

## A-Z List of Black Thinkers in Philosophy and Beyond

As we celebrate Black History Month 2025, it is essential to recognize the profound impact of Black thinkers across various fields who have shaped philosophical thought and general knowledge production. This A-Z (except U) list offers a starting point for exploring the works and legacies of notable Black individuals whose ideas have influenced philosophy and broader intellectual traditions. While it is by no means exhaustive, it serves as an invitation to engage with a diverse range of thinkers whose contributions continue to shape contemporary discourse. We acknowledge that this list is shaped by the limited scope of its producers and inevitably may exclude some people. However, we hope it serves as a foundation for further exploration and discussion, inspiring deeper engagement with the wealth of Black intellectual traditions.

Importantly, this list is not limited to thinkers from the United States; it embraces Blackness as a global and political identity, drawing from the South African Black Consciousness philosophy as articulated by Steve Biko in *I Write What I Like*, 2004 (a collection of his essays and speeches published posthumously). By taking this broader perspective, we aim to highlight the contributions of Black thinkers across the African diaspora, emphasizing the transnational nature of Black intellectual traditions.

Contributors: Zinhle ka’Nobuhlaluse, Michael Bray, Jorge Lizarzaburu

### **A is for**

Alain Locke

Anthon Wilhem Amo

Ama Ata Aidoo

Aimé Césaire

Angela Davis

Ato Sekyi-Otu

Axelle Karera

Amilcar Cabral

Archie Mafeje

Aminia Mama

Abosede Priscilla Ipadeola

Amelie Aristelle EKASSI

Achille Mbembe

## **B is for**

bell hooks

Bantu Steve Biko

Bobby Seale

Bhekizizwe Peterson

Bolatito Lanre-Abass

## **C is for**

Cedric Robinson

Catherine Acholonu

Charles Mills

C.L.R. James

Combahee River Collective

Cornel West

## **D is for**

Dorothy Roberts

Desiree Lewis

David Marriott

## **E is for**

Ella Baker

Es'kia Mphahlele

Eric Williams

Ellen Kuzwayo

## **F is for**

Frantz Fanon

Fatima Mernissi

Frank Wilderson

Franklin Miranda Robles

## **G is for**

George Padmore

George Yancy

Gabeba Baderoon

## **H is for**

Hortense Spillers

Huey P. Newton

## **I is for**

Ida B. Wells  
Ifi Amadiume  
Ifeanyi Menkiti  
Isoken Ekeocha

## **J is for**

James Baldwin  
Julius Nyerere  
John McClendon III  
Jameliah Igna Shorter-Bourhanou  
Jordan Ngubane  
Justin L Clardy  
Jerome Clark  
Jasmin Wallace

## **K is for**

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor  
Kimberlé Crenshaw  
Kathryn Sophia Belle  
Kris Sealy  
Kwameh Nkrumah  
Kwame Ture  
Kwame Anthony Appiah

## **L is for**

Lewis Gordon  
Leopold Senghor  
Leonard Harris  
Lauretta Ngcobo  
Lindokuhle Gama

## **M is for**

Mariam Makeba  
Mamphela Ramphele  
Myisha Cherry  
Malcolm X  
Marcus Garvey  
Minna Salami

Miriam Jiménez Román  
Mpho Tshivhase  
Mabogo Percy More

## **N is for**

Nawal El Saadawi  
Nkiru Nzegwu  
Nathifa Greene  
Nolwandle Lombethé

## **O is for**

Ochy Curiel  
Octavia Butler  
Oyèrónkẹ Oyěwùmí

## **P is for**

Patricia Hill Collins  
Paul Gilroy  
Pumla Dineo Gqola  
Patricia McFadden  
Precious Oghale Diagboya

## **Q is for**

Qrescent Mali Mason

## **R is for**

Ralph Ellison  
Richard Wright  
Robin D.G. Kelley  
Roseina Maart  
Ruth Wilson Gilmore  
Rommy Opperman  
Robinah Nakabo

## **S is for**

Saidiya Hartman  
Samuel R. Delany  
Stuart Hall  
Sylvia Winter  
Sara Ahmed  
Sol Plaatje

Siseko Khumalo  
Suzanne Cesaire  
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## **T is for**

Toni Morrison  
Tsitsi Dangarembga  
Tommie Shelby  
Tanella Boni  
Tendayi Sithole

## **V is for**

V.Y. Mudimbe  
Victoria Openif'Oluwa Akolewo

## **W is for**

Walter Rodney  
W. E. B. Du Bois  
Wangari Maathi

## **X is for**

Xaba Makhosazana

## **Y is for**

Yaba Blay

## **Z is for**

Zora Neale Hurston  
Zinhle Mcube  
Zinhle ka'Nobuhlaluse  
Zekeh Gbotokuma  
Zimitri Erasmus  
Zakiyyah Iman Jackson

Let this be an ongoing conversation—one that encourages us to seek out, celebrate, and critically engage with the voices that have historically been marginalized yet remain vital to our understanding of justice, knowledge, and human experience.

