

HIGHER EDUCATION IN PRISON READING PROJECT

A Companion Guide to
Angela Davis's
Freedom Is a Constant Struggle



Documentary Films

The Alliance is exploring some options for a shared screening of films to accompany the #HEPReadingProject, and we will keep you posted. Until then, here are some must-see documentaries to accompany your reading of *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*. If your organization has the time or space, why not host a movie night?

[The Black Power Mixtape: 1976-1965 \(2011\)](#) (Streaming on Netflix)

[Whose Streets? \(2017\)](#) (Streaming on Hulu)

Further Reading

[“Is Prison Necessary? Ruth Wilson Gilmore Might Change Your Mind”](#)

New York Times Magazine, April 17, 2019

By Rachel Kushner

[“The Long Road to Angela Davis’s Library”](#)

The New Yorker, December 26, 2014

By Dawn Lundy Martin

Additional Resources

Angela Davis’s first nationally televised interview (1972) [YouTube]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwD3LGo3a7o>

Angela Davis and Toni Morrison On Connecting for Progress (2016) [Podcast, NYPL]

<https://www.nypl.org/blog/2016/02/02/podcast-toni-morrison-angela-davis>

Angela Davis, “How Does Change Happen?” (2006) [YouTube]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pc6RHtEbiOA>

“Hands Off Assata Shakur: Angela Davis Calls for Radical Activism to Protect Activist Exiled in Cuba.”

Democracy Now! [Interview]

https://www.democracynow.org/2016/3/28/hands_off_assata_shakur_angela_davis

An Annotated Bibliography for the Lifelong Learner

Collins, Patricia Hill. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge, 1990.

A foundational study of black feminism.

Davis, Angela Y. *Are Prisons Obsolete?* New York: Seven Stories Press, 2011.

Davis has written many books on the subject of prison abolition, a project she continued with *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*. Turn to her work in *Are Prisons Obsolete?* for a look at her thinking on the question a decade ago and ask: what has changed? What has remained constant?

----- . *The Meaning of Freedom and Other Difficult Dialogues*. Foreword by Robin D. G. Kelley. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 2012.

What is freedom? Davis explores the meaning of freedom in a series of speeches, writings, and excerpts.

Foner, Eric. *The Story of American Freedom*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1998.

One of the nation's leading historians studies the changing and deeply contested meanings of freedom since the nation's origin.

Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. *Change Everything: Racial Capitalism and the Case for Abolition*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2021. [Forthcoming]

Mark your calendars, because this book will be an essential read next year when it is released.

Gordon, Colin. *Citizen Brown: Race, Democracy, and Inequality in the St. Louis Suburbs*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019.

Johnson, Walter. *The Broken Heart of America: St. Louis and the Violent History of the United States*. New York: Basic Books, 2020.

How can we better think of #BlackLivesMatter and the events that played out in Ferguson in 2014 in an international context? Two recent histories of Saint Louis (Gordon and Johnson) explore themes of racial capitalism, inequality, and violence through a variety of historic and place-based lenses.

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2017.

Founding members of a radical black feminist collective reflect of the meaning and legacy of the 1960s and 1970s for those struggling against oppression today.