



FOUNDATION
AGAINST
INTOLERANCE
& RACISM

Via E-Mail

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Director
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Dear Ms. Torsney and Mr. French:

We are writing to introduce you to the Montclair Chapter of The Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism (FAIR), which is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing civil rights and liberties, and promoting a common culture based on fairness, understanding, and our humanity. The chapter is committed to looking at difficult issues from multiple points of view, challenging each other's ideas, listening with open minds, and addressing social and political issues in a way that seeks common ground and fosters civility. We encourage free inquiry, open debate, and tolerance of diverse viewpoints.

To that end, attached is a list of books which we suggest for addition to the MPL collection. Generally speaking, these works present ideas that either support notions of free inquiry or present ideas that, in the context of opinions that predominate in Montclair, constitute heterodox or dissenting points of view. None of these books is presently available in MPL's collection, but the majority are carried by major publishing houses and are available in the libraries of other towns in the BCCLS network, and several are best-sellers.

In reviewing MPL's collection, it is our view that the library obviously has made efforts to include viewpoints that diverge from those most commonly held in town. Nonetheless, we believe MPL could and should expose Montclair citizens to a greater variety of ideas than those that are currently represented in its collection.



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The addition of these works would be consistent with the MPL's policy to "[s]upport intellectual freedom and promote the dissemination of a wide range of ideas and information representing a variety of viewpoints" and to "creat[e] an environment with a broad selection of timely materials that encourages customers to encounter the rich diversity of ideas on which our democratic society depends."¹

Adding these books also would be consistent with the recent announcements by the American Library Association and Association of American Publishers against book-banning, in which they affirmed their commitment to the June 1953 declaration that "[i]t is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous to the majority."² This anti-censorship initiative was endorsed by hundreds of authors, including Salman Rushdie. Addition of these books also would help address the criticism levied by the World Library Association that librarianship in the United States "has leaned toward the political left for decades" and abandoned principles of political neutrality.³

In addition, many of these authors would be suitable guests for the MPL's Open Book / Open Mind program, whose name suggests that it should present authors whose books represent heterodox ideas. We note that several authors of the books listed in the attachment are members of FAIR's board of directors or live in the New York City area. One work is by FAIR's Executive Director, Monica Harris, and another is by Montclair native Coleman Hughes. Please note also that many of these books do not necessarily represent the views of FAIR or its members but, instead, present ideas we believe are worthy of discussion.

¹ See MPL Materials Selection and Collection Development Policy, 2.B. & 2.C (15 July, 2019).

² See <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/hundreds-of-authors-including-salman-rushdie-cheryl-strayed-endorse-anti-censorship-initiative>.

³ <https://worldlibraryassociation.org/citizens-and-librarians/>.



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We invite you to check out FAIR at <https://www.fairforall.org/#what-we-stand-for> and <https://www.fairforall.org/montclair/>. Please write back to us at montclair@fairforall.org to engage further.

The Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism
Montclair Chapter

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The Montclair Public Library Foundation Board of Directors
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Watchung Booksellers

Political Repression, Freedom of Conscience & Free Speech

Apology and Crito, Plato (360 B.C.E.). An account of the trial and execution of Socrates, who was condemned to death for corrupting the youth of Athens and worshipping false gods rather than the state religion.

Truth and Politics, Hannah Arendt (1967). An essay by a famed political philosopher on the antithesis of truth and politics, asserting that factual truths become distorted or deemed mere opinions when they challenge convenient political narratives.

Living in Truth, Vaclav Havel (1990). How the political apparatus of communist Czechoslovakia exerted an omnipresent pressure on culture that turned ordinary citizens into dissidents.

The Crucible, Arthur Miller (1953). A dramatized story of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1692-1693, the play is an allegory for the McCarthyism of the 1950s when the U.S. persecuted people accused of being communists.

Infidel, Ayaan Hirsi Ali (2007). A champion of free speech fought for the rights of Muslim women and the reform of Islam as a member of the Dutch Parliament, facing constant threats and demonization by reactionary Islamists and politicians.

Free Speech on Campus, Erwin Chermerinsky & Howard Gillman (2017). Arguing that universities must provide an inclusive and non-discriminatory learning environment but can never restrict the expression of ideas.

Hate: Why We Should Restrict It With Free Speech, Not Censorship, Nadine Strossen (2018). The former president of the American Civil Liberties Union argues that suppressing hate speech usually violates the First Amendment, and free speech is more effective than censorship in promoting the values of equality, dignity, diversity and inclusivity.

