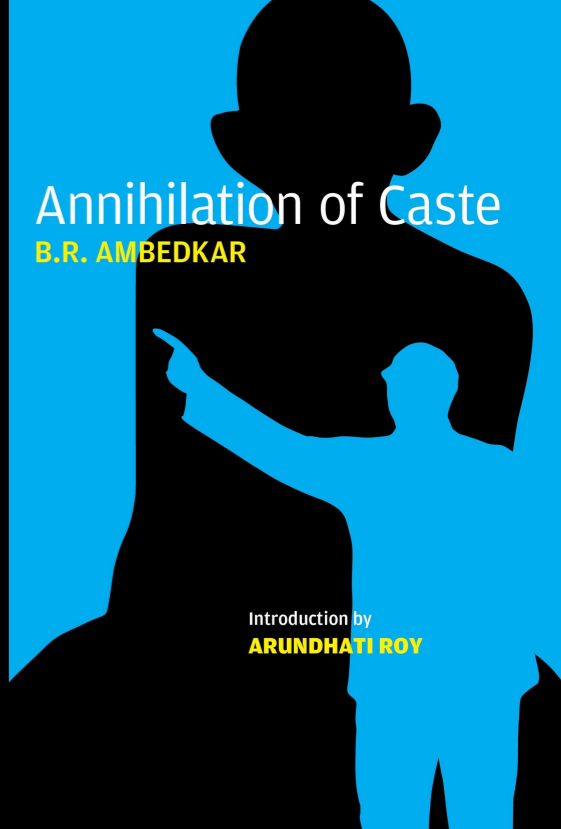
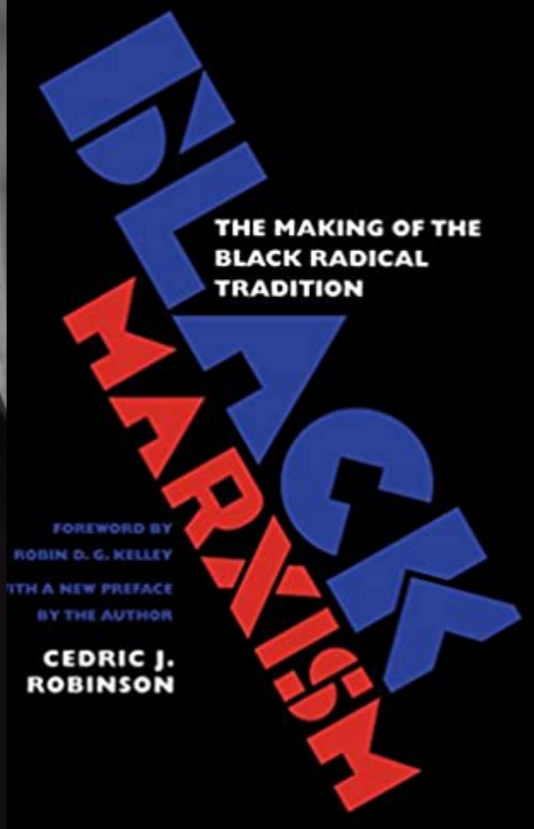
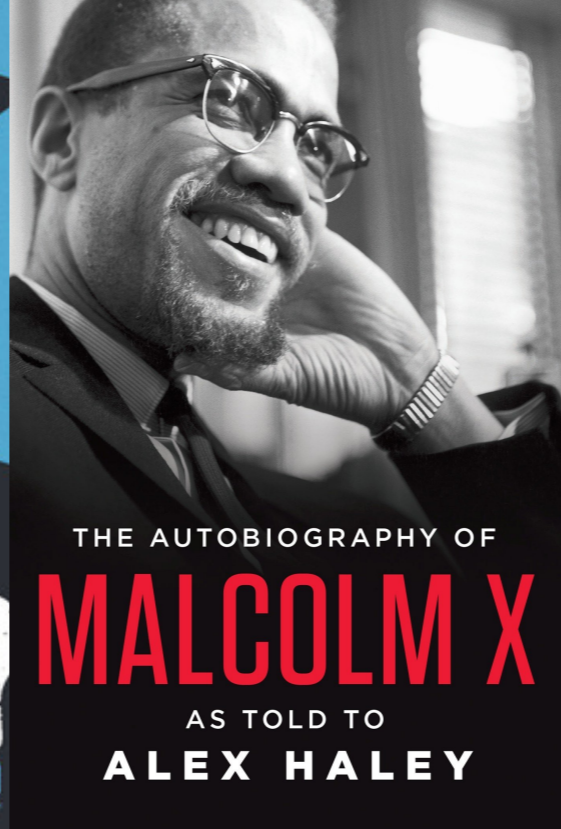
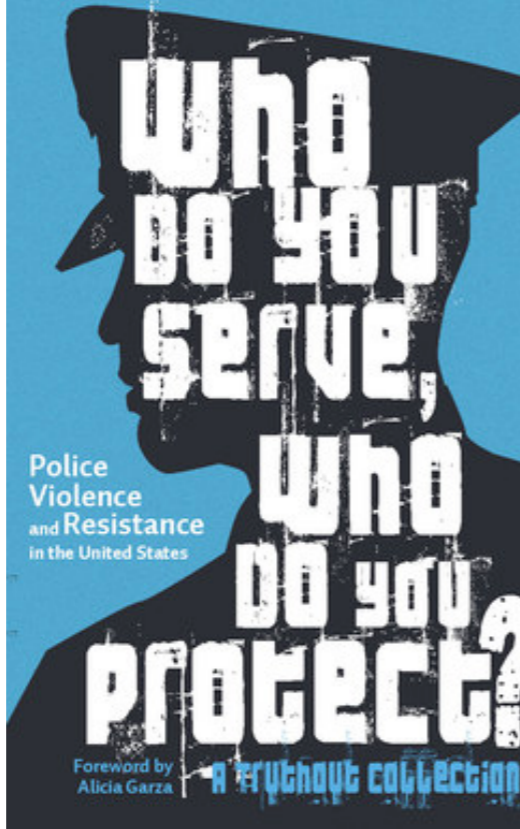
This means that we recognize racism as a system that is constantly at work in our society and, in order to push against it, we must be active, because passivity or a neutral stance means we are allowing it to continue uninterrupted.

