

# dead white males

**dead white males** is a phrase that has sparked significant debate in academic, literary, and cultural circles. The term typically refers to influential Western male authors, philosophers, and thinkers from previous centuries who have shaped much of today's intellectual landscape. This article explores the meaning and history behind "dead white males," examines their impact on education and cultural discourse, and discusses the controversies and ongoing conversations regarding representation, diversity, and relevance. Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of the term, its origins, its role in shaping curriculums, and why it remains a central topic in discussions on literature, philosophy, and social change.

- Definition and Origins of "Dead White Males"
- The Influence of Dead White Males in Western Canon
- Educational Curriculums and the Legacy of Dead White Males
- Controversies and Criticisms
- Diversity, Representation, and the Future of Canon
- Dead White Males in Literature and Philosophy
- Frequently Asked Questions

## Definition and Origins of "Dead White Males"

The phrase "dead white males" emerged as a shorthand for historically significant Western male figures whose works have dominated academic and cultural institutions. It is often used to critique the traditional canon of literature, philosophy, history, and art that prioritizes figures such as Shakespeare, Plato, and Dickens over more diverse voices. The term gained prominence in the late 20th century, particularly during debates about curriculum reform and inclusivity in universities. While originally intended as a provocative critique, "dead white males" now represents a focal point in discussions about cultural heritage, representation, and the evolution of intellectual traditions.

## Historical Context

The concept originated during the rise of postmodernism and cultural studies, when scholars began to question the exclusive focus on Western male

perspectives. Critics argued that this focus marginalized contributions from women, people of color, and non-Western cultures. The debate over “dead white males” reflects broader social movements advocating for a more inclusive understanding of history and culture.

## **Semantic Variations**

Other terms related to “dead white males” include “Western canon,” “traditional curriculum,” “Eurocentric perspectives,” and “classical literature.” These expressions often overlap with discussions about whose voices are heard and valued in academia and society.

## **The Influence of Dead White Males in Western Canon**

Dead white males have played a foundational role in shaping the Western canon—the collection of works deemed essential for understanding Western civilization. Their influence extends across literature, philosophy, history, and the arts. Many educational institutions and cultural organizations have built curricula and programs around these figures, citing their lasting impact on thought and creativity.

## **Major Figures in the Western Canon**

- William Shakespeare – playwright and poet
- Plato – philosopher
- Charles Dickens – novelist
- Leo Tolstoy – author
- Sigmund Freud – psychologist
- Immanuel Kant – philosopher
- Geoffrey Chaucer – poet
- Homer – ancient Greek poet

These individuals are often cited as pillars of Western thought, celebrated for their contributions to literature, philosophy, and culture.

## **Why Were Their Works Prioritized?**

Historically, the prioritization of dead white males was influenced by social structures that favored male authors from Western societies. Their works were considered universal, timeless, and representative of human experience, leading to their inclusion in education and cultural institutions.

## **Educational Curriculums and the Legacy of Dead White Males**

Educational curriculums in Europe, North America, and other parts of the world have traditionally centered on works by dead white males. This legacy has shaped generations of students' understanding of literature, history, and philosophy. In recent years, however, there has been a growing movement to diversify curriculums and include voices that have historically been marginalized.

## **Curriculum Debates**

The debate over curriculum reform often centers on whether the works of dead white males should be supplemented or replaced with texts from women, people of color, and non-Western cultures. Proponents of reform argue that a broader range of perspectives fosters critical thinking and cultural understanding.

## **Impact on Academic Standards**

Some educators maintain that the works of dead white males set important academic standards for literary and philosophical inquiry. Their texts are viewed as complex, challenging, and foundational for intellectual development.

## **Controversies and Criticisms**

The dominance of dead white males in educational and cultural institutions has been the subject of significant controversy. Critics argue that this focus perpetuates systemic biases and limits the visibility of diverse voices.

## **Common Criticisms**

- Exclusion of women and minority voices

- Reinforcement of Eurocentric worldviews
- Lack of contemporary relevance
- Marginalization of non-Western traditions

These criticisms have led to calls for more inclusive practices in curriculum development, publishing, and cultural programming.

## **Academic and Social Responses**

Many academic institutions have responded by revising reading lists, introducing new courses, and encouraging research on underrepresented groups. Social movements and advocacy groups have also pushed for greater recognition of diverse contributions to literature and philosophy.

## **Diversity, Representation, and the Future of Canon**

The future of the literary and philosophical canon is shaped by ongoing efforts to increase diversity and representation. This involves reevaluating which authors and works are taught, studied, and celebrated.

## **Inclusion Initiatives**

Universities, publishers, and cultural organizations are implementing initiatives to highlight works by women, people of color, and non-Western authors. These efforts aim to create a more equitable and representative canon.

## **Balancing Tradition and Innovation**

The challenge lies in balancing the preservation of foundational texts by dead white males with the inclusion of new and diverse voices. Many educators advocate for a canon that reflects both historical significance and contemporary relevance.

## **Dead White Males in Literature and Philosophy**

Dead white males continue to exert influence in literary and philosophical circles. Their works are studied for their artistic merit, intellectual

depth, and historical impact. However, scholars increasingly examine these texts alongside works by authors from different backgrounds to gain a more nuanced understanding of culture and thought.

## **Enduring Themes and Ideas**

- Human nature and morality
- Political theory and social order
- Artistic expression and aesthetics
- Existential questions and metaphysics

These themes are central to many works by dead white males and continue to inform contemporary debates in literature and philosophy.

## **Contemporary Reinterpretations**

Modern scholars often reinterpret the works of dead white males through critical perspectives such as feminism, postcolonialism, and critical race theory. These approaches reveal new insights and challenge traditional readings of classic texts.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: What does the term "dead white males" mean?**

A: "Dead white males" refers to historically influential male authors, philosophers, and thinkers of Western origin whose works have dominated cultural and academic institutions, often to the exclusion of more diverse voices.