A Heretic's Manifesto: Essays on the Unsayable, Brendan O'Neill (2023). A collection of essays makes the case for heresy in the face of elites that have adopted risible orthodoxies yet cow critics with the threat of shaming, cancellation, and even arrest.

The Canceling of the American Mind, Greg Lukianoff and Rikki Schott (2023). In an effort to restore the culture of free speech, the founder of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) provides the first book to codify cancel culture and survey its effects through hard data and research, as well as new examples showing how both the left and the right silence critics.

Critiques of Social Justice Ideology

Taboo: 10 Facts You Can't Talk About, Wilfred Reilly (2020). An Associate Professor at Kentucky State University uses empirical data to debunk what he says is the false narrative of continuing racism and sexism in the United States.

Cynical Theories: How Activist Scholarship Made Everything About Race, Gender and Identity, Helen Pluckrose & James Lindsay (2020). How activist Critical Social Justice scholarship does more harm than good by positing an inconsistent ethics and authoritarian orthodoxy.

The New Puritans: How the Religion of Social Justice Captured the Western World, Andrew Doyle (2022). A broadside against “woke” cancel culture and the moral certainties it shares with religious fundamentalism.

We Have Never Been Woke: Social Justice Discourse, Inequality and the Rise of a New Elite, Musa al-Gharbi (2023). A Columbia University sociologist argues that a new elite class of “symbolic capitalists” are the primary producers and consumers of content on antiracism, sexism, transphobia, and xenophobia but, despite their expressed commitments to egalitarianism, they are among the primary beneficiaries of the very inequalities they condemn, and expropriate blame to others who often benefit far less from the system than they do.

Woke Antisemitism: How a Progressive Ideology Harms Jews, David L. Bernstein (2022). In a defense of liberal values, Bernstein argues that “Wokeism” shuts down discourse and leads to antisemitism.

The Authoritarian Moment: How the Left Weaponized America's Institutions Against Dissent, Ben Shapiro (2021). A conservative polemicist argues that the authoritarian left is ascendant in nearly every area of American life, and has used its power to silence opposition, demand submission, and enforce conformity to their values.

The Madness of Crowds: Gender, Race and Identity, Douglas Murray (2019). A neoconservative writer and commentator investigates the dangers of “woke” culture and the rise of identity politics, with interludes on the Marxist foundations of “wokeness.”

The War on the West, Douglas Murray (2022). A neoconservative writer and commentator argues that many well-meaning people have been fooled by hypocritical and inconsistent rhetoric to support the current vogue of celebrating non-Western cultures and disparaging Western ones.

The Diversity Delusion: How Race and Gender Pandering Corrupt the University and Undermine Our Culture, Heather MacDonald (2018). MacDonald argues that toxic ideas first spread in higher education have undermined our humanistic values, fueled intolerance, and widened divisions in our culture.

Left is Not Woke, Susan Neiman (2023): An American moral philosopher argues that the woke left risks becoming what they despise because their intellectual roots conflict with ideas that have guided the left for more than 200 years: a commitment to universalism, a distinction between justice and power, and a belief in the possibility of progress.

America's Cultural Revolution: How the Radical Left Conquered Everything, Christopher F. Rufo (July 2023). Drawing parallels to the Chinese Cultural Revolution in which technocrats tried to impose cultural change from above and sent opponents to be "re-educated," Rufo's Amazon best-seller explains the history of how left-wing intellectuals and activists systematically took control of America's institutions and answers questions such as "Why is race the main thing America's rich, white elite wants to talk about?" and "Why is every major corporation bending the knee to a far-left agenda?"

Race Marxism, James Lindsay (2022). The founder of New Discourses traces the intellectual roots of Critical Race Theory to argue that, rightly understood, it is a reinvention of Marxism that substitutes race as the central construct for understanding inequality in place of economic class.

How Elites Ate the Social Justice Movement, Fredrik DeBoer (2023). A self-described Marxist argues that hidden beneath the rhetoric of the oppressed and the symbolism of the downtrodden lies the inconvenient fact that those doing the organizing, messaging, protesting, and campaigning are predominantly drawn from this country's more upwardly mobile educated classes for whom poses are more important than policies. DeBoer lays out an alternative vision for how society's winners can contribute to social justice movements without taking them over, in order to achieve tangible results.

