

## Prison Literature Suggested Reading List

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6 November 2020

There is a large prison literature from countries around the world, some of which has been produced by prisoners writing about their prison experiences as well as other topics. The sheer number of imprisoned people in the United States, in aggregate comparable to the nation's fifth largest city, represents a considerable source of potential creativity.

The following selection is drawn from a forthcoming paper, "Intellectual Property Empowerment and Protection for Prisoners" (Whitman, in preparation) and consists of a small number of works created by individuals while in prison or after their prison experience. These works, listed by publication date, were selected to read by the author because they exemplify literature by incarcerated people in the United States, an underrepresented source of creativity that could, if encouraged, provide a vast contribution to society.

*Solitary*, by Albert Woodfox (Woodfox, 2019).

"What I Think About When I Think About Freedom," by John J. Lennon (Lennon, 2019).

*The Sun Does Shine*, by Anthony Ray Hinton (Hinton, 2018).

*Writing My Wrongs*, by Shaka Senghor (Senghor, 2013/2016).

*A Question of Freedom*, by Dwayne Betts (Betts, 2009).

*Blue Rage, Black Redemption*, by Stanley Tookie Williams (Williams, 2004).

*In the Belly of the Beast*, by Jack Abbott (Abbott, 1981).

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (X & Haley, 1964/2015).

*Civil Disobedience*, by Henry David Thoreau (Thoreau, 1849-1863/1993).

### References

Abbott, J. H. (1981). *In the belly of the beast*. New York: Vintage Books.

Betts, R. D. (2009). *A question of freedom: A memoir of learning, survival, and coming of age in prison*. New York: Penguin Group.

Hinton, A. R. (2018). *The sun does shine: How I found life and freedom on death row*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Lennon, J. J. (2019). What I think about when I think about freedom. *Life Inside*. Retrieved from <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/11/13/what-i-think-about-when-i-think-about-freedom> cited 6 February 2020.

Senghor, S. (2013/2016). *Writing my wrongs: Life, death, and redemption in an American prison*. New York: Convergent Books.

Thoreau, H. D. (1849-1863/1993). *Civil disobedience and other essays*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc.

- Whitman, J. R. (in preparation). Intellectual property empowerment and protection for prisoners. In S. Jamar & L. Mtima (Eds.), *Handbook on intellectual property and social justice, forthcoming*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Williams, S. T. (2004). *Blue rage, black redemption: A memoir*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Woodfox, A. (2019). *Solitary: Unbroken by four decades in solitary confinement. My story of transformation and hope*. New York: Grove Press.
- X, M., & Haley, A. (1964/2015). *The autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Ballantine Books.