

# Ta-Nehisi Coates Quotes

*People, White, Country, Thinking, African American, Black, America, Mean,  
Racism, World, Years, Opportunity, Community, Color, Optimism, Past, Two,  
President, Government, Self*

Racism is not merely a simplistic hatred. It is, more often, broad sympathy toward some and broader skepticism toward others.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

An America that looks away is ignoring not just the sins of the past but the sins of the present and the certain sins of the future.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

What sets black people apart is not some deficit in personal responsibility. It's the weight on our shoulders. That is what's actually different. We have the weight and burden of history.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

The best part of writing is not the communication of knowledge to other people, but the acquisition and synthesizing of knowledge for oneself.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

I did not know then that this is what life is - just when you master the geometry of one world, it slips away, and suddenly again, you're swarmed by strange shapes and impossible angles.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

When nonviolence begins halfway through the war with the aggressor calling time out, it exposes itself as a ruse.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

Racism is, among other things, the unearned skepticism of one group of humans joined to the unearned sympathy for another.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

[E]mpathy - not squishy self-serving conflict avoidance - is the hand-maiden, not the enemy, of reason and intellectual inquiry.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

You can live in the world of myth and be taken seriously.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

If George Washington crossing the Delaware matters, so must his ruthless pursuit of the runagate Oney Judge.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

The standard progressive approach of the moment is to mix color-conscious moral invective with color-blind public policy.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

The essence of American racism is disrespect.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

To prevent enabling oppression, we demand that black people be twice as good. To prevent verifying stereotypes, we pledge to never eat a slice a watermelon in front of white people.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Knowledge Rule 2080: From maggots to men, the world is a corner bully. Better you knuckle up and go for yours than have to bow your head and tuck your chain.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

Is the Jewish race thriftier than the Arab race?

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

That's not an accident that Donald Trump didn't begin with, say, trade or jobs or anything, that he actually began by otherizing the first African-American president of the United States.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

The progressive approach to policy which directly addresses the effects of white supremacy is simple - talk about class and hope no one

notices.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

Addressing the moral failings of black people while ignoring the centuries-old failings of their governments amounts to a bait and switch.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

Lot of folks like to mock dumb history, and pretend it's just a few idiots. Isn't. It's the country.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

[Barack Obama] grew up in Hawaii, far, far removed from the most, you know, sort of violent, you know, tendencies of Jim Crow and segregation. He wasn't directly exposed to that. He was untraumatized.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

What it is is that Barack Obama was raised by a white mother and two white grandparents who, A, told him he was black and that there was nothing wrong with being black.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

The greatest reward of this constant interrogation, confrontation with the brutality of my country, is that it has freed me from hosts and myths.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

I think President [Barack] Obama deeply underestimated the force of white supremacy in American life.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

These were the days when I powerfully believed Breyers and Entenmann's to be pioneers in the field of antidepressants.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

I think, as a writer, I'm in my own head.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

My mom used to tell me, I can't use this phrase on the radio - but basically don't be one of those dudes hanging on the corner.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

In particular in how [Barack Obama] has directed what you could describe as patronizing remarks to African-American communities.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

I would flip this the other way and say over 90 percent of African-Americans voted against Donald Trump.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

Any time you have, you know, upwards of 90 percent of a demographic voting against somebody, that's a statement.

~Ta-Nehisi Coates

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