The Parasitic Mind: How Infectious Ideas are Killing Common Sense, Gad Saad (2021). Canadian professor and host of popular youtube show "The Saad Truth" argues that the West's commitment to freedom, reason, and true liberalism has never been more seriously threatened than it is today by the stifling forces of political correctness.

Social Justice Fallacies, Thomas Sowell (2023). A professor at Stanford's Hoover Institution argues that those engaged in the quest for social justice adhere to a utopian view of the human condition and many propositions they take to be true simply cannot stand up to documented facts, which are often the opposite of what is widely believed.

The Identity Trap: A Story of Ideas and Power in Our Time, Yascha Mounk (2023). A Johns Hopkins University professor and founder of *Persuasion* offers a balanced and nuanced account of how a new set of ideas about race, gender and sexual orientation came to be extremely influential in mainstream institutions, and argues that it would be a mistake to give up on a more universalist humanism.

Mao's America: A Survivor's Warning, Xi Van Fleet (2023). A survivor of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution in China sees parallels in the American cultural revolution being undertaken by an illiberal progressive left.

Racial Politics

Maverick: A Biography of Thomas Sowell, Jason L. Riley (2021). A Black orphan from the Jim Crow South, Thomas Sowell is a Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution whose libertarian and conservative opinions on economics, education and race have enraged the civil rights establishment and much of the mainstream media.

The New York Times' 1619 Project and the Racialist Falsification of History (2021). A collection of essays, lectures and interviews of renowned scholars refute key claims and expose historical inaccuracies of the New York Times' 1619 Project.

The 1619 Project: A Critique, Phillip W. Mangess (2020). A series of essays document the historical inaccuracies and argumentative fallacies of the New York Times's best-selling 1619 Project.

The Lure of Disempowerment: Reclaiming Agency in the Age of CRT, Erec Smith & Matthew Abraham (2022). Arguing that the tendency in "anti-racist" activism to embrace victimhood and label opposing views as inherently racist leads to a disempowering mindset.

Black Victim to Black Victor: Identifying the Ideologies, Behavioral Patterns, and Culture Norms That Encourage a Victimhood Complex, Adam B. Coleman (2021). Author and founder of Wrong Speak Publishing argues that Black Americans are constantly lied to about the source of their community's issues in an effort to profit off their pain and make sure they never leave the mindset of the victim.

Race Crazy: BLM, 1619, and the Progressive Movement, Charles Love (2021). After decades of progress healing real-world prejudices and anger, we suddenly live in an America where we're expected to view every single thing through the lens of race, and embrace a radical and dangerous political agenda which, if enacted, would mean the end of the American experiment as we know it.

Red, White and Black: Rescuing American History from Revisionists and Race Hustlers, Robert L. Woodson (2021). In the rush to redefine the place of black Americans in contemporary society, many radical activists and academics have mounted a campaign to destroy traditional American history and replace it with a false politicized version that is belied by the story of how black Americans have lived the grand American experience and are woven into the united whole that makes this nation unique in history.

Letters in Black and White: A New Correspondence on Race in America, Jennifer Richmond, Winkfield Twyman Jr. (2023). Two Americans—a black man and a white woman—rediscovered the art of letter writing in a correspondence about race in the

United States that offers a model not only for having needed but difficult conversations but also for a better way forward that is critical of both the ideological battles that fuel media programming and entrench political rivalries and the noble-sounding social and cultural projects that fail time and again to offer meaningful solutions.

The End of Race Politics: Arguments for a Colorblind America, Coleman Hughes (2024). Montclair native and podcaster Coleman Hughes makes the case for a colorblind approach to politics and culture, warning that the so-called “anti-racist” movement is driving us, ironically, to a new kind of racism.

Transgender Issues

Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters, Abigail Shrier (2020). Shrier argues that the sudden, severe spike in transgender identification among adolescent girls in the 2010s is attributable to a social contagion among high-anxiety, depressive girls, for whom hormone replacement therapies and sex reassignment surgeries cause irreversible harm.

T: The Story of Testosterone, the Hormone that Dominates and Destroys Us, Carole Hooven (2021). Through science and anecdotes, a Harvard University professor shows how testosterone drives biological and behavioral differences between the sexes, but provides no support for restrictive gender norms or patriarchal values.

Time to Think: The Inside Story of the Collapse of the Tavistock’s Gender Service for Children, Hannah Barnes (2023): A British journalist traces the collapse of The Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS), based at the Tavistock and Portman Trust in North London, which referred more than a thousand children for medication to block their puberty, as the profile of patients changed from largely pre-pubescent boys to mostly adolescent girls who were often contending with other difficulties.

