



Who's Afraid of Nathan Law?

DELVE DEEPER READING LIST



This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Kim Rott, librarian at Sentinel High School in Missoula, Montana, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Who's Afraid of Nathan Law?*

Contributors



Kim Rott / M.Ed.

Kim Rott is a retired English teacher and Librarian at Sentinel High School where she urges her students to read broadly, think deeply, and research wisely. As a “Speaker in the Schools” for Humanities Montana, she teaches Media Literacy to students around Montana. She has an M.Ed. in Library and Information Technology from Mansfield University in Mansfield, Pennsylvania.

ADULT NON-FICTION

Bevins, Vincent. *If We Burn: The Mass Protest Decade and the Missing Revolution*. Public Affairs, 2023.

From 2010 to 2020, more people participated in protests than at any other point in human history. Yet, we are not living in more just and democratic societies as a result. *If We Burn* is a stirring work of history built around a single, vital question: How did so many mass protests lead to the opposite of what they asked for?

From the so-called Arab Spring to Gezi Park in Turkey, from Ukraine's Euromaidan to student rebellions in Chile and Hong Kong, acclaimed journalist Vincent Bevins provides a blow-by-blow account of street movements and their consequences, recounted in gripping detail. He draws on four years of research and hundreds of interviews conducted around the world, as well as his own strange experiences in Brazil, where a progressive-led protest explosion led to an extreme-right government that torched the Amazon.

Careful investigation reveals that conventional wisdom on revolutionary change is gravely misguided. In this groundbreaking study of an extraordinary chain of events, protesters and major actors look back on successes and defeats, offering urgent lessons for the future.

England, Vaudine. *Fortune's Bazaar: The Making of Hong Kong*, Scribner, 2023.

Hong Kong has always been many cities to many people: a seaport, a gateway to an empire, a place where fortunes can be dramatically made or lost, a place to disappear and reinvent oneself, and a melting pot of diverse populations from around the globe. A British Crown Colony for 155 years, Hong Kong is now ruled by the Chinese Communist Party. Here, renowned journalist Vaudine England delves into Hong Kong's complex history and its people—diverse, multicultural, and cosmopolitan—who have made this one-time fishing village into the world port city it is today.

Rather than a traditional history describing a town led by British Governors or a mere offshoot of a collapsing Chinese empire, *Fortune's Bazaar* is “a winning portrait of Hong Kong's vibrant mosaic” (*Publishers Weekly*). While British traders and Asian merchants had long been busy in the Indian and Southeast Asian seas, many people from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds arrived in Hong Kong, met, and married—despite all taboos—and created a distinct community. Many of Hong Kong's most influential figures during its first century as a city were neither British nor Chinese—they were Malay or Indian, Jewish or Armenian, Parsi or Portuguese, Eurasian or Chindian—or simply, Hong Kongers. England describes those overlooked in history, including the opium traders who built synagogues and churches; ship owners carrying gold-rush migrants; the half-Dutch, half-Chinese

gentleman with two wives who was knighted by Queen Victoria; and the gardeners who settled Kowloon, the mainland peninsula facing the island of Hong Kong, and became millionaires.

A story of empire, race, and sex, *Fortune's Bazaar* presents a “fresh...essential” (Ian Buruma), “formidable and important” (*The Correspondent*) history of a special place—a unique city made by diverse people of the world, whose part in its creation has never been properly told until now.

Law, Nathan. *Freedom: How We Lose It and How We Fight Back. The Experiment*, 2021.

Activist Nathan Law experienced firsthand the speed with which our freedom can be taken away.

When sovereignty over Hong Kong was handed to China in 1997, Hong Kong was guaranteed freedom of the press, expression, and assembly. However, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been chipping away at these rights and, since 2014, restricting free and fair elections. Law writes, “When governments control access to information and are able to define the narrative and dictate what we know, we lose more than our freedoms. We lose the ability to see the world for what it is. We lose our humanity.”

In 2016, Law became the youngest-ever elected legislator in Hong Kong on a pro-democracy platform and was subsequently imprisoned for his role as a leader of the Umbrella Movement. He now lives in exile.

An urgent rallying cry, *Freedom* warns of the dangers of authoritarianism and inspires us to protect democracy and freedom—or face losing them forever.

