

Some Reading on the Long-Term Presence of People of Colour in Britain

The erasure of People of Colour from the history of Britain has, over the past years, come up as a topic in discussions in my seminars, and I noticed there seems to be a demand for further information, so I have compiled a bibliography for you. This is obviously just a starting point: this is a growing field, and many more publications are coming up constantly.

Contrary to the proper MLA format I ask people to adapt in their academic work, this list is kept deliberately simple, to account for the fact that several of these texts might be accessible to you in multiple formats and may have been (re)published by different publishing houses.

(* = available via UB Bonn)

Non-Fictional / Scholarly Writing

- Adi, Hakim. *African and Caribbean People in Britain: a History*. (2022)
- ---. *Black British History: New Perspectives*. (2019)
- Boyce Davies, Carole. *Left of Karl Marx: the Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones*. (2007)*
- Dabydeen, David. *The Oxford Companion to Black British History*. (2007)*
- Earle, T. F. & K. J. P. Lowe (eds.). *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe*. (2005)
- Edwards, Paul & David Dabydeen. *Black Writers in Britain 1760-1890. An Anthology*. (2022)*
- Fryer, Peter. *Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain*. (1984)*
→ this is the early, significant and discourse-changing publication on the topic of the erasure of black Britons from British history
- Gerzina, Gretchen G. (ed.) *Britain's Black Past*. (2020)*
- ---. *Black England. A Forgotten Georgian History*. (2022)*
- Habib, Imtiaz. *Black Lives in the English Archives, 1500-1677: Imprints of the Invisible*. (2008)*
- Hanley, Ryan. *Beyond Slavery and Abolition: Black British Writing, c. 1770-1830*. (2019)
- Heng, Geraldine. *The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages*. (2018)*
- Kaufmann, Miranda. *Black Tudors: The Untold Story*. (2017)*
- Linebaugh, Peter. *Red Round Globe Hot Burning: a Tale at the Crossroads of Commons and Closure, of Love and Terror, of Race and Class, and of Kate and Ned Despard*. (2019)*
- Nasta, Susheila & Stein, Mark U. (eds.). *The Cambridge History of Black and Asian British Writing*. (2020)*
- Nubia, Onyeka. *England's Other Countrymen: Black Tudor Society*. (2019)*
- ---. *Blackamoors: Africans in Tudor England*. (2013)
- Olusoga, David. *Black and British: a Forgotten History*. (2016)
→ also see the corresponding 4-part BBC documentary:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b082x0h6>
- Otele, Olivette. *African European: an Untold History* (2020)*
- Pitts, Johny. *Afropean: Notes from Black Europe*. (2020)
- Rastogi, Pallavi & Jocelyn Fenton Stitt (eds.). *Before Windrush: Recovering an Asian and Black Literary Heritage within Britain*. (2008)
- Sanghera, Sathnam. *Empireland: How Imperialism Has Shaped Modern Britain*. (2021)*

- ---. *Empireworld: How British Imperialism Shaped the Globe*. (2024)*
- Visram, Rozina. *Asians in Britain: 400 Years of History*. (2002)*

Other Resources

- Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS): *RaceB4Race* (2019-ongoing) conference series and network
→ a recent YouTube playlist of recorded talks can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCegSaWdZ5ZrSMIPPTDFXaag>
- Black Central Europe: <https://blackcentraleurope.com/>
- Black Presence in Britain: <https://blackpresence.co.uk>
- Davies, Akinola. *Black to Life*. (2019): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07dt1d3>
- England's Immigrants 1330-1550: <https://www.englishimmigrants.com>
- English Heritage on Black Lives in Britain: <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/teaching-resources/-learn-black-lives-in-britain/>
- Gates, Jr., Henry Louis. *Africa's Great Civilizations*. Dir. Virginia Quinn and Mark Bates. PBS, 2017.
→ also investigates the interplay between African civilisations and the wider world