### **Q: Why is there controversy around dead white males in education?**

A: The controversy centers on the overrepresentation of dead white males in curriculums, which critics argue perpetuates systemic biases and limits students' exposure to diverse perspectives.

**Q: Who are some examples of dead white males commonly found in the Western canon?**

A: Common examples include William Shakespeare, Plato, Charles Dickens, Homer, Leo Tolstoy, and Immanuel Kant.

**Q: How are educational institutions addressing the criticism of dead white males?**

A: Many institutions are revising curriculums to include works by women, people of color, and non-Western authors, promoting a more inclusive approach to education.

**Q: Is the Western canon still relevant today?**

A: While the Western canon remains influential, there is an ongoing debate about its relevance and the need to balance foundational texts with contemporary and diverse voices.

**Q: What impact have dead white males had on literature and philosophy?**

A: They have significantly shaped literary and philosophical traditions, influencing themes, styles, and intellectual inquiry for centuries.

**Q: Are there efforts to diversify the canon beyond dead white males?**

A: Yes, there are numerous initiatives in academia and publishing aimed at highlighting underrepresented authors and expanding the canon.

**Q: Can studying dead white males still be valuable?**

A: Studying their works can provide historical context, analytical skills, and insights into the development of Western thought, but should be complemented with diverse perspectives.

**Q: What are some criticisms of focusing on dead white males?**

A: Criticisms include exclusion of marginalized voices, reinforcement of Eurocentric views, and lack of contemporary relevance.

## **Q: How has the debate over dead white males evolved?**

A: The debate has evolved to focus on questions of representation, equity, and the ongoing need to reexamine whose voices are prioritized in education and culture.

## **Dead White Males**

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## **Dead White Males: Re-examining the Canon and its Ongoing Impact**

The phrase "dead white males" has become a shorthand, often controversial, descriptor for the predominantly male, European-heritage authors and thinkers whose works have historically dominated Western literary canons and intellectual discourse. This post delves into the complexities surrounding this term, exploring its origins, the criticisms leveled against it, and the ongoing debate about its relevance in contemporary society. We will analyze the lasting impact of these figures, examine the arguments for and against their continued prominence in education and culture, and consider the path towards a more inclusive and representative intellectual landscape. We will avoid simplistic generalizations and instead encourage a nuanced understanding of this multifaceted topic.

## **H2: The Historical Context: Why the "Dead White Males" Dominated**

For centuries, Western education and intellectual life were largely shaped by a select group of predominantly white, male figures. This dominance wasn't accidental; it was the result of systemic power structures that privileged certain voices while silencing others. Factors contributing to this include:

H3: Colonialism and Imperialism: The expansion of European empires globally led to the appropriation and dominance of European perspectives, marginalizing indigenous knowledge systems and non-European voices.

H3: Patriarchy and Gender Inequality: Societal structures systematically excluded women from education and intellectual pursuits, limiting their contributions to the public sphere.

H3: Class and Social Hierarchy: Access to education and the means to disseminate ideas was largely restricted to the wealthy elite, reinforcing existing inequalities.

## **H2: The Criticisms: Why the "Dead White Males" Canon is Problematic**

The dominance of "dead white males" in the curriculum and cultural discourse has faced significant criticism. These critiques often highlight:

H3: Lack of Diversity and Representation: The exclusion of diverse voices—women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those from non-Western cultures—creates a skewed and incomplete understanding of history and human experience. This creates a canon that inadvertently reinforces existing power imbalances.

H3: Eurocentrism and Bias: A focus solely on European perspectives perpetuates a Eurocentric worldview, ignoring the rich intellectual traditions and contributions of other cultures. This leads to a biased and incomplete understanding of global history and thought.

H3: Reinforcing Systemic Inequalities: The continued prioritization of "dead white males" can unintentionally perpetuate existing societal inequalities by reinforcing the idea that their perspectives are superior or more valuable.

## **H2: Beyond the Critique: The Value of Historical Context**

It is crucial to avoid the trap of simply dismissing the contributions of these historical figures. Understanding their works within their historical context is essential. This means acknowledging the social, political, and cultural forces that shaped their ideas while simultaneously critiquing those aspects that are problematic or no longer relevant.

H3: Understanding Historical Power Dynamics: Studying the works of influential figures allows us to understand the power dynamics of their time and the ways in which these dynamics have shaped the present.

H3: Identifying Biases and Limitations: Critically analyzing their work allows us to identify biases, limitations, and problematic aspects that might otherwise go unnoticed.

H3: Learning from the Past to Build a Better Future: By acknowledging both the positive and negative aspects of historical figures and their works, we can learn from the past and build a more equitable and just future.



## H2: Moving Towards a More Inclusive Canon

The goal is not to erase the contributions of historical figures but to create a more representative and inclusive canon. This requires:

H3: Diversifying the Curriculum: Actively including works by women, people of color, and individuals from diverse backgrounds is crucial.

H3: Promoting Interdisciplinary Approaches: Integrating perspectives from various disciplines and cultural traditions fosters a richer and more nuanced understanding.

H3: Engaging in Critical Analysis: Encouraging critical analysis of all texts, regardless of the author's background, is paramount.

## Conclusion

The debate surrounding "dead white males" is not about erasure, but about balance and representation. By understanding the historical context, acknowledging the criticisms, and actively working towards a more inclusive and representative intellectual landscape, we can ensure a richer and more complete understanding of human history and experience. The goal is not to dismiss the past but to learn from it and create a more just and equitable future.

