This list of forty books forms the base of a reading list for Ph.D. students taking comprehensive exams in United States History from 1865-Present. Students should consult their faculty examiners for additions, deletions, or other changes to this list far in advance of taking their exams.

NOTE: In addition to the titles here, students should familiarize themselves with journals such as the Journal of American History, American Historical Review, Journal of Southern History, American Quarterly, Reviews in American History and applicable state history journals. They should also consult works on American historiography, such as the newest editions of Francis Couvares, et. al. ed., Interpretations of American History: Patterns and Perspectives, James M. Banner’s A Century of American Historiography, or the American Historical Association’s New American History: Critical Perspectives on the Past, ed. Eric Foner.


