



Y13

Reading List

Topics:

Y13:

- Y319 – Civil Rights in USA 1865-1992- **P2**
- Y100A – Topic based essay- **P5**

Unit 3- Civil Rights in USA 1865-1992

For an A-Level History course on **Civil Rights in the USA (1865-1992)**, focusing on **African Americans, Trade Unions and Workers, Native Americans, and Women**, it's important to have a diverse and comprehensive reading list. These readings should cover the long struggle for civil rights across various marginalized groups, and how social, political, and economic factors influenced their quests for justice, equality, and representation.

1. Core Textbooks for A-Level

- **"Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992" by David L. Wood**
A focused and accessible textbook designed specifically for A-Level students, providing an overview of key events and themes regarding civil rights for African Americans, women, Native Americans, and workers.
- **"The Civil Rights Movement" by Bruce J. Dierenfield**
A thorough exploration of the African American civil rights struggle, but also touches on issues regarding women's rights and labor movements, with a focus on major milestones such as Brown v. Board, the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act.
- **"America: A Narrative History" by David E. Shi and George Brown Tindall**
While not entirely focused on civil rights, this book provides a solid framework for understanding U.S. history, including the struggles of African Americans, women, Native Americans, and workers in the 19th and 20th centuries.

2. Key Academic Books

- **"The Struggle for Black Equality" by Harvard Sitkoff**
This book traces the civil rights struggle of African Americans from the Reconstruction period through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, exploring the major figures, events, and policies that shaped racial equality.
- **"The Women, Gender and Sexuality in American History: A Reader" edited by Linda Kerber, Jane Sherron De Hart, and Christine Stansell**
A compilation of key essays and primary sources that explore the role of women in the struggle for civil rights in the USA, from suffrage to the women's liberation movement in the 1960s and 1970s.
- **"Labor's Untold Story" by Richard O. Boyer and Herbert M. Morais**
A critical examination of the history of American labor movements, this book provides essential insights into the role of trade unions and workers in shaping civil rights, particularly in the early 20th century.
- **"American Indian History: A Documentary Reader" edited by Nancy Shoemaker**
This reader includes key documents that highlight the struggles and resilience of Native Americans from the post-Civil War period to the modern civil rights era, touching on forced relocation, reservations, and the eventual rise of Native American activism.

3. Primary Source Collections

- **"Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History" edited by Eric Foner**
A key resource for primary source documents covering the African American civil rights movement, women's rights, Native American struggles, and labor movements, including speeches, letters, and acts of legislation.
- **"A People's History of the United States" by Howard Zinn**
This landmark work offers an alternative view of American history, focusing on the experiences of marginalized groups, including African Americans, women, Native Americans, and working-class Americans.
- **"Women, Race, & Class" by Angela Y. Davis**
A powerful work that examines the intersections of race, gender, and class within the women's suffrage and civil rights movements, providing a comprehensive analysis of women's struggles for equality.

4. Biographies of Key Figures

- **"The Autobiography of Malcolm X" as told to Alex Haley**
The personal account of one of the most important figures in the African American civil rights movement, offering insights into Malcolm X's transformation, his thoughts on race, and his influence on the Black Power movement.
- **"Rosa Parks: My Story" by Rosa Parks and Jim Haskins**
Rosa Parks' own account of her pivotal role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott and her lifelong commitment to civil rights for African Americans, especially in the context of racial segregation.
- **"The Life and Times of Joe Hill" by Philip S. Foner**
A biography of the labor leader and songwriter Joe Hill, who was associated with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), showing the connections between labor rights and civil rights struggles.
- **"Elizabeth Cady Stanton: An American Life" by Lori D. Ginzberg**
A biography of one of the leading suffragists in the United States, providing a detailed look at her life and role in the women's rights movement.
- **"W. E. B. Du Bois: The Fight for Equality and the American Century" by David Levering Lewis**
This two-volume biography provides a deep dive into the life of Du Bois, the influential scholar and civil rights leader who fought for African American equality, making significant contributions to the civil rights movement and Pan-Africanism.

5. Books on African Americans' Struggle for Civil Rights

- **"The Souls of Black Folk" by W.E.B. Du Bois**
A foundational text in African American thought, this work by Du Bois examines the psychological and social challenges faced by African Americans, proposing solutions for racial equality and upliftment.
- **"Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave" by Frederick Douglass**
Douglass' autobiography is an essential work for understanding the experiences of slavery and the fight for emancipation, as well as the broader struggle for African American civil rights.
- **"The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement: Black Communities Organizing for Change" by Aldon D. Morris**
This influential work explores the grassroots origins of the Civil Rights Movement, showing how local African American communities mobilized for change, especially in the South.