Material Girls: Why Reality Matters for Feminism, Kathleen Stock (2021). A British professor critiques the influential theory that we all have an inner feeling known as a gender identity that is more socially significant than our biological sex, making a clear, humane and feminist case for our retaining the ability to discuss reality.

When Kids Say They’re Trans: A Guide for Thoughtful Parents, Sasha Ayad, Lisa Marchiano and Stella O’Malley (2023). Three mental health professionals who collectively have decades of experience working with trans-identified adolescents and their families offer a resource designed explicitly for those parents who do not think that hasty affirmation or medicalization is the best way to ensure the long-term health and well-being of their child, or who simply aren’t so sure about the best course of action and want to learn the facts before committing to a particular approach.

Feminism

The Case Against the Sexual Revolution, Louise Perry (2022). This counter-cultural polemic argues that rejecting the sexual traditionalism of the past has not liberated women to enjoy erotic freedom and personal autonomy, but instead has ushered in an era of amoral libertinism and hypersexualised culture that represents more loss than gain.

Prey: Immigration, Islam and the Erosion of Women's Rights, Ayaan Hirsi Ali (2020). Using extensive crime statistics and personal testimony, Hirsi Ali argues that a surge in sexual violence in Western Europe was not a figment of alt-right propaganda, but is rooted in the arrival of young Muslim men who trace the roots of sexual violence in the Muslim world from institutionalized polygamy to the lack of legal and religious protections for women.

Conservatism

Reflections on the Revolution in France, Edmund Burke (1790). The conservative Irish statesman predicts that the French Revolution would end in disorder, arguing for the establishment of specific, concrete rights and liberties as protection against governmental oppression.

On the Genealogy of Morality, Friedrich Nietzsche (1887). Nietzsche argues that morality arises from an inversion of values that develops out of *ressentiment*, a psychological state rooted in feelings of envy and hatred felt by the weak toward the strong.

The Radicalism of the American Revolution, Gordon S. Wood (1993). Although the American Revolution was a revolution in political rights, it also sparked radical changes in social forms, transforming an almost feudal patrician society into an egalitarian, democratic one that may have baffled and disappointed its founding fathers.

How to be a Conservative, Roger Scruton (2014). With soft left-liberalism as the dominant force in Western politics, a renowned philosopher explains how to live as a conservative in a heartfelt appeal on behalf of old fashioned decencies and values, which are the bedrock of our weakened, but still enduring civilization.

How to Save the West: Ancient Wisdom for 5 Modern Cases, Spencer Klavan (2023). A classicist and young conservative host of the "Young Heretics" podcast defends Western culture and explains why and how we must hand it on to the next generation, and argues that the wisdom of the ages can guide us through the struggles of the present.

Critiques of Progressive Politics

Why Liberalism Failed, Patrick Deneen (2018). A professor at Notre Dame University argues that both progressive and classical liberalism have exhausted themselves, leading to income inequality, cultural decline, the erosion of liberties, and the growth of powerful, centralized bureaucracies.

San Fransicko: Why Progressives Ruin Cities, Michael Shellenberger (2021). Former progressive Michael Shellenberger argues that progressive approaches to homelessness, inequality and crime make those problems worse by embracing an ideology that designates some people, by identity or experience, as victims entitled to destructive behaviors.

The Dying Citizen: How Progressive Elites, Tribalism, and Globalization Are Destroying the Idea of America, Victor Davis Hanson (2021). A classicist and emeritus professor at California State University-Fresno argues that the historically rare concept of the “citizen” is in danger of vanishing as an American ideal due to the evisceration of the middle class, Americans’ increasing dependence on the federal government, open borders that undermine the idea of allegiance to a particular place, identity politics that eradicate our collective civic sense of self, and a top-heavy administrative state that endangers personal liberty.

Class Notes: Posing As Politics and Other Thoughts on the American Scene, Adolf L. Reed Jr. (2000). A professor emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania argues against cultural or identity politics and in favor of a class-based approach to racial and economic inequality.

Elite Capture: How the Powerful Took Over Identity Politics (And Everything Else), Olufemi O. Taiwo (2022). Seeking to move beyond a binary of “class” vs. “race,” Taiwo argues that the global Black radical tradition can be stripped of its political substance and liberatory potential by becoming the victim of elite capture—deployed by political, social, and economic elites in the service of their own interests.

