

HISTORY



Roundtable est. 2017

{(usually) meets the 4th Thursday of every other month at 6:30pm at the Greenwood Public Library}

August's Topic: Class in America

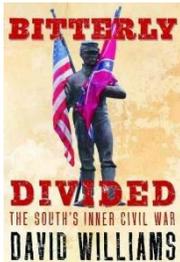
Meeting Date: Thursday, August 26th at 6:30pm [meeting in person]

Register at www.greenwoodlibrary.us or by emailing sjgerger@greenwoodlibrary.us.

More info and handout at www.greenwoodlibrary.us/historyroundtable.

Read. Watch. Listen. Discuss. Read *any* non-fiction book, watch a documentary, and/or listen to a podcast pertaining to class in the United States. Once you've read/watched/listened to the item, attend the roundtable prepared to summarize your source material. Possible resources include (but are not limited to) –

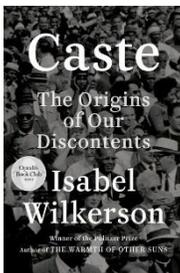
Books:



[Bitterly Divided: The South's Inner Civil War](#) by David Williams – NONFICTION

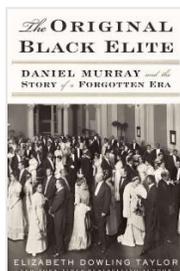
HISTORY WARS CIVIL WAR Williams; [ebook](#) on hoopla*

This revisionist account of the American Confederacy's lesser-known internal divisions reveals how Civil War-era white southerners were divided about the issue of secession, in a volume that considers how southern resistance was significantly responsible for the Confederacy's ultimate collapse.



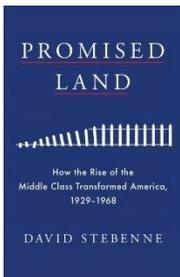
[Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents](#) by Isabel Wilkerson – 305.5122 WIL in print and on CD; Large Print via Evergreen*; [eBook & eAudio](#) on Libby*

Wilkerson explores how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. She discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.



[The Original Black Elite: Daniel Murray and the Story of a Forgotten Era](#) by Elizabeth Dowling Taylor – NONFICTION HISTORY UNITED STATES Taylor

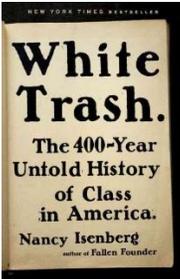
The author of the *New York Times* bestseller *A Slave in the White House* chronicles a critical yet overlooked chapter in American history: the inspiring rise and calculated fall of the black elite, from Emancipation through Reconstruction to the Jim Crow Era—embodied in the experiences of an influential figure of the time—academic, entrepreneur, and political activist and black history pioneer Daniel Murray.



[Promised Land: How the Rise of the Middle Class Transformed America, 1929-1968](#) by

David Stebenne – NONFICTION SOCIAL TOPICS ECONOMICS Stebenne

A timely work of groundbreaking history explains how the American middle class ballooned at mid-century until it dominated the nation, showing who benefited and what brought the expansion to an end.



[White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America](#) by Nancy Isenberg –

NONFICTION SOCIAL TOPICS ECONOMICS Isenberg; CD available via Evergreen*; [eAudio](#) on hoopla*; [eBook and eAudio](#) on Libby*

Surveying political rhetoric and policy, popular literature and scientific theories over four hundred years, Isenberg upends assumptions about America's supposedly class-free society—where liberty and hard work were meant to ensure real social mobility.

Videos:



[People Like Us: Social Class in America](#) – on [Kanopy](#)*

Class can be harder to spot than racial or ethnic differences, yet in many ways it's the most important predictor of what kind of financial and educational opportunities someone will have in life. But class is a hard subject to talk about in a society like ours, where the idea that all people are created equal and that a poor child can become President is enshrined in national legend.

Podcasts:



[America's Caste System](#) by Throughline

"Race" is often used as a fundamental way to understand American history. But what if "caste" is the more appropriate lens? In conversation with Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson, we examine the hidden system that has shaped our country.