Lim, Louisa. *Indelible City: Dispossession and Defiance in Hong Kong*. Riverhead Books, April 18, 2023.

The story of Hong Kong has long been dominated by competing myths: to Britain, a “barren rock” with no appreciable history; to China, a part of Chinese soil from time immemorial, at last returned to the ancestral fold. For decades, Hong Kong’s history was simply not taught, especially to Hong Kongers, obscuring its origins as a place of refuge and rebellion. When protests erupted in 2019 and were met with escalating suppression from Beijing, Louisa Lim—raised in Hong Kong as a half-Chinese, half-English child, and now a reporter who has covered the region for nearly two decades—realized that she was uniquely positioned to unearth the city’s untold stories.

Lim’s deeply researched and personal account casts startling new light on key moments: the British takeover in 1842, the negotiations over the 1997 return to China, and the future Beijing seeks to impose. *Indelible City* features guerrilla calligraphers, amateur historians and archaeologists, and others who, like Lim, aim to put Hong Kongers at the center of their own story. Winding through it all is the King of Kowloon, whose iconic street art both embodied and inspired the identity of Hong Kong—a site of disappearance and reappearance, power and powerlessness, loss and reclamation.

Mahtani, Shibani and Timothy McLaughlin. *Among the Braves: Hope, Struggle, and Exile in the Battle for Hong Kong and the Future of Global Democracy*. Hachette Books, November 7, 2023.

Hong Kong was an experiment in governance. Handed back to China in 1997 after 156 years of British rule, it was meant to be a carve-out between hostile systems: a bridge between communism and capitalism, authoritarianism and liberal democracy. “One country, two systems” kept its media free, its courts independent and its protests boisterous, designed also to convince Taiwan of a peaceful solution to Beijing’s desire for reunification.

Yet this formulation excluded Hong Kong’s own people, their future negotiated by political titans in faraway capitals. In 2019, an ill-conceived law spear-headed by a sycophantic leader pushed millions to take to the streets in one of the most enduring protest movements the world has ever seen. Xi Jinping responded with a draconian national security law that sought not only to end the demonstrations but also quash the “problem” of Hong Kongers’ identity and desire for freedom.

In *Among the Braves*, Shibani Mahtani and Timothy McLaughlin tell the story of Hong Kong’s past, and what the sacrifices of its people mean for global democracy’s shaky foundation.

Martin, Greg. *Social Movements and Protest Politics*. Routledge, 2023.

This fully revised and updated edition of *Social Movements and Protest Politics* provides interdisciplinary perspectives on the sociology of protest movements. It considers major theories and concepts, which are presented in a clear, accessible, and engaging format. The second edition contains new chapters on methods and ethics of social movement research, and legal mobilization, protest policing, and criminal justice activism, including calls to abolish or defund police made at protests during the COVID-19 pandemic. This edition introduces readers to the concept of the ‘post-protest society’ wherein the right to protest is whittled away to a near vanishing point, and authorities have considerable legal recourse to ban protests and render the tactics of protest movements ineffective. The book also looks at recent developments and novel social movements, including Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion, Gilets Jaunes, #MeToo, and Hong Kong’s Umbrella Movement, as well as the rise of contemporary forms of populism in democratic societies.

The book presents specific chapters outlining the early origins of social movement studies and more recent theoretical and conceptual developments. It considers key ideas from resource mobilization theory, the political process model, and new social movement approaches. It provides extensive commentary on the role of culture in social protest (including visual images, emotions, storytelling, music, and sport), religious movements, geography and struggles over space, media and movements, and global activism. Historical and contemporary case studies and examples from a variety of countries are provided throughout, including the American civil rights movement, Greenpeace, Pussy Riot, Indigenous peoples’ movements, liberation theology, Indignados, Occupy, Tea Party, and Arab

Spring. Each chapter also contains illustrations and boxed case studies to demonstrate the issues under discussion.

Social Movements and Protest Politics will be an indispensable resource for undergraduate and postgraduate students in the social sciences and humanities wanting to be introduced to or extend their knowledge of the field. The book will also prove useful to university teachers and academic researchers, activists, and practitioners interested in the study of social, cultural, and political protest

Wasserstrom, Jeffrey N. *Vigil: Hong Kong on the Brink*. Columbia Global Reports, February 11, 2020.