## FAQs

1. Isn't it unfair to judge historical figures by today's standards? While it's important to consider historical context, it's also crucial to critically examine the ideas and actions of historical figures in light of contemporary ethical and social standards. This allows us to identify and learn from past mistakes.
2. Doesn't this focus on diversity lead to the neglect of truly great works? A focus on diversity doesn't necessitate the neglect of great works. Rather, it broadens the definition of "great" to encompass a wider range of perspectives and experiences.
3. Aren't some "dead white males" still relevant and important today? Absolutely. The goal is not to dismiss all contributions, but to contextualize them, understand their limitations, and ensure that the canon reflects a broader range of voices and perspectives.
4. How can I contribute to a more inclusive intellectual landscape? Engage with diverse texts and authors, support inclusive educational initiatives, and advocate for a more representative curriculum.

5. Is this discussion solely about literature and philosophy? No, the issues raised extend to all fields of study and cultural production, impacting historical narratives, scientific understanding, and artistic expression. The call for inclusivity is universal.

**dead white males: Dead White Males** David Williamson, 1995 Postmodernism versus Liberal Humanism (2 acts, 4 men, 7 women).

**dead white males: Not All Dead White Men** Donna Zuckerberg, 2018-10-08 A Times Higher Education Book of the Week A virulent strain of antifeminism is thriving online that treats women's empowerment as a mortal threat to men and to the integrity of Western civilization. Its proponents cite ancient Greek and Latin texts to support their claims—from Ovid's *Ars Amatoria* to Seneca and Marcus Aurelius—arguing that they articulate a model of masculinity that sustained generations but is now under siege. *Not All Dead White Men* reveals that some of the most controversial and consequential debates about the legacy of the ancients are raging not in universities but online. "A chilling account of trolling, misogyny, racism, and bad history proliferated online by the Alt-Right... Zuckerberg makes a persuasive case for why we need a new, more critical, and less comfortable relationship between the ancient and modern worlds in this important and very timely book." —Emily Wilson, translator of *The Odyssey* "Explores how ideas about Ancient Greece and Rome are used and misused by antifeminist thinkers today." —Time "Zuckerberg presciently analyzes these communities'...embrace of stoicism as a self-help tool to gain confidence, jobs, and girlfriends. Their adoration of men like Marcus Aurelius, Epictetus, and Ovid...is founded in a limited and distorted interpretation of ancient philosophy...lending heft and authority to sexism and abuse." —The Nation "Traces the application—and misapplication—of classical authors and texts in online communities that see feminism as a threat." —Bitch Media

**dead white males: Dead White Guys** Matt Burriesci, 2015-05-28 After his daughter was born prematurely in 2010, Burriesci set out to write a book for her 18th birthday. In short, honest, and simple letters, Burriesci teaches his daughter about 32 great books, from Plato to Karl Marx, and how their lessons have applied to his life. As someone who has spent a long and successful career advocating for great literature, Burriesci defends the titles in this series of tender and candid letters, rich in personal experience and full of humor. *Dead White Guys* is also a timely defense of the great books, arriving in the middle of a national debate about the fate of these books in high schools and universities around the country. Burriesci shows how the great books can enrich our lives as individuals, as citizens, and in our careers.

**dead white males: The Oldest Dead White European Males and Other Reflections on the Classics** Bernard Knox, 1993 No one carries his learning more gracefully than Knox. That is because he does not, like so many scholars, seal it off from the rest of life. Ancient and current wisdom communicate through him. --Garry Wills

**dead white males: Old Dead White Men's Philosophy** Laura Lyn Inglis, Peter Klaus Steinfeld, 2000 No Marketing Blurb

**dead white males: Angry White Men** Michael Kimmel, 2013-11-05 [W]e can't come off as a bunch of angry white men." Robert Bennett, chairman of the Ohio Republican Party One of the enduring legacies of the 2012 Presidential campaign was the demise of the white American male voter as a dominant force in the political landscape. On election night, after Obama was announced the winner, a distressed Bill O'Reilly lamented that he didn't live in "a traditional America anymore." He was joined by others who bellowed their grief on the talk radio airwaves, the traditional redoubt of angry white men. Why were they so angry? Sociologist Michael Kimmel, one of the leading writers on men and masculinity in the world today, has spent hundreds of hours in the company of America's angry white men – from white supremacists to men's rights activists to young students –in pursuit of an answer. *Angry White Men* presents a comprehensive diagnosis of their fears, anxieties, and rage. Kimmel locates this increase in anger in the seismic economic, social and political shifts that have so transformed the American landscape. Downward mobility, increased racial and gender equality, and

a tenacious clinging to an anachronistic ideology of masculinity has left many men feeling betrayed and bewildered. Raised to expect unparalleled social and economic privilege, white men are suffering today from what Kimmel calls aggrieved entitlement: a sense that those benefits that white men believed were their due have been snatched away from them. Angry White Men discusses, among others, the sons of small town America, scarred by underemployment and wage stagnation. When America's white men feel they've lived their lives the 'right' way - worked hard and stayed out of trouble - and still do not get economic rewards, then they have to blame somebody else. Even more terrifying is the phenomenon of angry young boys. School shootings in the United States are not just the work of "misguided youth" or "troubled teens"—they're all committed by boys. These alienated young men are transformed into mass murderers by a sense that using violence against others is their right. The future of America is more inclusive and diverse. The choice for angry white men is not whether or not they can stem the tide of history: they cannot. Their choice is whether or not they will be dragged kicking and screaming into that inevitable future, or whether they will walk openly and honorably - far happier and healthier incidentally - alongside those they've spent so long trying to exclude.

