

Democracy Library Suggested Reading for an Educated Citizenry

As part of the Public Radio Collaboration *Whose Democracy Is It?*, *Talk of the Nation* has assembled a "library of democracy," compiled from suggestions from both guests and listeners. Browse our reading list:

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Politics

- *Lincoln on Democracy*, an anthology
-- suggested by former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo
- *All The King's Men*, by Robert Penn Warren
-- suggested by Marcus Rosenbaum, NPR's "Librarian of Democracy"
- *The Prince*, by Machiavelli
-- suggested by Christina Neitz in Minneapolis, Minn.
- *Democracy in America*, by Alexis De Tocqueville
-- suggested by Dennis Finn in Pullman, Wash.
- *Why We Can't Wait*, by Martin Luther King Jr.
-- suggested by Christopher Carpenter in Tokyo, Japan
- *The Courage of Their Convictions*, by Peter Irons
-- suggested by Jeff Steinmetz in Charlotte, N.C.
- *Second Treatise of Government*, by John Locke
-- suggested by Derek Prater in Kansas City, Mo.
- *The Future of Freedom*, by Fareed Zakaria
-- suggested by Nanci Dickinson, Portland, Ore., and Jim Booth in Lansing, Mich.
- *Why Americans Still Don't Vote*, by Frances Fox Piven
-- suggested by Richard Hervey in Corvallis, Ore.
- *The Rights of Man*, by Thomas Paine
-- suggested anonymously
- *Benjamin Franklin : An American Life*, by Walter Isaacson
-- suggested by Doug Dorr
- *Pericles Of Athens And The Birth Of Democracy*, by Donald Kagan

</news/specials/democracy/index.html>">Whose Democracy Is It?

A Public Radio Collaboration

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[democracy-related stories on npr](#)

[online discussion](#)

- suggested by David Johanson of St. Paul, Minn.
- *On Liberty*, by John Stuart Mill
-- suggested by Marcia Calvin in Connecticut
- *Profiles In Courage*, by John F. Kennedy
-- suggested by Dave Crawford in Flagstaff, Ariz., and Deborah Lepper in Jacksonville, Fla.
- *Equality*, by Henry Alonzo Myers
-- suggested by Ralph in Birmingham, Mich.
- *The Social Contract*, by Jean Jacques Rousseau
-- suggested by Dennis Geivett
- *Contingency, Irony and Solidarity*, by Richard Rorty
-- suggested by Dale Schellenger in Denver, Colo.
- *Parliament of Whores*, by P.J. O'Rourke
-- suggested by Don Downs in Englewood, Fla.
- *Civil Disobedience*, by Henry David Thoreau
-- suggested by David Lindberg in Wilmington, N.C.
- *Self-Reliance and other Essays*, by Ralph Waldo Emerson
-- suggested anonymously
- *The Communist Manifesto*, by Karl Marx
-- suggested by Joseph Biskup in San Jose, Calif.
- *The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, the Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics*, by Dan T. Carter
-- suggested by Ruthanne Joy Greenwood in Balboa Island, Calif.
- *Nickel and Dimed: On Not Getting by in America*, by Barbara Ehrenreich; *What is To Be Done?* by V.I. Lenin; *Strategy and Tactics* by Leon Trotsky
-- suggested by Hannah Humphrey
- *Manufacturing Consent*, by Noam Chomsky
-- suggested by Francis W. Reuteran
- *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, by George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
-- suggested by Joshua M. Hill
- *Deterring Democracy*, by Noam Chomsky
-- suggested by Erik in West Linn, Ore.
- *Wealth of Nations*, by Adam Smith; *Philosophical and Economic Manuscripts of 1844*, by Karl Marx; *Das Kapital*, by Karl Marx
-- suggested by Doug Ryan in Phoenix, Ariz.