6. Books on Native American Rights

- **"Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" by Dee Brown**
A poignant history of the Native American experience, this book recounts the brutal treatment of Native Americans, particularly through the late 19th century, and the struggles that led to the American Indian Movement in the 1960s and 1970s.
- **"The American Indian Movement: A Brief History" by K. Tsianina Lomawaima and Teresa L. McCarty**
This work focuses on the rise of Native American activism and the creation of the American Indian Movement (AIM), which fought for civil rights and justice for Native Americans in the 1960s and 1970s.
- **"Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World" by Jack Weatherford**
While not a direct civil rights history, this book explores the significant contributions of Native Americans to American culture and society, challenging historical narratives that have marginalized Native American voices.

7. Books on Women's Rights

- **"The Feminine Mystique" by Betty Friedan**
This groundbreaking book from 1963 sparked the second-wave feminist movement by critiquing the narrow roles women were expected to fill in mid-20th-century American society and advocating for greater rights and opportunities.
- **"The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory" edited by Linda Nicholson**
A collection of critical essays examining the second wave of feminism, this book looks at the theoretical and practical challenges faced by women in the 1960s and 1970s as they fought for legal and social equality.
- **"Gender and American History" by Joan Wallach Scott**
This academic work delves into the intersection of gender, race, and class in American history, exploring the ways in which women, particularly women of color, have fought for civil rights throughout U.S. history.

8. Books on Trade Unions and Workers' Rights

- **"The Labor Wars: A History of the American Industrial Workers of the World" by Philip S. Foner**
A detailed account of the IWW and its role in the labor movement, this book looks at how industrial workers, including many immigrants and African Americans, fought for better wages and working conditions.
- **"The History of the American Federation of Labor" by Selig Perlman**
This book provides a historical overview of one of the most significant labor unions in U.S. history, detailing its influence on workers' rights and its contributions to the broader civil rights movement.
- **"The Working Class in American History" by Herbert G. Gutman**
A key work in understanding the relationship between the labor movement and civil rights, Gutman explores the role of workers in shaping U.S. society and the ways in which labor rights intersected with African American civil rights struggles.

9. Documentaries and Films

- **"Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years 1954-1965" (PBS Documentary Series)**
A must-watch documentary series that provides a detailed overview of the Civil Rights Movement, from the Montgomery Bus Boycott to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- **"The March" (PBS Documentary)**
This documentary explores the March on Washington in 1963, a pivotal event in the Civil Rights Movement, highlighting its impact on African American civil rights.
- **"Rising Up: The American Indian Movement" (Documentary)**
This documentary chronicles the history of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and its role in advocating for Native American rights in the late 20th century.

Topic based essay (Coursework)

Coursework focus- America's withdrawal from Vietnam.

1. Core Books on the Vietnam War and U.S. Withdrawal

- **"The Vietnam War: An Intimate History" by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns**
This book provides an accessible, yet thorough, account of the Vietnam War, offering insights into the political and military dynamics that led to the U.S. withdrawal, and the impact of the war on American society.
- **"A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam" by Neil Sheehan**
A Pulitzer Prize-winning book that examines the complexities of the U.S. involvement in Vietnam through the life of John Paul Vann, a key military figure. It offers valuable context for understanding why the war became untenable for America.
- **"America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975" by George C. Herring**
A comprehensive academic analysis of the Vietnam War that covers the entire conflict, with a particular focus on U.S. decision-making and the growing reasons for withdrawal. The book looks at military, diplomatic, and political failures.
- **"The End of the Vietnam War: A History of the U.S. Withdrawal" by Michael J. P. Robson**
This book focuses specifically on the factors that led to the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam, examining military strategy, the role of public opinion, and the political pressures in Washington.
- **"The Vietnam War: A History in Documents" edited by David L. Anderson and John Ernst**
A collection of primary documents that includes key speeches, diplomatic exchanges, and internal U.S. government reports, offering students direct access to the political discussions about withdrawal.

2. Books Focused on U.S. Politics and Public Opinion

- **"The Best and the Brightest" by David Halberstam**
A critical analysis of the U.S. decision-making process during the Vietnam War. Halberstam explores the role of the political elite in escalating the war, showing how miscalculations led to failure and eventually withdrawal.
- **"The Pentagon Papers" (edited by Neil Sheehan)**
The declassified documents detailing the U.S. government's internal assessments of the Vietnam War. These papers reveal the growing doubts within the U.S. administration about the viability of continued involvement in Vietnam.
- **"The Vietnam Syndrome: A History of U.S. Nationalism and the Vietnam War" by Andrew J. Rotter**
This book examines the psychological and ideological impact of the war on American foreign policy, particularly focusing on how the trauma of the Vietnam War influenced future U.S. engagement in global conflicts.
- **"The War on the Other Front: The Politics of the Vietnam War, 1969-1975" by James L. Gormly**
This book delves into the domestic political aspects of the war, including the rise of anti-war sentiment, protests, and how public opinion led to political pressure for U.S. withdrawal.