**dead white males:** David Williamson's Dead White Males Lewis Mitchell, Bruce Isaacs, 2004

**dead white males: Contemporary Australian Plays** Ron Elisha, Wesley Enoch, Deborah Mailman, Hannie Rayson, Keith Robinson, Tony Taylor, David Williamson, 2015-12-31 Saturday night, small town Wales, one pub, one party and three lads stuck with their school reputations - the gimp, the geek and the bully. Their dream - to get the hell out Dead White Males: Triumphant...The neatly lined up ducks of academic absolutism are ruthlessly, and hilariously, assassinated - Sydney Morning Herald; Swain is a wonderful creation - Guardian The 7 Stages of Grieving: A subtle and complex invitation to experience something of the depth of Aboriginal grieving - Melbourne Age. Hotel Sorrento: Has a moody, evocative, literary sweep and scope to it - Sydney Morning Herald Two: In 1948, in a German town, Anna comes to Rabbi Chaim Levi for Hebrew lessons. As the two study the language, their stories are gradually revealed, raising fundamental moral questions as they try to reconcile their tormented pasts and accept and renew their lives. The Popular Mechanicals: One of the most rollickingly entertaining nights in the theatre (Sydney Morning Herald)

**dead white males:** Dead White Men and Other Important People Angus Bancroft, Ralph Fevre, 2017-09-16 This is a textbook with a twist. Written as a novel, from the perspective of Mila, a student new to sociology, it is a brilliantly engaging introduction to the discipline and to the fundamental questions that have exercised the minds of the most important sociological thinkers. It offers refreshingly clear explanations of the most important aspects of sociology and exposes students to social theory and how it relates to our everyday experiences. Students are encouraged to engage critically and personally with sociological ideas, and in the process learn how to interpret, use and reshape them. This revised second edition offers an ideal alternative to traditional texts for introductory sociology modules. It is also highly valuable for modules on sociological and social theory. New to this Edition: - Improved narrative structure with enhanced focus on sociological ideas - Includes new pedagogical features such as Mila's end-of-chapter doodles and a glossary of key terms - Accompanied by a new companion website with a Guide and Videos for lecturers, and a flashcard glossary and a Sociology timeline for students

**dead white males:** White Fragility Robin DiAngelo, 2019-02-07 The International Bestseller 'With clarity and compassion, DiAngelo allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to bad people. In doing so, she moves our national discussions forward. This is a necessary book for all people invested in societal change' Claudia Rankine Anger. Fear. Guilt. Denial. Silence. These are the ways in which ordinary white people react when it is pointed out to them that they have done or said something that has - unintentionally - caused racial offence or hurt. After, all, a racist is the worst thing a person can be, right? But these reactions only serve to silence people of colour, who cannot give honest feedback to 'liberal' white people lest they provoke a dangerous emotional reaction. Robin DiAngelo coined the term 'White Fragility' in 2011 to describe this process and is

here to show us how it serves to uphold the system of white supremacy. Using knowledge and insight gained over decades of running racial awareness workshops and working on this idea as a Professor of Whiteness Studies, she shows us how we can start having more honest conversations, listen to each other better and react to feedback with grace and humility. It is not enough to simply hold abstract progressive views and condemn the obvious racists on social media - change starts with us all at a practical, granular level, and it is time for all white people to take responsibility for relinquishing their own racial supremacy. 'By turns mordant and then inspirational, an argument that powerful forces and tragic histories stack the deck fully against racial justice alongside one that we need only to be clearer, try harder, and do better' David Roediger, Los Angeles Review of Books 'The value in White Fragility lies in its methodical, irrefutable exposure of racism in thought and action, and its call for humility and vigilance' Katy Waldman, New Yorker 'A vital, necessary, and beautiful book' Michael Eric Dyson

**dead white males: Breaking Bread with the Dead** Alan Jacobs, 2020-09-10 A Spectator Book of the Year It's fashionable to think of the writers of the past as irredeemably tarnished by prejudice. Aristotle despised women. John Milton, the great champion of free speech, wouldn't have granted it to Catholics. Edith Wharton's imaginative sympathies stopped short of her Jewish characters. But what if it is only through the works of such individuals that we can achieve a necessary perspective on the troubles of the present? Join literary scholar Alan Jacobs for a truly nourishing feast of learning. Discover what Homer can teach us about force, what Machiavelli has to say about reading and what Charlotte Brontë reveals about race. Not all the guests are people you might want to invite into your home, but they all bring something precious to the table. In *Breaking Bread with the Dead*, an omnivorous reader draws us into close and sympathetic engagement with minds across the ages, from Horace to Donna Haraway.

**dead white males: Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race** Reni Eddo-Lodge, 2020-11-12 'Every voice raised against racism chips away at its power. We can't afford to stay silent. This book is an attempt to speak' The book that sparked a national conversation. Exploring everything from eradicated black history to the inextricable link between class and race, *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* is the essential handbook for anyone who wants to understand race relations in Britain today. THE NO.1 SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER WINNER OF THE BRITISH BOOK AWARDS NON-FICTION NARRATIVE BOOK OF THE YEAR 2018 FOYLES NON-FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR BLACKWELL'S NON-FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR WINNER OF THE JHALAK PRIZE LONGLISTED FOR THE BAILLIE GIFFORD PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION LONGLISTED FOR THE ORWELL PRIZE SHORTLISTED FOR A BOOKS ARE MY BAG READERS AWARD

**dead white males: Reading Like a Writer** Francine Prose, 2012-04-01 In her entertaining and edifying New York Times bestseller, acclaimed author Francine Prose invites you to sit by her side and take a guided tour of the tools and tricks of the masters to discover why their work has endured. Written with passion, humour and wisdom, *Reading Like a Writer* will inspire readers to return to literature with a fresh eye and an eager heart - to take pleasure in the long and magnificent sentences of Philip Roth and the breathtaking paragraphs of Isaac Babel; to look to John le Carré for a lesson in how to advance plot through dialogue and to Flannery O'Connor for the cunning use of the telling detail; to be inspired by Emily Brontë's structural nuance and Charles Dickens's deceptively simple narrative techniques. Most importantly, Prose cautions readers to slow down and pay attention to words, the raw material out of which all literature is crafted, and reminds us that good writing comes out of good reading.