- *The Promise of Politics*, by Henry Kariel
-- suggested by Harry Styron in Walnut Creek, Calif.
- *Friendly Fascism: The New Face of Power in America*, by Bertram Gross
-- suggested by Mike in Ellensburg, Wash.
- *The Law*, by Frederic Bastiat
-- suggested by Herb Cunningham in Raleigh, N.C.
- *America: Who Stole the Dream?*, by Donald J. Barlett and James B. Steele
-- suggested by Elizabeth Duncan in Boise, Idaho
- *Citizenship Papers*, by Wendell Berry
-- suggested anonymously
- *Take Back Your Government: A Practical Handbook for the Private Citizen*, by Robert Heinlein and Jerry Pournelle
-- suggested by Donald Carpenter
- *Memoirs of A Revolutionist*, by Peter Kropotkin
-- suggested by Baubak Gandomi in Paris, France
- *Advise and Consent*, by Allen Drury
-- suggested anonymously
- *Taking Rights Seriously*, by Ronald Dworkin
-- suggested by Randall Smith in Portland, Ore.
- *Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered*, by E. F. Schumacher
-- suggested anonymously
- *A Theory of Justice*, by John Rawls
-- suggested anonymously
- *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, by Robert Nozick
-- suggested anonymously
- *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, by James C. Scott
-- suggested anonymously
- *Community and the Politics of Place*, by Daniel Kemmis
-- suggested anonymously
- *Capitalism and Development in Latin America*, by Andre Gunder Frank
-- suggested anonymously
- Cicero's Orations
-- suggested anonymously
- *The Wretched of the Earth*, by Frantz Fanon; *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, by Paulo Freire

-- suggested by Lorna Gonsalves in Ohio

- *Dialectic of Freedom*, by Maxine Greene; *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences*, by Jacques Derrida

-- suggested by Joshua in Portland, Ore.

- *Condition of Postmodernity*, by David Harvey

-- suggested anonymously

- *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*, by Karl Polanyi

-- suggested by Sean Mitchell McDonald in Asheville, N.C.

- *Leviathan*, by Thomas Hobbes

-- suggested by Eric Smith

- *Models of Democracy*, by David Held; *Democracy and Disagreement*, by Amy Gutmann and Dennis Thompson

-- suggested by Randall Curren

Literature

- *Animal Farm* and *1984*, both by George Orwell; *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley; *We*, by Yevgeny Zamyatin; *Crazed*, by Ha Jin

-- suggested by Boston University English professor and National Book Award winner Ha Jin

- *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, by Carson McCullers

-- suggested by Kellie Lockwood in Florence, Ind.

- *Leaves of Grass*, by Walt Whitman; *The Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison

-- suggested by Christopher Carpenter in Tokyo, Japan

- *Anthem* and *We the Living*, both by Ayn Rand

-- suggested by Alex in Nashville, Tenn.

- *Lord of the Flies*, by William Gerald Golding

-- suggested by Erin Merritt

- *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck

-- suggested by Al Magary in San Francisco

- *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress*, by Robert A. Heinlein

-- suggested by Margaret Middleton in Little Rock, Ark.

- *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury

-- suggested by Cheryl Kasson in Denver, Colo.

- *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee

-- suggested by Richard Oba, Nina Shaw

- *The Dispossessed*, by Ursula K. LeGuin

-- suggested by Eric Skalwold in Ithaca, N.Y.

- *How To Be Alone*, by Jonathan Franzen; *The Art of Happiness: A Handbook for Living*, by the Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler; *Siddhartha*, by Herman Hesse
-- suggested by Roy Mathew
- *Oliver Wiswell*, by Kenneth Lewis Roberts
-- suggested by Frank Gill
- *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller
-- suggested by Jill Dains
- *An Enemy of the People*, by Henrik Ibsen
-- suggested by Patrick Fimbres in Tucson, Ariz., and Ted Eliason in Denver, Colo.
- *The Trial* by Franz Kafka
-- suggested by Chris Sherman in Hermiston, Ore.
- *Antigone*, by Jean Anouilh; *Cry the Beloved Country*, by Alan Peyton
-- suggested by Benita Campbell in Littleton, Colo.
- *The Sheep Look Up*, by John Brunner
-- suggested by Hal Harkrader
- *Fire on the Mountain*, by Terry Bisson
-- suggested by Todd Ellner in Portland, Ore.
- *What's It All About, Charlie Brown?*, by Jeffrey H. Loria
-- suggested by Todd Ellner in Victor, Idaho
- *Transmetropolitan*, by Warren Ellis
-- suggested by David Jowers
- *Catch 22*, by Joseph Heller
-- suggested by Debi Pavlou
- *Watership Down*, by Richard Adams
-- suggested by Melodie Rayburn in Kansas City, Mo.
- *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, by Lewis Carroll
-- suggested by Suzanne Brick
- *Unintended Consequences*, by John Ross
-- suggested by Sharon O. Warner in Orem, Utah
- *Pere Goriot*, by Balzac
-- suggested by Deborah Seymour
- *Freedom*, by William Safire
-- suggested by Robert G. Brown in Portage, MI
- *Germinal*, by Emile Zola
-- suggested by Anne Woods

