

Summer Reading List: Banned Books and Other Must-Reads

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To: [REDACTED]

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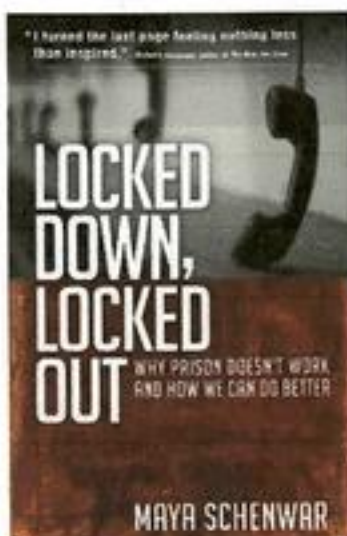
truthout

PROGRESSIVE PICKS

Last month, the Danville Correctional Center in Illinois removed more than 200 books from their library. Citing that the books hadn't undergone proper review, officials have yet to acknowledge that most of the books removed were on the subjects of race and incarceration. But this isn't a singular phenomenon. All over the country, prisons are banning books and blocking access to education for those behind bars.

Everyone has a right to knowledge, and *Truthout* is a publication that stands by that principle. Our Progressive Picks program has reviewed hundreds of books -- including two that were banned from the Danville prison, *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex* and *Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prisons Don't Work and How We Can Do Better*.

*If you're looking to add to your summer reading list, check out the latest excerpts and interviews at our **Progressive Picks section** or support Truthout's independent journalism by ordering your choice of books from **our catalog**.*

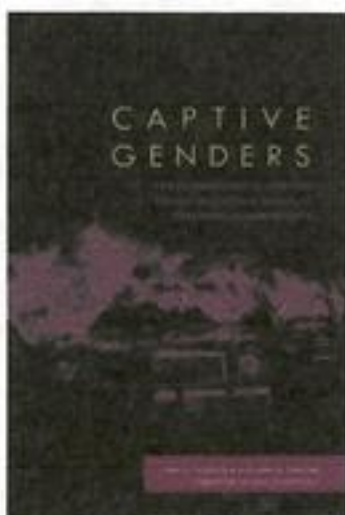


Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prison Doesn't Work and How We Can Do Better

BY MAYA SCHENWAR

From *Truthout*'s editor-in-chief comes a hard-hitting and personal exploration of the enormous damage prison causes by severing millions of people from their families and communities -- and the practical alternatives to incarceration that can create a safer, more just world.

[Get the Book →](#)



Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex

EDITED BY ERIC A. STANLEY AND NAT SMITH

Trans, gender non-conforming and queer people have always struggled against the prison industrial complex. From critiquing hate crimes legislation to demanding access to HIV medications, and far beyond, *Captive Genders* is a challenge for us all to join the struggle. This expanded second edition includes a new foreword from CeCe McDonald and essays by Chelsea Manning, Toshio Meronek and more.

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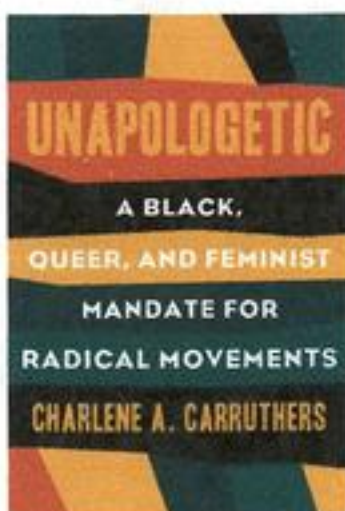


Cigarettes, Inc.: An Intimate History of Corporate Imperialism

BY NAN ENSTAD

Cigarettes, Inc. reveals how the definitive moments in the expansion of corporate power took place through one of capitalism's deadliest commodities. Author Nan Enstad looks at the ways in which the cigarette industry entwined imperialism and Jim Crow to expand globally, and revolutionized branding by intimately intertwining the cigarette with jazz culture.

[Read the Excerpt →](#)



Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements

BY CHARLENE CARRUTHERS

The history of Black movements is complex, but from the Underground Railroad to the civil rights movement, the influence of Black women across many identities and statuses can be felt. Author Charlene Carruthers discusses these histories and how they are often erased when we talk about the Black radical tradition.

[Read the Excerpt →](#)



Revolting Prostitutes: The Fight for Sex Workers' Rights

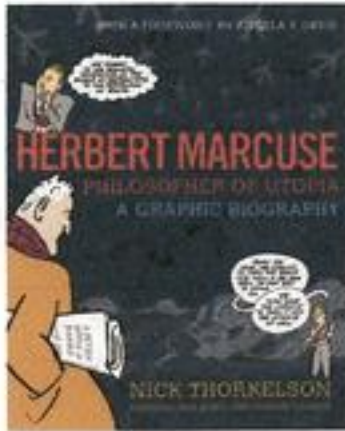


BY JUNO MAC AND MOLLY SMITH

This book takes a global view of commercial sex and the legal regimes that govern it. Authors Juno Mac and Molly Smith bring the reader through Britain's messy Victorian prostitution laws, the U.S. prison-industrial complex, the false promise of "utopian"

Scandinavia, and finally conclude with a critical look at decriminalized New Zealand.

[Read the Excerpt →](#)



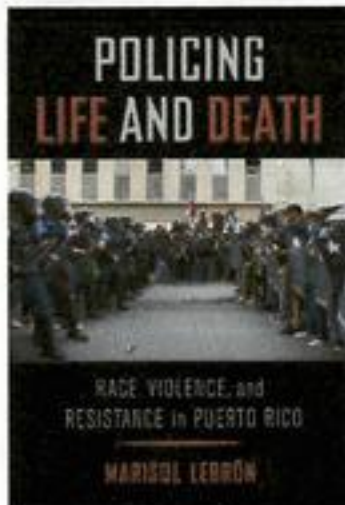
Herbert Marcuse, Philosopher of Utopia

BY NICK THORKELSON

"Marcuse believed in "a universe where the sensuous, the playful, and the beautiful become the form of society itself," says cartoonist Nick Thorkelson, who illustrated this striking new graphic biography. How did philosopher Herbert Marcuse develop this belief, and what can it teach us as the U.S. flounders in political

crisis?

[Read the Excerpt →](#)



Policing Life and Death: Race, Violence, and Resistance in Puerto Rico

BY MARISOL LEBRÓN

Author Marisol LeBrón describes how policing in Puerto Rico deepens racial and economic inequalities that stem from failed development and ongoing colonial domination by the United States. Upholding the voices of the marginalized who suffer most from punitive governance, LeBrón shows how Puerto Ricans are

challenging state violence and building alternative forms of justice.

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