Vigil tells a tale of two interrelated processes. The first involves a stop and go, but never reversing, set of moves by China's Communist Party to minimize the many things that once made Hong Kong unlike the cities neighboring it just across the border on the mainland. The result of this has been that, since the 1997 Handover from Great Britain to China, more and more of the once clear-cut contrasts between Hong Kong and nearby urban centers such as Canton and Shenzhen—differences that decades ago were as stark as those between East Berlin and West Berlin—are lessening or going away completely.

The second process involves bold efforts by residents of Hong Kong to push back against this erosion of differences. The key actors are people who are passionately committed to defending the special qualities of a city they love—a freer press, more judicial independence, a system of rule of law rather than rule by law—against moves to diminish them made by Beijing and its local proxies. The result has been one of the great David versus Goliath stories of our time, pitting creative and determined activists, joined on the streets in recent years by ever larger numbers of Hong Kong residents, against a Chinese Communist Party whose global clout keeps growing and whose current leader, Xi Jinping, has grand ambitions for bringing all parts of the People's Republic of China under tighter forms of control.

The result is a tale of heroism but also tragedy. Even against-all-odds longshot victories—and there have been some—can only slow a process that has led, in essence, to Hong Kong's people becoming subjects of first the great imperial power of the nineteenth century and now the most important rising imperial power of the current era.

ADULT FICTION

Cheung, Karen. *The Impossible City: A Hong Kong Memoir*. Random House, 2022

Hong Kong is known as a place of extremes: a former colony of the United Kingdom that now exists at the margins of an ascendant China; a city rocked by mass protests, where residents rally—often in vain—against threats to their fundamental freedoms. But it is also misunderstood and often romanticized. Drawing from her own experience reporting on the politics and culture of her hometown, as well as interviews with musicians, protesters, and writers who have watched their home transform, Karen Cheung gives us a rare insider's view of this remarkable city at a pivotal moment—for Hong Kong and, ultimately, for herself.

Born just before the handover to China in 1997, Cheung grew up questioning what version of Hong Kong she belonged to. Not quite at ease within the middle-class, cosmopolitan identity available to her at her English-speaking international school, she also resisted the conservative values of her deeply traditional, often dysfunctional family.

Through vivid and character-rich stories, Cheung braids a dual narrative of her own coming of age alongside that of her generation. With heartbreaking candor, she recounts her yearslong struggle to find reliable mental health care in a city reeling from the traumatic aftermath of recent protests. Cheung also captures moments of miraculous triumph, documenting Hong Kong's vibrant counterculture and taking us deep into its indie music and creative scenes. Inevitably, she brings us to the protests, where her understanding of what it means to belong to Hong Kong finally crystallized.

An exhilarating blend of memoir and reportage, *The Impossible City* charts the parallel journeys of both a young woman and a city as they navigate the various, sometimes contradictory, paths of coming into one's own.

Dung, Kai-cheung. *Atlas: The Archaeology of an Imaginary City*. Columbia University Press, July 17, 2012.

Set in the long-lost City of Victoria (a fictional world similar to Hong Kong), *Atlas* is written from the unified perspective of future archaeologists struggling to rebuild a thrilling metropolis. Divided into four sections—"Theory," "The City," "Streets," and "Signs"—the novel reimagines Victoria through maps and other historical documents and artifacts, mixing real-world scenarios with purely imaginary people and events while incorporating anecdotes and actual and fictional social commentary and critique.

Much like the quasi-fictional adventures in map-reading and remapping explored by Paul Auster, Jorge Luis Borges, and Italo Calvino, Dung Kai-cheung's novel challenges the representation of place and history and the limits of technical and scientific media in reconstructing a history. It best exemplifies the author's versatility and experimentation, along with China's rapidly evolving literary culture, by blending fiction, nonfiction, and poetry in a story about succeeding and failing to recapture the things we lose. Playing with

a variety of styles and subjects, Dung Kai-cheung inventively engages with the fate of Hong Kong since its British "handover" in 1997, which officially marked the end of colonial rule and the beginning of an uncharted future.

Fung, Pik-Shuen. *Ghost Forest: A Novel*. One World, September 6, 2022.

How do you grieve if your family doesn't talk about feelings?

