

Delve Deeper into *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs*

A film by Grace Lee

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Robert Surratt of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs*.

American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs

Grace Lee Boggs, 98, is a Chinese American philosopher, writer, and activist in Detroit with a thick FBI file and a surprising vision of what an American revolution can be. Rooted for 75 years in the labor, civil rights and Black Power movements, she challenges a new generation to throw off old assumptions, think creatively and redefine revolution for our times. Winner, Audience Award, Best Documentary Feature, 2013 Los Angeles Film Festival. A co-presentation with the Center for Asian American Media.

BOOKS BY GRACE LEE BOGGS

Boggs, Grace Lee. *Living For Change: An Autobiography*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998. A sweeping account of the life of an untraditional radical from the end of the thirties, through the cold war, the civil rights era, and the rise of Black Power, the Nation of Islam, and the Black Panthers to the present efforts to rebuild our crumbling urban communities. This fascinating autobiography traces the story of a woman who transcended class and racial boundaries to pursue her passionate belief in a better society.

Boggs, Grace Lee.; Kurashige, Scott. *The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012. A world dominated by America

and driven by cheap oil, easy credit, and conspicuous consumption is unraveling before our eyes. In this powerful, deeply humanistic book, Grace Lee Boggs, a legendary figure in the struggle for justice in America, shrewdly assesses the current crisis—political, economical, and environmental—and shows how to create the radical social change we need to confront new realities.

James, C.L.R., Grace C. Lee and Cornelius Castoriadis. *Facing Reality*.

Correspondence Publishing Company, 1958.

Writers, philosophers and activists C.L.R. James and Grace Lee Boggs delve into the process behind the creation of a social revolution in the modern world.

Boggs, James and Grace Lee Boggs. *Revolution and Evolution in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1974.

This title takes an in-depth look into the principal lessons of the world's revolutions past and present, and draws comparisons between past global struggles, and the struggles facing America in the 1970s. Combining the principles of Marxism, Leninism, Maoism and others, this title is a great introduction to Grace Lee Boggs's philosophy.

Boggs, Grace Lee. *Women and the Movement to Build a New America*. Detroit: National Organization for an American Revolution, 1977.

Boggs describes a need for a reorientation of American society's views on women and gender, and stresses the need for gender equality to achieve class and racial equality.

Boggs, Grace Lee and James Boggs. *Conversations in Maine: Exploring Our Nation's Future*.

Boston: South End Press, 1978. This book chronicles four seasoned activists as they discuss the challenges of

creating social change in the U.S. The discussion focuses on the realization of a collective vision and social organization through art, class analysis, philosophy and social strategy.

ADULT NON-FICTION

LeDuff, Charlie. *Detroit: An American Autopsy*. New York: Penguin Press, 2013. Back in his broken hometown, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Charlie LeDuff searches the ruins of Detroit for clues to his family's troubled past. Having led us on the way up, Detroit now seems to be leading us on the way down. Once the richest city in America, Detroit is now the nation's poorest. Once the vanguard of America's machine age—mass-production, blue-collar jobs, and automobiles—Detroit is now America's capital for unemployment, illiteracy, dropouts, and foreclosures.

Yung, Judy. *Chinese American Voices: From the Gold Rush to the Present*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.

This superb anthology, a diverse and illuminating collection of primary documents and stories by Chinese Americans, provides an intimate and textured history of the Chinese in America from their arrival during the California Gold Rush to the present. Among the documents are letters, speeches, testimonies, oral histories, personal memoirs, poems, essays, and folksongs; many have never been published before or have been translated into English for the first time.

Bambara, Tony Cade. *The Black Woman: An Anthology*. New York: Washington Square Press China, 2005.

First published in 1970, *The Black Woman* introduced readers to an astonishing new wave of voices that demanded to be heard. In this groundbreaking volume of original essays, poems, and stories, a chorus of outspoken women -- many who would



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become leaders in their fields: bestselling novelist Alice Walker, poets Audre Lorde and Nikki Giovanni, writer Paule Marshall, activist Grace Lee Boggs, and musician Abbey Lincoln among them.

Haley, Alex. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1965. This autobiography recounts the life of Malcolm X from his traumatic childhood plagued by racism to his years as a drug dealer, his conversion to the Black Muslim sect (Nation of Islam) while in prison for burglary, his subsequent years of militant activism, and the turn late in his life to more orthodox Islam.

Clayborne, Carson. *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr. New York: Intellectual Property Management, 1998.* A concise first-person account of MLK's life, this book documents his birth in Atlanta in 1929, to his awakening social consciousness and discovery of the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

Kedourie, Elie; Sylvia Kedourie, Helen Kedourie. *Hegel and Marx: Introductory Lectures*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 1995. Based on Elie Kedourie's celebrated lectures at the London School of Economics, this is a sparkling introduction to the often difficult, sometimes opaque writings of Hegel and Marx. With characteristic eloquence and clarity, Kedourie provides an authoritative exposition of the contributions made by these two thinkers shaping the foundations of contemporary political philosophy.

ADULT FICTION

Beatty, Paul. *The White Boy Shuffle: A Novel*. New York: Pickador, 1996. Paul Beatty's hilarious and scathing debut novel is about Gunnar Kaufman, an awkward, black surfer bum who is moved by his mother from Santa Monica to urban

West Los Angeles. There, he begins to undergo a startling transformation from neighborhood outcast to basketball superstar, and eventually to reluctant messiah of a "divided, downtrodden people."

Ford, Jamie. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2009. Henry Lee is a Chinese-American in Seattle who, in 1986, has just lost his wife to cancer. After Henry hears that the belongings of Japanese immigrants interned during WWII have been found in the basement of the Panama Hotel, the narrative shuttles between 1986 and the 1940s in an engaging story that chronicles the losses of old age and the bewilderment of youth.

Ellision, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. New York: Vintage International, 1952. The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be.

NON-FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Schlimm, John. *Stand Up!: 75 Young Activists Who Rock the World and How You Can, Too!* Orangevale, CA: Publishing Syndicate LLC, 2013. Young people have the unique power to change the world like no one else. This new anthology celebrates young people as activists and advocates who have let their voices and actions ROCK the causes and issues most important to them.

Lewis, John; Aydin, Andrew. *March: Book One*. Marietta, GA: Top Shelf Productions, 2013. A vivid first-hand account of John Lewis' lifelong struggle

for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis' personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement in graphic novel format.

Hasday, Judy L. *Women in the Civil Rights Movement (Finding a Voice: Women's Fight for Equality in U.S. Society)* Philadelphia: Mason Crest Publishers, 2013. Explore the role of women in the civil rights movement within the context of the larger changes in society including reconstruction, Jim Crow laws and school integration, ending with 1960s activism and successes.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Banks, Jacqueline Turner. *A Day for Vincent Chin and Me*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001. Japanese-American Tommy saves his sister's deaf friend from being hit by a speeding car. The incident spurs the boy and his friends to try and build a speed bump to deter further accidents. His quest coincides with a rally his mother is planning to fight racism.

Doctorow, Cory. *Homeland*. New York: TOR Teen, 2013. When Marcus, once called M1k3y, receives a thumb drive containing evidence of corporate and governmental treachery, his job, fame, family, and well-being, as well as his reform-minded employer's election campaign, are all endangered.

Gaarder, Jostein. *Sophie's World*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1991. When 14-year-old Sophie encounters a mysterious mentor who introduces her to philosophy, mysteries deepen in her own life. This title sets out to draw teenagers into the world of Socrates, Descartes, Spinoza, Hegel and all the great philosophers.