Identity Politics and Tribalism: The New Culture Wars, Nikos Sotirakopoulos (2021). A senior lecturer at York St. John University argues that tribalism is the thread that links together the various expressions of group and identity conflicts in today’s West: from Left to Right, from Social Justice Warriors to Trumpites, from feminism to the manosphere, and from critical race theorists to white nationalists.

Populism

Reclaiming Populism: How Economic Fairness Can Win Back Disenchanted Voters, Eric Protzker, Paul Summerville (2022). Through data-driven analysis, the authors argue that populist upheavals like Trump, Brexit, and the *Gilets Jaunes* happen when the system really is rigged; citizens are angry not due to income inequality, immigration, or racial resentments, but economic unfairness by which opportunity is not equal and reward is not according to contribution.

The People, No: A Brief History of Anti-Populism, Thomas Frank (2020): Today “populism” is portrayed as a frightening phenomenon that pundits use to describe the racist philosophy of Donald Trump and European extremists, but Frank argues that the real story of populism is an account of enlightenment, liberation, and of the ever-widening promise of a decent life for all—even though elitist groups have reliably lashed out at working-class concerns.

Bad News: How Woke Media is Undermining Democracy, Batya Ungar-Sargon (2021): Americans have lost faith in their news media largely because the majority of mainstream news is no longer just liberal, but propagating radical political ideas that reflect a status revolution in journalism from a blue-collar trade to an elite profession that focuses away from the working class and toward the concerns of their affluent, highly educated peers.

American Awakening: Identity Politics and Other Afflictions of Our Time, Joshua Mitchell (2020). A professor of political theory at Georgetown University argues that identity politics is an anti-egalitarian spiritual eugenics demanding that pure and innocent groups ascend, and the stained transgressor groups be purged, and that seeks to turn American politics into a religious venue in which the sacrificial scapegoat is the white, heterosexual, man.

The Tyranny of Merit, Michael Sandel (2020). A Harvard professor shows how our meritocratic myth divides the population into winners and losers, promoting hubris on one side and humiliation and resentment on the other, all fueling a populist backlash.

Climate Change

Fossil Future: Why Global Human Flourishing Requires More Oil, Coal and Natural Gas, Not Less, Alex Epstein (2022). A New York Times bestselling author draws on the latest data and new insights to challenge everything you thought you knew about the future of energy, arguing that any negative impacts of fossil fuel use on our climate are outweighed by their unique benefits—including their unrivaled ability to provide low-cost, reliable energy to billions of people around the world, especially the world's poorest people.

Apocalypse Never: Why Environmental Alarmism Hurts Us All, Michael Shellenberger (2020). An environmental expert unleashes a scientific, fact-based broadside against eco-alarmism and the excesses of the New Left, arguing that climate change isn't a 30-year problem, but a 300-year problem.

False Alarm: How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor, and Fails to Fix the Planet, Bjorn Lomborg (2020). This book argues that everything you think about climate change is wrong - and points the way toward making the world a vastly better, if slightly warmer, place for us all.

Civility and Civic Discourse

How to Have Impossible Conversations, Peter Boghassian, James Lindsay (2019). A practical guide to conducting reasonable conversations with people of differing political opinions to foster a climate of civility.

Why Not Moderation? Letters to Young Radicals, Aurelian Craiutu (2023). A professor at Indiana University argues that moderation is not for lukewarm and indecisive minds, but a complex virtue with a distinct political tradition that is necessary for life in a liberal society.

The Constitution of Knowledge, Jonathan Rauch (2021). Analyzing trends in American disinformation and conspiracy, Rauch posits a defined understanding of truth and free inquiry, with discussion of how and why they should be defended.

I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times, Monica Guzman (2022). A journalist shows why curiosity is our best policy and shares practical tips from the trenches of the social, political, and cultural divides.

How Minds Change: The Surprising Science of Belief, Opinion, and Persuasion, David McRaney (2022). An expert in self-delusion and psychology explores the science of how people change their minds, exploring the limits of reasoning, the power of groupthink, and the effects of deep canvassing in an eye-opening journey among cult members, conspiracy theorists, and political activists.

The Illusion of Division, Monica Harris (2022). Activist, author and Executive Director of The Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism argues that manufactured divisions keep us from seeing the root causes of systemic problems that are overwhelming us, and the key to pulling our country out of crisis is appreciating our shared challenges and interests.