**dead white males: Top Silk** David Williamson, 1989 A legal aid solicitor and a prominent barrister battle over their individual careers and the future of their teenage son (2 acts, 7 men, 3 women).

**dead white males: The End of Men** Hanna Rosin, 2012-10-11 What Betty Friedan, Simone de Beauvoir, and Naomi Wolf did for feminism, senior editor of *The Atlantic* Hanna Rosin does for a new generation of women: an explosive new argument for why women are winning the battle of the

sexes. Women are no longer catching up with men. By almost every measure, they are out-performing them. ·Women in Britain hold half the jobs ·Women own over 40% of China's private businesses ·75% of couples in fertility clinics are requesting girls, not boy ·Women will outnumber men in the UK medical profession by 2017 ·In 1970, women in the US contributed to 2-6% of the family income. Now it is 42.2% This is an astonishing time. In a job market that favours people skills and intelligence, women's adaptability and flexibility makes them better suited to the modern world. In *The End of Men*, Hanna Rosin reveals how this has come to pass and explains its implications for marriage, sex, children, work, families and society. Exposing old assumptions and drawing on examples from across the globe, Rosin shows us how we must all adapt to a radically new way of working and living. 'One of the most controversial books since Naomi Wolf's *The Beauty Myth*' Stylist 'Explosive' Daily Mail 'Fascinating' Sunday Times

**dead white males: Rescuing Socrates** Roosevelt Montas, 2023-03-21 A Dominican-born academic tells the story of how the Great Books transformed his life—and why they have the power to speak to people of all backgrounds What is the value of a liberal education? Traditionally characterized by a rigorous engagement with the classics of Western thought and literature, this approach to education is all but extinct in American universities, replaced by flexible distribution requirements and ever-narrower academic specialization. Many academics attack the very idea of a Western canon as chauvinistic, while the general public increasingly doubts the value of the humanities. In *Rescuing Socrates*, Dominican-born American academic Roosevelt Montás tells the story of how a liberal education transformed his life, and offers an intimate account of the relevance of the Great Books today, especially to members of historically marginalized communities. Montás emigrated from the Dominican Republic to Queens, New York, when he was twelve and encountered the Western classics as an undergraduate in Columbia University's renowned Core Curriculum, one of America's last remaining Great Books programs. The experience changed his life and determined his career—he went on to earn a PhD in English and comparative literature, serve as director of Columbia's Center for the Core Curriculum, and start a Great Books program for low-income high school students who aspire to be the first in their families to attend college. Weaving together memoir and literary reflection, *Rescuing Socrates* describes how four authors—Plato, Augustine, Freud, and Gandhi—had a profound impact on Montás's life. In doing so, the book drives home what it's like to experience a liberal education—and why it can still remake lives.

**dead white males: Dead White Males** Ann Diamond, 2000 Who is Vera A. Utall? Why has she entwined celebrity Nick Maggot and legendary literary genius Orville Goner in her sexual web? Soft-boiled private eye (and hairdresser) David Dennings is hired to track the vanished siren. Through a hallucinatory labyrinth only Ann Diamond could have created, the trail leads him to the nefarious Dead White Males. Raymond Chandler and Philip K. Dick meet Virginia Woolf in this unconventional whodunit in which Dennings' very life depends on finding the solution that lies buried within an elusive master's thesis. Will he make it before the hourglass runs out? Critical Comment ìIf you're tired of pretentious Canadian literary experiences and want a good story that keeps you laughing, Ann Diamond's *Dead White Males* is a heartening change.î ó James Moran, July 2002 ìThe plot moves quickly between Canada and South America and between reality and whatever else is out there, so that the only thing the reader can do is let go and be taken along, laughing all the way.î ó Patty Osborne, GEIST, spring 2001 ì[*Dead White Males*]is nutty, paranoid, messy and a great deal of fun. A must for Ann Diamond fans.î ó The Montreal Gazette ìWhether they fight their battles in the fantastic or realistic world, Diamond's women seem to use their involvement with brutish, insensitive men as acts of defiance...î ó Mary Frances Hill, Books in Canada ì*Dead White Males* is a paean to postmodernism, with its elaborate pastiche of texts, narrators, hallucinatory fragments, dream visions, and echoic episodes...î ó Canadian Literature, 2003

**dead white males: Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism** Anne Case, Angus Deaton, 2021-03-02 A New York Times Bestseller A Wall Street Journal Bestseller A New York Times Notable Book of 2020 A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice Shortlisted for the Financial Times and McKinsey Business Book of the Year A New Statesman Book to Read From economist

Anne Case and Nobel Prize winner Angus Deaton, a groundbreaking account of how the flaws in capitalism are fatal for America's working class. Deaths of despair from suicide, drug overdose, and alcoholism are rising dramatically in the United States, claiming hundreds of thousands of American lives. Anne Case and Angus Deaton explain the overwhelming surge in these deaths and shed light on the social and economic forces that are making life harder for the working class. As the college educated become healthier and wealthier, adults without a degree are literally dying from pain and despair. Case and Deaton tie the crisis to the weakening position of labor, the growing power of corporations, and a rapacious health-care sector that redistributes working-class wages into the pockets of the wealthy. This critically important book paints a troubling portrait of the American dream in decline, and provides solutions that can rein in capitalism's excesses and make it work for everyone.