<sup>1</sup>NAC International Perspectives: Women and Global Solidarity

The problem is not police training, police diversity, or police methods. The problem is the dramatic and unprecedented expansion and intensity of policing in the last forty years, a fundamental shift in the role of police in society. The problem is policing itself.

Alex S. Vitale

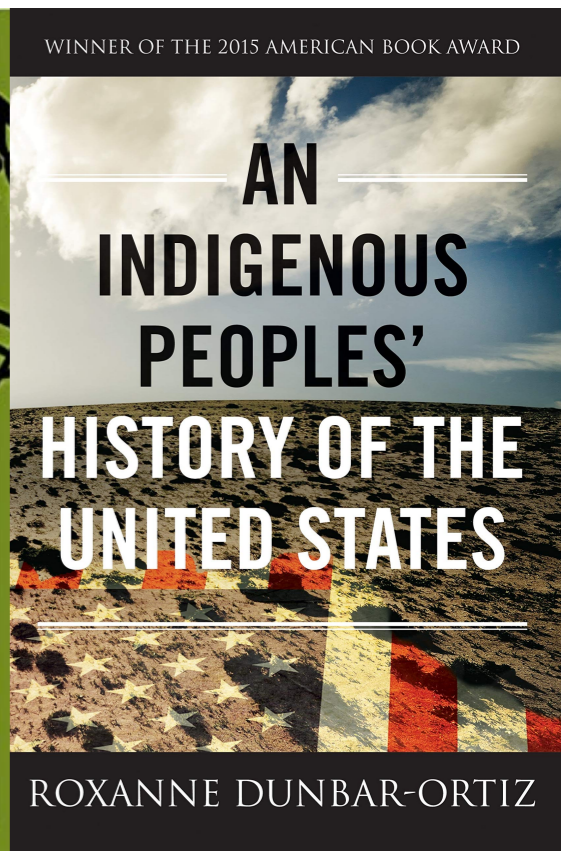
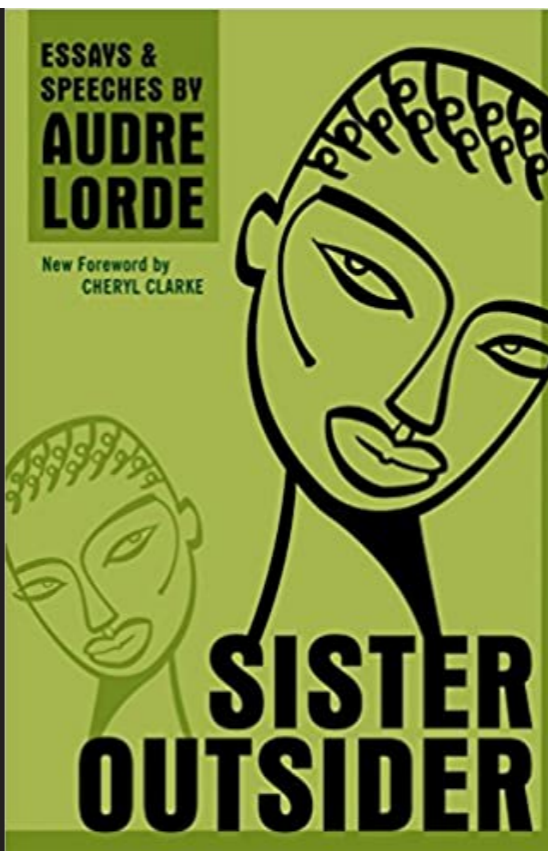
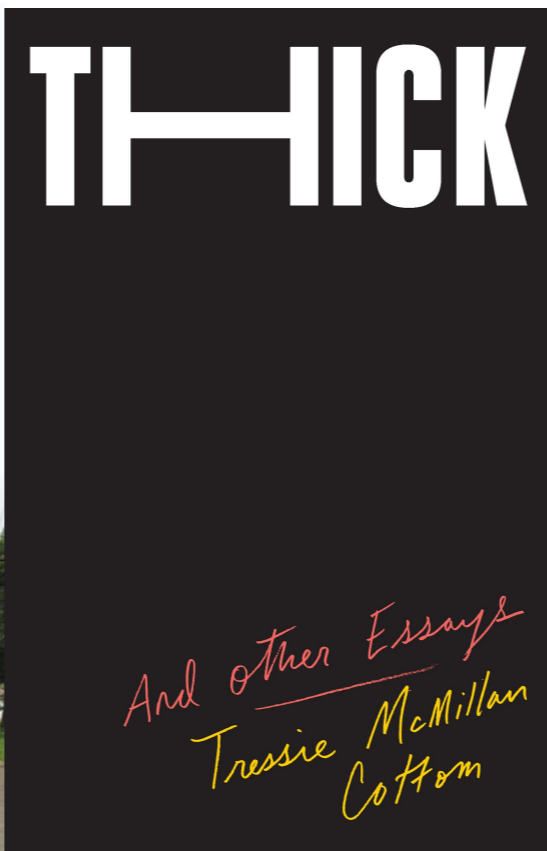
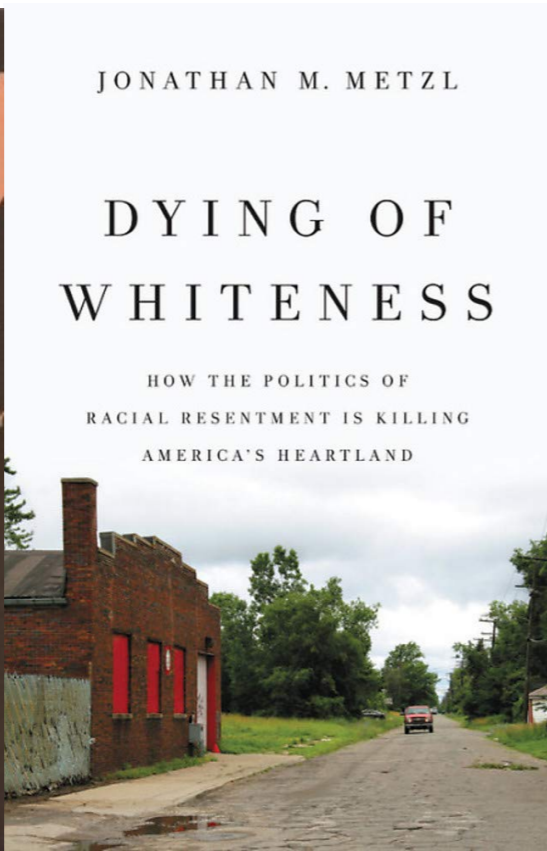
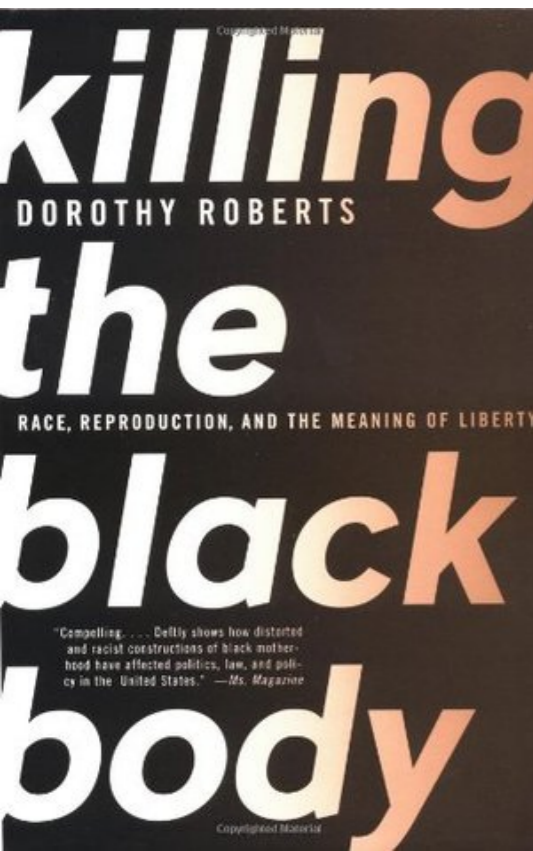
# The End of Policing



## How do I become anti-racist? Is it just reading a lot of books?

(If you do want to read books though, these are some I recommend!)