3. Books on U.S. Military Strategy and Strategy Failures

- **"Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam" by H.R. McMaster**
McMaster critically examines the leadership failures that led to the escalation of the war, particularly focusing on the decisions made by President Lyndon B. Johnson and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. This work helps explain why the war became increasingly unsustainable.
- **"Why the U.S. Lost the Vietnam War" by David Hunt**
A military perspective on the reasons behind America's defeat in Vietnam. Hunt discusses both strategic mistakes and the difficulties of fighting a guerrilla war in a foreign country, as well as the limits of American military power.
- **"Vietnam: A History" by Stanley Karnow**
A well-regarded, balanced history of the Vietnam War that covers both the American and Vietnamese

perspectives. Karnow's analysis helps explain why U.S. military strategy failed, and the factors leading to withdrawal.

- **"Lessons in Disaster: McGeorge Bundy and the Path to War in Vietnam" by Gordon M. Goldstein**
This book focuses on the role of McGeorge Bundy, National Security Advisor to President Kennedy, and the failure to recognize the potential consequences of deeper U.S. involvement, ultimately leading to the inability to exit the war successfully.

4. Books on International Factors and the Role of Diplomacy

- **"Vietnam and the United States: The Diplomatic Perspective" by Edward Miller**
This book looks at the diplomatic decisions that shaped the U.S. approach to the war, offering a broader international context that includes discussions about the eventual peace talks and negotiations that led to withdrawal.
- **"The U.S. and the Vietnam War: A Documentary History" by William Appleman Williams**
A compilation of primary documents and commentary on U.S. foreign policy regarding Vietnam, including early justifications for involvement and the later strategies leading to withdrawal.
- **"The Vietnam War and the United States: A Global History" by Mark Philip Bradley**
This text looks at the Vietnam War in the context of the Cold War and global geopolitics. It analyzes how international pressure and the shifting global balance of power impacted the U.S. decision to withdraw.

5. Books on Anti-War Movements and Public Sentiment

- **"The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage" by Todd Gitlin**
A cultural history that examines the anti-Vietnam War movement in the 1960s and 1970s. Gitlin explores how protests, demonstrations, and public dissent played a key role in influencing U.S. withdrawal.
- **"The Antiwar Movement" by Andrew E. Hunt**
This book explores the rise of the antiwar movement in the U.S., detailing how public opposition to the Vietnam War intensified and pushed politicians to take action to end American involvement.
- **"Protest: The History of Social Movements in America" by Francis Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward**
A broad look at the role of social movements in shaping American politics, including detailed sections on how the anti-Vietnam War movement grew and influenced U.S. policy.
- **"No Peace, No Honor: Nixon, Kissinger, and Betrayal in Vietnam" by Larry Berman**
This book provides an analysis of the political machinations that led to the end of U.S. involvement in Vietnam, particularly focusing on the role of President Richard Nixon and National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger in negotiating a peace agreement.

6. Primary Sources

- **"The Pentagon Papers: The Secret History of the Vietnam War"**
The released Pentagon Papers are essential for understanding the internal debates and dissent within the U.S. government during the Vietnam War. These documents highlight the growing realization that the war was unwinnable, influencing the eventual decision to withdraw.
- **"The Nixon Tapes: 1971-1972"**
This collection of transcripts from Nixon's secret recordings offers an intimate view of Nixon's thoughts and discussions on the Vietnam War, particularly his strategy for "Vietnamization" and the peace negotiations with North Vietnam.
- **"The Paris Peace Accords: Ending the Vietnam War" (Primary Source Collection)**
These documents focus on the peace negotiations in Paris, culminating in the 1973 ceasefire and U.S. withdrawal. Understanding these primary sources is crucial to comprehending the formal end to U.S. involvement.

7. Documentaries and Films

- **"The Vietnam War" (PBS Documentary Series by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick)**
This comprehensive and well-regarded documentary series provides an in-depth look at the war, including U.S. withdrawal, featuring interviews, archival footage, and expert analysis.

- **"Hearts and Minds" (1974 Documentary)**
A powerful documentary that critiques U.S. involvement in Vietnam, focusing on the impact of the war on both the Vietnamese people and American soldiers, and the growing disillusionment that led to the eventual withdrawal.
- **"The Fog of War" (2003 Documentary)**
While not strictly about Vietnam, this documentary about Robert S. McNamara, former Secretary of Defense during the Vietnam War, offers valuable insights into U.S. decision-making and the failure to understand the limits of military power.