**Resources on Jews and Race**

*Compiled by Rabbi Danielle Stillman at Middlebury College*

Here are a few resources that may be helpful/educational as we all recommit ourselves to tackling systemic racism in America and our roles in it, particularly as Jews and (many of us) as Ashkenazi Jews who identify as white or benefit from white privilege. There are so many great resources like this being offered all the time on Social Media and elsewhere, and we will not try to duplicate them here. Thank you to Janae Due, the assistant director of the AFC, who shared this [link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRlF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VlBO-QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/mobilebasic) with many great educational resources. Please check them out! The resources we’ve compiled here speak more specifically to a Jewish identity lens.

With so many of us home this summer, jobs or internships cancelled—this is a great opportunity to learn and to listen.

**First, some helpful texts for this moment**

“You are not obligated to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.”

Pirkei Avot 2:21

Whoever is able to protest against the transgressions of his own family and does not do so is punished [liable, held responsible] for the transgressions of his family. Whoever is able to protest against the transgressions of the people of his community and does not do so is punished for the transgressions of his community. Whoever is able to protest against the transgressions of the entire world and does not do so is punished for the transgressions of the entire world.

-Babylonian Talmud Shabbat 54b

**Some things to listen to and read**

Members of Whose Tribe? From Code Switch

<https://www.npr.org/2018/04/18/602678381/members-of-whose-tribe>

Today, Americans tend to think of Jewish people as white folks, but it wasn't always that way. On this episode, we dig into the complex role Jewish identity has played in America's racial story — especially now, when anti-Semitism is on the rise.

[Article](https://www.heyalma.com/what-non-black-jews-can-do-to-combat-anti-black-racism/?fbclid=IwAR2JYn9uYKpQCl1XeERtcH1faJobG_Y-pdagxtbf706OhO8iCxi9BiBl8vY) from a white Jewish woman who just graduated college on what it feels like to enter antiracist work; “Alma” also has other relevant articles.

A Book:

How Did Jews Become White Folks & What That Says About Race in America, by Karen Brodkin Sacks

Or a [summary article](https://nelsonssociology101.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/1/6/26165328/jews.pdf) by the same author

**Organizations offering educational resources and organizing actions and advocacy**

*The Religious Action Center*, <https://rac.org/>

Lot’s of campaigns and actions here, as well as a list of resources primarily addressing how Ashkenazi Jews can become more aware of the experience of Jews of Color within Jewish communities, and some great resources for understanding whiteness

<https://rac.org/resources-embracing-racial-diversity-our-jewish-communities>

*Jews for Racial and Economic Justice*

<https://www.jfrej.org/>

Based in NYC, organizing on a variety of issues facing minority and low-income communities, including antisemitism. Great educational resources as well.