- *Desiderata* by Max Ehrmann
-- suggested by Dave Stone in Erie, Colo.
- *A Man for All Seasons*, by Robert Bolt -- suggested by Seth Hopkins
- *The Adventures of Augie March*, by Saul Bellow; *Moby Dick*, by Herman Melville; *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne; *American Pastoral*, by Philip Roth
-- suggested by Jeff Cieszkowski
- *The Gilded Age*, by Mark Twain
-- suggested by Ed Cable in Denver, Colo.
- *Drop City*, by T.C. Boyle
-- suggested by Mark Pontini in Michigan
- *Starship Troopers*, by Robert Heinlein
-- suggested anonymously
- *Darkness at Noon*, by Arthur Koestler
-- suggested anonymously
- *Travels with Charley*, by John Steinbeck
-- suggested anonymously
- *Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain
-- suggested anonymously
- *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
-- suggested anonymously
- *Lysistrata*, by Aristophanes
-- suggested anonymously

Children's Literature

- *Frog and Toad Are Friends*, by Arnold Lobel; *Amos and Boris*, by William Steig; *Molly's Pilgrim*, by Barbara Cohen; *The Arabolies of Liberty Street*, by Sam Swope; *This Land is Your Land*, by Woodie Guthrie; *Two Eggs, Please*, by Sarah Weeks
-- suggested by Eden Lipson, *New York Times* children's book editor
- *Yertle the Turtle*, by Dr. Seuss
-- suggested by Jen Wickman of Durham, N.C.
- *Johnny Tremain*
-- suggested by Anne Skenzich
- *A History of US* in 10 volumes, by Joy Hakim
-- suggested anonymously

- *The Boxcar Children*, by Gertrude Chandler Warner
-- suggested by Jo Rabaduex
- *Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story*, by Ken Mochizuki
-- suggested by Eric Engdahl in San Rafael, Calif.
- *A Wrinkle In Time*, by Madelene L'Engle
-- suggested by Greg Mitchell in Raleigh, N.C.
- *The 500 Hats of Bartholemew Cubbins*, by Dr. Seuss
-- suggested by Chris Coffin
- *The Giving Tree*, by Shel Silverstein
-- suggested by Deborah Seymour
- *Iggie's House*, by Judy Blume
-- suggested anonymously
- *Pink and Say*, by Patricia Polocco
-- suggested by Mariam Fleming
- *The Once and Future King*, by T.H. White
-- suggested anonymously
- *Busytown*, by Richard Scarry
-- suggested anonymously
- *Gordon the Goad*, by Munro Leaf
-- suggested anonymously
- *Fish is Fish*, by Leo Lionni
-- suggested anonymously
- *Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam*, by Walter Dean Myers
-- suggested anonymously

History

- *Battle Cry of Freedom*, by James M. McPherson; *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, by Joseph J. Ellis
-- suggested by Marcus Rosenbaum, NPR's "Librarian of Democracy"
- *Democracy Ancient and Modern*, by Moses I. Finley; *American Slavery, American Freedom*, by Edmund S. Morgan
-- suggested by Orlando Patterson, Harvard University sociologist
- *A People's History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn
-- suggested by Richard Hervey in Corvallis, Ore.
- *Gideon's Trumpet*, by Anthony Lewis
-- suggested by Kevin Hawkins

- *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: A Short, Illustrated History of Labor in the United States*, by Priscilla Murolo
-- suggested anonymously
- *Lion and the Throne: The Life and Times of Sir Edward Coke*, by Catherine Drinker Bowen
-- suggested by Ned Budlong
- *In Search of History*, by Theodore H. White
-- suggested by Dennis Geivet
- *McCarthyism: The Great American Red Scare*, by Albert Freid
-- suggested by Phil Houle in Traverse City, Mich.
- *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, by Jared Diamond
-- suggested by Nina Shaw
- *Democracy: The God That Failed*, by Hans-Hermann Hoppe
-- suggested by John Jascob in Newmarket, N.H.
- *The Education of Henry Adams*, by Henry Adams
-- suggested by Anita Morse in Notre Dame, Ind.
- *Chasing the Red, White, and Blue*, by David Cohen
-- suggested by Charles L. Baker in Louisville, Ky.
- *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*, by Kermit L. Hall
-- suggested by David Saldivar
- *Revolutionary Suicide*, by Huey Newton
-- suggested anonymously
- *A Different Mirror*, by Ronald Takaki
-- suggested by Karen Vidlock in St. Paul, Minn.
- *Lincoln*, by David Herbert Donald
-- suggested anonymously
- *The Story of American Freedom*, by Eric Foner; *Class, Race, and the Civil Rights Movement*, by Jack Bloom; *Grassroots Socialism: Radical Movements in the Southwest 1895-1943*, by James R. Green; *European Social Democracy and American Imperialism*, by Leo Panitch
-- suggested by Hannah Humphrey
- *The Making of the President, 1960*, by Theodore H. White
-- suggested anonymously
- *Don't Know Much About History: Everything You Need to Know About American History but Never Learned*, by Kenneth C. Davis