**dead white males: Dead White Guys** Matt Burriesci, 2015-06-09 *Dead White Guys* is a timely defense of the great books, arriving in the middle of a national debate about the fate of these books in high schools and universities around the country. Burriesci shows how the great books can enrich our lives as individuals, as citizens, and in our careers. Extending the argument first made by Anna Quindlen's on the act of reading itself, *How Reading Changed My Life*, (It is like the rubbing of two sticks together to make a fire, the act of reading, an improbable pedestrian task that leads to heat and light,) Burriesci reminds us all of the enormous impact reading has on our lives. After his daughter was born prematurely in 2010, Burriesci set out to write a book about 26 Great Books, from Plato to Karl Marx, and how their lessons have applied to his life. As someone who has spent a long and successful career advocating for great literature, Burriesci defends the great books in this series of tender and candid letters, rich in personal experience and full of humor. Matt Burriesci is a national literary leader, serving as Executive Director of both PEN/Faulkner, which bestows the largest peer-juried prize for fiction

**dead white males: Human Accomplishment** Charles Murray, 2009-10-13 A sweeping cultural survey reminiscent of Barzun's *From Dawn to Decadence*. At irregular times and in scattered settings, human beings have achieved great things. *Human Accomplishment* is about those great things, falling in the domains known as the arts and sciences, and the people who did them.' So begins Charles Murray's unique account of human excellence, from the age of Homer to our own time. Employing techniques that historians have developed over the last century but that have rarely been applied to books written for the general public, Murray compiles inventories of the people who have been essential to the stories of literature, music, art, philosophy, and the sciences—a total of 4,002 men and women from around the world, ranked according to their eminence. The heart of *Human Accomplishment* is a series of enthralling descriptive chapters: on the giants in the arts and what sets them apart from the merely great; on the differences between great achievement in the arts and in the sciences; on the meta-inventions, 14 crucial leaps in human capacity to create great art and science; and on the patterns and trajectories of accomplishment across time and geography. Straightforwardly and undogmatically, Charles Murray takes on some controversial questions. Why has accomplishment been so concentrated in Europe? Among men? Since 1400? He presents evidence that the rate of great accomplishment has been declining in the last century, asks what it means, and offers a rich framework for thinking about the conditions under which the human spirit has expressed itself most gloriously. Eye-opening and humbling, *Human Accomplishment* is a fascinating work that describes what humans at their best can achieve, provides tools for exploring its wellsprings, and celebrates the continuing common quest of humans everywhere to discover truths, create beauty, and apprehend the good.

**dead white males: Marked Men** Sally Robinson, 2000 A study of post-Vietnam American literature and culture focusing on narratives of bodily trauma evident in a wide range of texts by and about other white men.

**dead white males: Before We Were Strangers** Renée Carlino, 2015-08-18 From the USA TODAY bestselling author of *Sweet Thing* and *Nowhere But Here* comes a love story about a Craigslist "missed connection" post that gives two people a second chance at love fifteen years after

they were separated in New York City. To the Green-eyed Lovebird: We met fifteen years ago, almost to the day, when I moved my stuff into the NYU dorm room next to yours at Senior House. You called us fast friends. I like to think it was more. We lived on nothing but the excitement of finding ourselves through music (you were obsessed with Jeff Buckley), photography (I couldn't stop taking pictures of you), hanging out in Washington Square Park, and all the weird things we did to make money. I learned more about myself that year than any other. Yet, somehow, it all fell apart. We lost touch the summer after graduation when I went to South America to work for National Geographic. When I came back, you were gone. A part of me still wonders if I pushed you too hard after the wedding... I didn't see you again until a month ago. It was a Wednesday. You were rocking back on your heels, balancing on that thick yellow line that runs along the subway platform, waiting for the F train. I didn't know it was you until it was too late, and then you were gone. Again. You said my name; I saw it on your lips. I tried to will the train to stop, just so I could say hello. After seeing you, all of the youthful feelings and memories came flooding back to me, and now I've spent the better part of a month wondering what your life is like. I might be totally out of my mind, but would you like to get a drink with me and catch up on the last decade and a half? M

**dead white males: Straight White Men** Young Jean Lee, 2017-09-29 When Ed and his three adult sons come together to celebrate Christmas, they enjoy cheerful trash-talking, pranks, and takeout Chinese. Then they confront a problem that even being a happy family can't solve: When identity matters, and privilege is problematic, what is the value of being a straight white man?

**dead white males: A Dirty Job** Christopher Moore, 2009-11-05 Charlie Asher is a pretty normal guy. A little hapless, somewhat neurotic, more of a Beta than an Alpha Male. Charlie's been lucky, though. He owns a building in the heart of San Francisco, and runs a second-hand store with the help of a couple of loyal, if marginally insane, employees. He's married to a bright and pretty woman who actually loves him for his normality. And she, Rachel, is about to have their first child. But normal service is about to be interrupted. As Charlie prepares to go home after the birth, he sees a strange man dressed in mint-green at Rachel's hospital bedside - a man who claims that no one should be able to see him. But see him Charlie does, and from here on out, things get really weird. . . . People start dropping dead around him, giant ravens perch on his building, and it seems that everywhere he goes, a dark presence whispers to him from under the streets. Strange names start appearing on his nightstand notepad, and before he knows it, those people end up dead, too. Yep, it seems that Charlie Asher has been recruited for a new job, an unpleasant but utterly necessary one: Death. It's a dirty job. But hey, somebody's gotta do it.

**dead white males: The Death of Socrates** Emily R. Wilson, 2007 Socrates's death in 399 BCE has figured largely in our world, shaping how we think about heroism and celebrity, religion and family life, state control and individual freedom--many of the key coordinates of Western culture. Wilson analyzes the enormous and enduring power the trial and death of Socrates has exerted over the Western imagination.

**dead white males: A Lab of One's Own** Patricia Fara, 2018 2018 marks the centenary not only of the Armistice but also of women gaining the vote in the United Kingdom. A Lab of One's Own commemorates both anniversaries by exploring how the War gave female scientists, doctors, and engineers unprecedented opportunities to undertake endeavors normally reserved for men.