This is the question the unnamed protagonist of *Ghost Forest* considers after her father dies. One of the many Hong Kong "astronaut" fathers, he stays behind to work while the rest of the family immigrated to Canada before the 1997 Handover, when the British returned sovereignty over Hong Kong to China.

As she revisits memories of her father through the years, she struggles with unresolved questions and misunderstandings. Turning to her mother and grandmother for answers, she discovers her own life refracted brightly in theirs.

Buoyant and heartbreaking, *Ghost Forest* is a slim novel that envelops the reader in joy and sorrow. Fung writes with a poetic and haunting voice, layering detail and abstraction, weaving memory and oral history to paint a moving portrait of a Chinese-Canadian astronaut family.

YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION

Feathers, Beka (Illustrated by Ally Shwed). *Why the People: The Case for Democracy*. First Second, June 14, 2022.

Is democracy actually the best form of government? Does it ever work like it's supposed to?

Join Lin and Julie in the middle of an airport as they wonder aloud how America can ever be a democracy when citizens seem to disagree about everything. With them, we are whisked through political history and journey through different systems of power, including monarchy, theocracy, dictatorship, and oligarchy.

Beka Feathers and Ally Shwed shine a bright light on power, justice, and the promise of true democracy.

Picatella, Joe, director. *Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower*. Netflix, 2017.

Mobilized by teenage activist Joshua Wong, young citizens of Hong Kong take to the streets in a bid to preserve their history of autonomy from China. The documentary film profiles Joshua Wong and Nathan Law from their work in the anti-National Education Movement through the Umbrella Revolution.

Lowy-Hasak, Todd. *We Are Power: How Nonviolent Activism Changes the World*. Harry N. Abrams, March 8, 2022.

We Are Power brings to light the incredible individuals who have used nonviolent activism to change the world. The book explores questions such as: what is nonviolent resistance, and how does it work? In an age when armies are stronger than ever before, when guns seem to be everywhere, how can people confront their adversaries without resorting to violence themselves? Through key international movements as well as people such as Gandhi, Alice Paul, Martin Luther King, César Chávez, and Václav Havel, this book discusses the components of nonviolent resistance. It answers the question, "Why nonviolence?" by showing how nonviolent movements have succeeded again and again in a variety of ways, in all sorts of places, and always in the face of overwhelming odds. The book includes endnotes, a bibliography, and an index.

Magoon, Kekla. *Revolution in Our Time: The Black Panther Party's Promise to the People*. Candlewick, November 8, 2021.

While not about the Umbrella Movement, this multi-award-winning book brings another social justice movement alive for teens.

In this comprehensive, inspiring, and all-too-relevant history of the Black Panther Party, Kekla Magoon introduces readers to the Panthers' community activism, grounded in the concept of self-defense,

which taught Black Americans how to protect and support themselves in a country that treated them like second-class citizens. For too long, the Panthers' story has been a footnote to the civil rights movement rather than what it was: a revolutionary socialist movement that drew thousands of members—mostly women—and became the target of one of the most sustained repression efforts ever made by the U.S. government against its own citizens.

Revolution in Our Time puts the Panthers in the proper context of Black American history, from the first arrival of enslaved people to the Black Lives Matter movement of today. Kekla Magoon's eye-opening work invites a new generation of readers grappling with injustices in the United States to learn from the Panthers' history and courage, inspiring them to take their own place in the ongoing fight for justice.

Margolin, Jamie. *Youth to Power: Your Voice and How to Use It*. Hachette Go, June 1, 2020.

Jamie Margolin has been organizing and protesting since she was fourteen years old. Now the co-leader of a global climate action movement, she knows better than most how powerful a young person can be. You don't have to be able to vote or hold positions of power to change the world.

In *Youth to Power*, Jamie presents the essential guide to changemaking, with advice on writing and pitching op-eds, organizing successful events and peaceful protests, time management as a student activist, utilizing social media and traditional media to spread a message, and sustaining long-term action. She features interviews with prominent young activists including Tokata Iron Eyes of the #NoDAPL movement and Nupol Kiazolu of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, who give guidance on handling backlash, keeping your mental health a priority, and how to avoid getting taken advantage of.

Jamie walks readers through every step of what effective, healthy, intersectional activism looks like. Young people have a lot to say. *Youth to Power* gives you the tools to raise your voice.