- suggested by Chris Sherman in Hermiston, Ore.
- *The Populist Moment: A Short History of the Agrarian Revolt in America*, by Lawrence Goodwyn
-- suggested by Mike Ellensburg, Wash.
- *Wealth and Democracy: A Political History of the American Rich*, by Kevin Phillips
-- suggested anonymously
- *The First Casualty: The War Correspondent as Hero and Myth-Maker from Crimea to Kosovo*, by Phillip Knightley
-- suggested by Bora Zivkovic in Raleigh, N.C.
- *American Soul: Rediscovering the Wisdom of the Founders*, by Jacob Needleman
-- suggested by Nick Schommer in Minneapolis, Minn.
- *When the Tree Flowered: The Story of Eagle Voice, a Sioux Indian*, by John Neihardt; *Black Elk Speaks*, by Nicholas Black Elk as told to John Neihardt
-- suggested by Michael Hoenig in Kansas City, Mo.
- *The Constitution of Athens*
-- suggested by Patricia Lawrence in Baton Rouge, La.
- *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*, by Edmund Morris; *Watergate: The Presidential Scandal That Shook America*, by Keith W. Olson
-- suggested by Barbara Parr in Norman, Okla.
- *Black Reconstruction in America*, by W.E.B. DuBois
-- suggested by Josie Johnson
- *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*
-- suggested by Linda in Wiesbaden, Germany
- *The Annals for America*, published by Encyclopedia Britannica
-- suggested by Luke in Portland, Ore.
- *Wide as the Waters*, by Benson Bobrick
-- suggested by Kevin Hardy in Tallahassee, Fla.
- *Arguing About Slavery*, by William Lee Miller
-- suggested by David Levin in Linville, N.C.
- *Up From Slavery*, by Booker T. Washington
-- suggested anonymously
- *Concerning the League: The Iroquois League Tradition As Dictated in Onondaga (Algonquian and Iroquoian Linguistics, Memoir 9)*, by John Arthur Gibson
-- suggested anonymously

- *The History and Culture of Iroquois Diplomacy*, by Francis Jennings
-- suggested anonymously

Science

- *Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution*, by Howard Reingold
-- suggested by Ray Kurzweil, inventor, futurist and author of *The Age of Spiritual Machines*
- *The Future of Ideas: The Fate of the Commons in a Connected World*, by Lawrence Lessig
-- suggested by Ray Kurzweil
- *Remaking Eden: How Genetic Engineering and Cloning Will Transform the American Family*, by Lee M. Silver
-- suggested by Jack Zenteno in Reno, Nev.
- *The Origin of Species*, by Charles Darwin
-- suggested anonymously
- *Cybernetics and Society: The Human Use of Human Beings*, by Norbert Wiener
-- suggested anonymously

Miscellaneous

- *The Bible*
-- suggested by Ralph Stern in Denver, Colo.
- *The Prophet*, by Kahlil Gibran
-- suggested by William Slattery
- *Beyond Good and Evil*, by Friedrich Nietzsche
-- suggested by Patrick Fimbres in Tucson, Ariz.
- *Ten Theories of Human Nature*, by Leslie Stevenson and David L. Haberman
-- suggested by Deborah Lepper in Jacksonville, Fla.
- *Money and the Meaning of Life*, by Jacob Needleman
-- suggested by Nick Schommer in Minneapolis, Minn.
- *Rules of Civility*, by George Washington
-- suggested by Joanne Bock
- *Hope*, by L. Neil Smith and Aaron S. Zelman
-- suggested by Sharon O. Warner in Orem, Utah