**dead white males: The Sellout** Paul Beatty, 2015-03-03 Winner of the Man Booker Prize Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction Winner of the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature New York Times Bestseller Los Angeles Times Bestseller Named One of the 10 Best Books of the Year by The New York Times Book Review Named a Best Book of the Year by Newsweek, The Denver Post, BuzzFeed, Kirkus Reviews, and Publishers Weekly Named a Must-Read by Flavorwire and New York Magazine's Vulture Blog A biting satire about a young man's isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court, Paul Beatty's *The Sellout* showcases a comic genius at the top of his game. It challenges the sacred tenets of the United States Constitution, urban life, the civil rights movement, the father-son relationship, and the holy grail of racial equality—the black Chinese restaurant. Born in the agrarian ghetto of Dickens—on the southern

outskirts of Los Angeles—the narrator of *The Sellout* resigns himself to the fate of lower-middle-class Californians: I'd die in the same bedroom I'd grown up in, looking up at the cracks in the stucco ceiling that've been there since '68 quake. Raised by a single father, a controversial sociologist, he spent his childhood as the subject in racially charged psychological studies. He is led to believe that his father's pioneering work will result in a memoir that will solve his family's financial woes. But when his father is killed in a police shoot-out, he realizes there never was a memoir. All that's left is the bill for a drive-thru funeral. Fueled by this deceit and the general disrepair of his hometown, the narrator sets out to right another wrong: Dickens has literally been removed from the map to save California from further embarrassment. Enlisting the help of the town's most famous resident—the last surviving Little Rascal, Hominy Jenkins—he initiates the most outrageous action conceivable: reinstating slavery and segregating the local high school, which lands him in the Supreme Court.

**dead white males:** *Money and Friends* David Williamson, 1997 THE STORY: Peter, a professor of pure mathematics, weekends at Crystal Inlet as do most of his friends: Conrad (a star television reporter) and his wife Jaquie; Stephen (a surgeon) and his wife Penny; Alex (a mega-lawyer) and his wife Vicki; and Ma

**dead white males:** *Dead White Men* Shane Rhodes, 2017-04-17 Juxtaposing the seemingly benign names of dead white men that litter our geographies with the details of their so-called discoveries and 'conquests,' *Dead White Men* turns ideas of exploration, finding and keeping back on themselves. Engaging with European exploration and scientific texts from the 15th to the 19th centuries, this book reexamines histories many would like to forget.

**dead white males:** *The Life of Roman Republicanism* Joy Connolly, 2017-04-11 In recent years, Roman political thought has attracted increased attention as intellectual historians and political theorists have explored the influence of the Roman republic on major thinkers from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment. Held up as a third way between liberalism and communitarianism, neo-Roman republicanism promises useful, persuasive accounts of civic virtue, justice, civility, and the ties that bind citizens. But republican revivalists, embedded in modern liberal, democratic, and constitutional concerns, almost never engage closely with Roman texts. *The Life of Roman Republicanism* takes up that challenge. With an original combination of close reading and political theory, Joy Connolly argues that Cicero, Sallust, and Horace inspire fresh thinking about central concerns of contemporary political thought and action. These include the role of conflict in the political community, especially as it emerges from class differences; the necessity of recognition for an equal and just society; the corporeal and passionate aspects of civic experience; citizens' interdependence on one another for senses of selfhood; and the uses and dangers of self-sovereignty and fantasy. Putting classicists and political theorists in dialogue, the book also addresses a range of modern thinkers, including Kant, Hannah Arendt, Stanley Cavell, and Philip Pettit. Together, Connolly's readings construct a new civic ethos of advocacy, self-criticism, embodied awareness, imagination, and irony.

**dead white males:** *The Western Canon* Harold Bloom, 2014-06-17 The literary critic defends the importance of Western literature from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Kafka and Beckett in this acclaimed national bestseller. NOMINATED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD Harold Bloom's *The Western Canon* is more than a required reading list—it is a “heroically brave, formidably learned” defense of the great works of literature that comprise the traditional Western Canon. Infused with a love of learning, compelling in its arguments for a unifying written culture, it argues brilliantly against the politicization of literature and presents a guide to the essential writers of the western literary tradition (*The New York Times Book Review*). Placing William Shakespeare at the “center of the canon,” Bloom examines the literary contributions of Dante Alighieri, John Milton, Jane Austen, Emily Dickinson, Leo Tolstoy, Sigmund Freud, James Joyce, Pablo Neruda, and many others. Bloom's book, much-discussed and praised in publications as diverse as *The Economist* and *Entertainment Weekly*, offers a dazzling display of erudition and passion. “An impressive work...deeply, rightly passionate about the great books of the past.”—Michel Dirda, *The Washington Post Book World*



**dead white males: A Little Life** Hanya Yanagihara, 2015-03-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A stunning “portrait of the enduring grace of friendship” (NPR) about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. A masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century. NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • MAN BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST • WINNER OF THE KIRKUS PRIZE A Little Life follows four college classmates—broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition—as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara’s stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. Look for Hanya Yanagihara’s latest bestselling novel, To Paradise.

**dead white males: Fundamentals** Frank Wilczek, 2021-01-12 One of our great contemporary scientists reveals the ten profound insights that illuminate what everyone should know about the physical world In Fundamentals, Nobel laureate Frank Wilczek offers the reader a simple yet profound exploration of reality based on the deep revelations of modern science. With clarity and an infectious sense of joy, he guides us through the essential concepts that form our understanding of what the world is and how it works. Through these pages, we come to see our reality in a new way--bigger, fuller, and stranger than it looked before. Synthesizing basic questions, facts, and dazzling speculations, Wilczek investigates the ideas that form our understanding of the universe: time, space, matter, energy, complexity, and complementarity. He excavates the history of fundamental science, exploring what we know and how we know it, while journeying to the horizons of the scientific world to give us a glimpse of what we may soon discover. Brilliant, lucid, and accessible, this celebration of human ingenuity and imagination will expand your world and your mind.