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# Anti-racism is a lifelong self-education practice.

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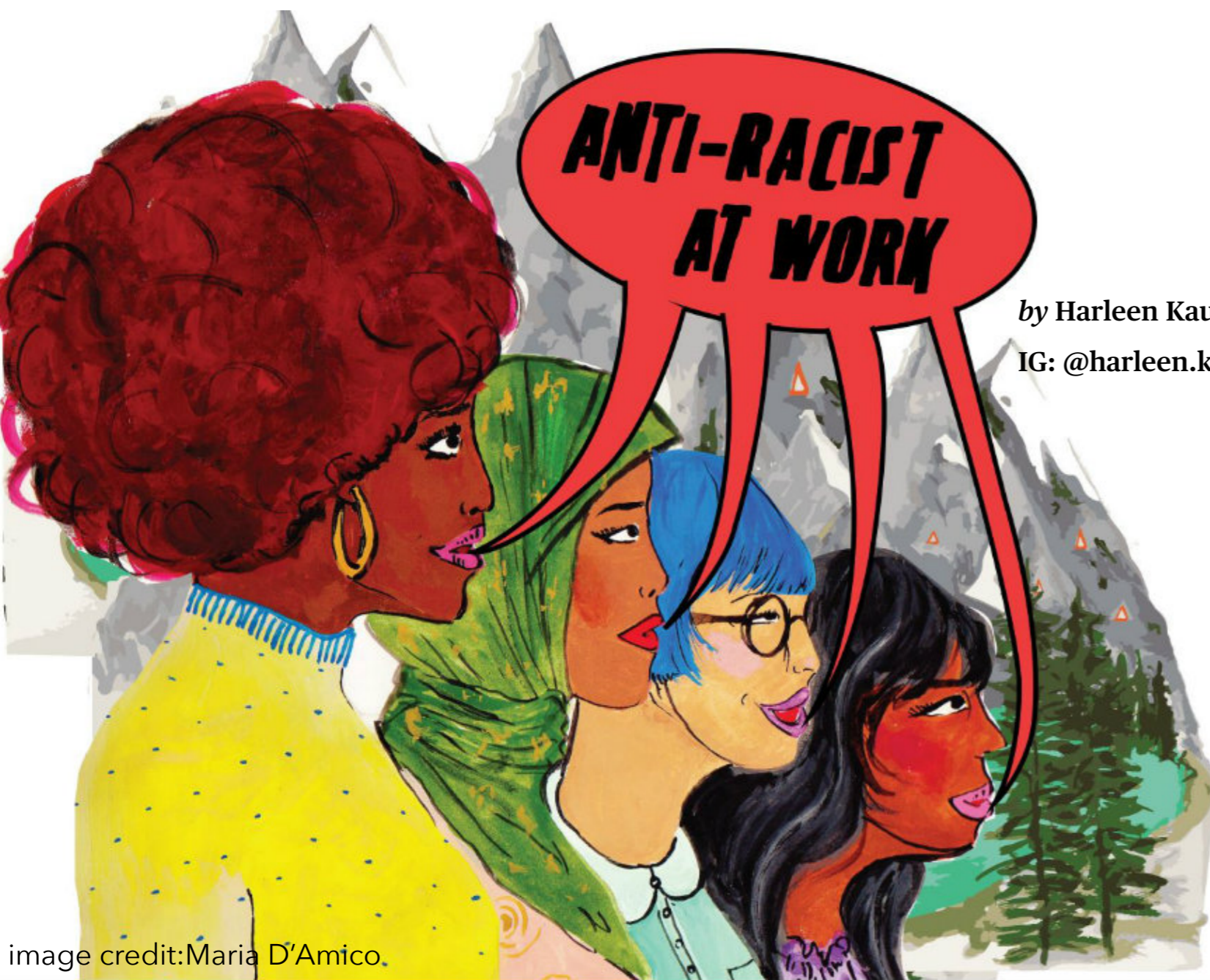
1. No single book, movie, podcast can teach you about the entire history, function, and practice of racism (but we do recommend the books in the prior graphic!).

We all must **raise our consciousness** about the historical roots of racism to understand how it drives our current structures.

2. **Find** your role. We recommend Deepa Iyer's social change ecosystem!

3. **Commit** yourself to challenging racism at-large, but pick 2-3 spaces where you have the authority to develop and execute an antiracist strategy that will make longterm structural change towards racial equity.

4. **Apply** this method to all systems of oppression.



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