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Song, K. X. *An Echo in the City*. Little, Brown, and Company, 2023.

Sixteen-year-old Phoenix knows her parents have invested thousands of dollars to help her leave Hong Kong and get an elite Ivy League education. They think America means big status, big dreams, and big bank accounts. But Phoenix doesn't want big; she just wants home. The trouble is, she doesn't know where that is ... until the Hong Kong protest movement unfolds, and she learns the city she's come to love is in danger of disappearing.

Seventeen-year-old Kai sees himself as an artist, not a filial son, and certainly not a cop. But when his mother dies, he's forced to leave Shanghai to reunite with his estranged father, a respected police officer, who's already enrolled him in the Hong Kong police academy. Kai wants to hate his job, but instead, he finds himself craving his father's approval. And when he accidentally swaps phones with Phoenix and discovers she's part of a protest network, he finds a way to earn it: by infiltrating the group and reporting their plans back to the police.

As Kai and Phoenix join the struggle for the future of Hong Kong, a spark forms between them, pulling them together even as their two worlds try to force them apart. But when their relationship is built on secrets and deception, will they still love the person left behind when the lies fall away?

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS AND CHILDREN

Auyeung, Pearl. *The Best Kind of Mooncake*. Page Street Kids, 2022.

Once upon a morning in Hong Kong, in the alley of Tai Yuen Street, a girl is promised a mooncake with a double-yolk center—the best kind!

The special mooncake seems like the only excitement on an otherwise boring day in the market, where nothing changes... until an exhausted stranger falls to his knees right in the street! He ran through forests, swam through rivers, and even stowed away on a ship, all to get to Hong Kong. Now, at the end of his journey, all he needs is a bite to eat, but no one seems willing to help—not even the girl if it means giving up her prized treat.

The girl's ultimate decision has surprising, far-reaching consequences in this mostly true story that reminds us that even the smallest acts of kindness hold the power to change lives— for the giver as much as the receiver.

Henderson, Leah. *Together We March: 25 Protest Movements That Marched into History*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2021.

For generations, marches have been an invaluable tool for bringing about social change. People have used their voices, the words on their signs, and the strength in their numbers to combat inequality, oppression, and discrimination. They march to call attention to these wrongs and demand change and action, from a local to a global scale.

Whether demanding protective laws or advocating for equal access to things like voting rights, public spaces, and jobs, the twenty-five marches in this book show us that even when a fight seems impossible, marching can be the push needed to tip the scales and create a movement. This gorgeous collection celebrates this rich and diverse history, the often-overlooked stories, and the courageous people who continue to teach us the importance of coming together to march today.

Rocha, Charlene. *You Can Be an Activist: How to Use Your Strengths and Passions to Make a Difference*. Kids Can Press, 2024.

Here's the definitive handbook for young activists who want to make a difference but don't know where to begin. It covers everything from choosing a cause and doing the research to deciding on a goal and then making a plan to get it done. Along the way, readers will encounter loads of practical tips on handling specific tasks, like creating a petition, and larger responsibilities, like leading a team. There are also important discussions about essential topics such as intersectionality, privilege, and allyship. Written in the encouraging, friendly tone of a peer, this book is sure to inform and inspire budding activists - and open their eyes to what's possible!

Written by youth activist Charlene Rocha and award-winning author Mary Beth Leatherdale, this guide demystifies activism for budding social justice campaigners and climate advocates and encourages readers to bring their own passions and interests to their work. Drew Shannon's illustrations bring a sense of fun to the topic, and the comprehensive text is presented in chunks and sidebars, with engaging quizzes, prompts, lists, templates, profiles, and interviews throughout. The book supports young readers in learning more about issues such as queer rights, feminism, and Black Lives Matter. The back matter includes an extensive list of resources, a checklist of next steps, a glossary, and an index. Part of the CitizenKid collection, this book aligns with the themes of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Tougias, Kristin. *Good Night Hong Kong (Good Night Our World)*. Good Night Books, June 23, 2020.

Many of Asia's most beloved regions are artfully celebrated in these board books designed to soothe children before bedtime while instilling an early appreciation for Asia's natural and cultural wonders. Each book stars a multicultural group of people visiting the featured area's attractions as rhythmic language guides children through the passage of both a single day and the four seasons while saluting the iconic aspects of each place.