**dead white males: Mediocre** Ijeoma Oluo, 2022-01-20 From the TIME 100 author of the Sunday Times and number 1 New York Times bestseller So You Want to Talk About Race, a subversive history of white male American identity -- now with a new preface. 'One of the most admired writers and internet yellers around... [Mediocre is] ever more vital... Oluo's meeting the time -- this movement against white supremacy and systems of oppression. But the question she keeps asking in her work: Are we?' IBRAM X KENDI 'Mediocre paints an urgent, honest picture of how white male identity has spawned unrest in the country's political ideology... It's a necessary read for the world we live in' CHIDOZIE OBASI, Harper's Bazaar '[Ijeoma's] books don't come from a place of hate, but of determination to make change... [Mediocre is] another amazing book' TREVOR NOAH on The Daily Show What happens to a country that tells generation after generation of white men that they deserve power? What happens when success is defined by status over women and people of colour, instead of actual accomplishments? Through the last 150 years of American history -- from the post-Reconstruction South and the mythic stories of cowboys, to the present-day controversy over NFL protests and the backlash against the rise of women in politics -- Ijeoma Oluo exposes the devastating consequences of white male supremacy on women, people of colour, and white men themselves. As provocative as it is essential, Mediocre investigates the real costs of white male power in order to imagine a new white male identity, one free from racism and sexism. '[An] analytical and compassionate book' New Statesman 'Defly combines history and sociological study with personal narrative, and the result is both uncomfortable and illuminating' Washington Post 'Ijeoma's sharp yet accessible writing about the American racial landscape made her 2018 book So You Want to Talk About Race an invaluable resource . . . Mediocre builds on this exemplary work, homing in on the role of white patriarchy in creating and upholding a system built to disenfranchise anyone who isn't a white male' TIME

**dead white males: Ain't I A Woman?** Sojourner Truth, 2020-09-24 'I am a woman's rights. I have plowed and reaped and husked and chopped and mowed, and can any man do more than that? I am as strong as any man that is now' A former slave and one of the most powerful orators of her

time, Sojourner Truth fought for the equal rights of Black women throughout her life. This selection of her impassioned speeches is accompanied by the words of other inspiring African-American female campaigners from the nineteenth century. One of twenty new books in the bestselling Penguin Great Ideas series. This new selection showcases a diverse list of thinkers who have helped shape our world today, from anarchists to stoics, feminists to prophets, satirists to Zen Buddhists.

**dead white males:** *The Inheritance Games* Jennifer Lynn Barnes, 2020-09-03 2 MILLION COPIES SOLD OF THE #1 BESTSELLING SERIES! 'A MASTER OF PUZZLES AND PLOT TWISTS' E. Lockhart, author of *We Were Liars* The addictive and twisty thriller, full of dark family secrets and deadly stakes that's 'impossible to put down' (Buzzfeed). Perfect for fans of Karen McManus and Holly Jackson. A BILLION-DOLLAR FORTUNE TO DIE FOR. Avery has a plan: keep her head down, work hard for a better future. Then an eccentric billionaire dies, leaving her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why. A DEADLY GAME. Now she must move into the mansion she's inherited. It's filled with secrets and codes, and the old man's surviving relatives - a family hell-bent on discovering why Avery got 'their' money. WINNER TAKES ALL. Soon she is caught in a deadly game that everyone in this strange family is playing. But just how far will they go to keep their fortune? \*\*Avery's story continues in *The Hawthorne Legacy*, *The Final Gambit* and *The Brothers Hawthorne*\*\*

**dead white males:** *No Country for Old Men* Cormac McCarthy, 2010-12-03 Savage violence and cruel morality reign in the backwater deserts of Cormac McCarthy's *No Country for Old Men*, a tale of one man's dark opportunity - and the darker consequences that spiral forth. Adapted for the screen by the Coen Brothers (*Fargo*, *True Grit*), winner of four Academy Awards (including Best Picture). 'A fast, powerful read, steeped with a deep sorrow about the moral degradation of the legendary American West' - Financial Times 1980. Llewelyn Moss, a Vietnam veteran, is hunting antelope near the Rio Grande when he stumbles upon a transaction gone horribly wrong. Finding bullet-ridden bodies, several kilos of heroin, and a caseload of cash, he faces a choice - leave the scene as he found it, or cut the money and run. Choosing the latter, he knows, will change everything. And so begins a terrifying chain of events, in which each participant seems determined to answer the question that one asks another: how does a man decide in what order to abandon his life? 'It's hard to think of a contemporary writer more worth reading' - Independent Part of the Picador Collection, a series showcasing the best of modern literature. Praise for Cormac McCarthy: 'McCarthy worked close to some religious impulse, his books were terrifying and absolute' - Anne Enright, author of *The Green Road* and *The Wren*, *The Wren* 'His prose takes on an almost biblical quality, hallucinatory in its effect and evangelical in its power' - Stephen King, author of *The Shining* and the *Dark Tower* series '[I]n presenting the darker human impulses in his rich prose, [McCarthy] showed readers the necessity of facing up to existence' - Annie Proulx, author of *Brokeback Mountain*

**dead white males:** *The Dying Art of Disagreement* Bret Stephens, 2017-12-17 2017 Lowy Institute Media Lecture

**dead white males:** *Shakespeare Survey: Volume 58, Writing about Shakespeare* Peter Holland, 2005-11-03 Published with academic researchers and graduate students in mind, this volume of the 'Shakespeare Survey' presents a number of contributions on the theme of the play 'Macbeth'.

**dead white males:** *Dead White Writer on the Floor* Drew Hayden Taylor, 2011 A funny yet thought-provoking play about identity politics in which Pocahontas, Tonto, and other native characters rewrite their stereotyped roles.

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