

A Partial Listing of Social Problem Novels since 2000

Climate Change

T. C. Boyle, *A Friend of the Earth* (New York: Viking Penguin, 2000).
 Michael Crichton, *State of Fear* (New York: Harpers, 2004).
 Marcel Theroux, *Far North* (New York: Picador, 2009).
 Nathaniel Rich, *Odds Against Tomorrow* (New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2013).
 Edan Lepucki, *California* (New York: Back Bay Books, 2014).
 Paolo Bacigalupi, *The Water Knife* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015).
 Sandra Newman, *The Country of Ice Cream Star* (New York: Ecco, 2015).
 Claire Vaye Watkins, *Gold Fame Citrus* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2015).
 Meg Little Reilly, *We Are Unprepared* (Ontario: MIRA, 2016).
 Omar El Akkad, *American War* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2017).
 Jenny Offill, *Weather* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2020).

Environment

C. J. Box, *Open Season* (New York: Putnam, 2001).
 Barbara Kingsolver, *Flight Behavior* (New York: HarperCollins, 2012).
 John Grisham, *Gray Mountain* (New York: Doubleday, 2014).
 T. C. Boyle, *The Terranauts* (London: Bloomsbury, 2016).
 Jennifer Haigh, *Heat and Light* (New York: Ecco, 2016).
 Richard Powers, *The Overstory* (New York: Norton, 2018).

Feminism, Women's Rights

Louise Erdrich, *The Round House* (New York: HarperCollins, 2012).
 Joyce Carol Oates, *Hazards of Time Travel* (New York: Ecco, 2018).
 Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, *The Revisioners* (Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint, 2019).

Health and Mental Health Care

Kristin Gore, *Sammy's Hill* (New York: Hyperion, 2004).
 Bebe Moore Campbell, *72 Hour Hold* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005).
 Katharine Noel, *Halfway House* (New York: Grove Press, 2006).
 Lionel Shriver, *So Much for That* (New York: Harper, 2010).
 Victor LaValle, *The Devil in Silver* (New York: Spiegel and Grau, 2012).
 Susan Nussbaum, *Good Kings, Bad Kings* (Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Press, 2013).
 Samuel Shem, *Man's 4th Best Hospital* (New York: Berkley, 2019).
 Lawrence Wright, *The End of October* (New York: Vintage Books, 2020).

Homelessness

Willy Vlautin, *The Free* (New York: HarperCollins, 2014).
 Annie Weatherwax, *All We Had* (New York: Scribner, 2015).
 Katherine Seligman, *At the Edge of the Haight* (Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2021).

Immigration

Héctor Tobar, *The Barbarian Nurseries* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011).
 Rilla Askew, *Kind of Kin* (New York: Ecco, 2013).
 Lisa Ko, *The Leavers* (Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2017).
 Oscar Cásares, *Where We Come From* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019).
 Jeanine Cummins, *American Dirt* (New York: Flatiron Books, 2019).

Previous attachment

Political Dysfunction and Extremism

Philip Roth, *The Plot Against America* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2004).
 Christopher Buckley, *Boomsday* (New York: Twelve, 2007).
 Ellen Hawley, *Open Line* (Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 2008).
 Albert Brooks, *2030: The Real Story About What Happens to America* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2011).
 Smith Henderson, *Fourth of July Creek* (New York: Ecco, 2014).
 T. C. Boyle, *The Harder They Come* (New York: Ecco, 2015).
 Malka Older, *Infomocracy* (New York: Tordotcom, 2016).
 Joshua Furst, *Revolutionaries* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019).
 Tom Rosensteel, *Oppo* (New York: Ecco, 2019).
 Jennifer Haigh, *Mercy Street* (New York: Ecco, 2022).

Poverty, Inequality, Late-Stage Capitalism

Adam Haslett, *Union Atlantic* (New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 2009).
 Ralph Nader, *Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us* (New York: Seven Stories Press, 2009).
 Alexandra Lebenthal, *The Recessionistas* (New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2010).
 Sharon Pomerantz, *Rich Boy* (New York: Twelve, 2010).
 William Gibson, *The Peripheral* (New York: Putnam, 2014).
 Karl Taro Greenfeld, *The Subprimes* (New York: Harper, 2015).
 Jonathan Dee, *The Locals* (New York: Random House, 2017).
 Rob Hart, *The Warehouse* (New York: Crown, 2019).
 Willy Vlautin, *The Night Always Comes* (New York: Harper, 2021).

Racial Inequality and Injustice

Sergio De La Pava, *A Naked Singularity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008).
 Heidi W. Durrow, *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* (Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2011).
 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah* (New York: Anchor Books, 2014).
 Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad* (New York: Doubleday, 2016).

Attica Locke, *Bluebird, Bluebird* (Boston: Mulholland Books, 2017).
 Zachary Lazar, *Vengeance* (New York: Catapult, 2018).
 Jodi Picoult, *Small Great Things* (New York: Random House, 2018).
 Colson Whitehead, *The Nickel Boys* (New York: Doubleday, 2019).
 Britt Bennett, *The Vanishing Half* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2020).
 Richard Wright, *The Man Who Lived Underground* (New York: Library of America, 2021).
 Jamila Minnicks Gleason, *Moonrise over New Jessup* (Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2023).

School Shootings

Lionel Shriver, *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (New York: Counterpoint, 2003).
 Jodi Picoult, *19 Minutes* (New York: Washington Square Press, 2007).
 William Landay, *Defending Jacob* (New York: Delacorte Press, 2012).

Technology

Michael Crichton, *Next* (New York: HarperCollins, 2006).
 Dave Eggers, *The Circle* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013).
 Robin Cook, *Cell* (New York: Putnam, 2014).
 Joshua Cohen, *Book of Numbers* (New York: Random House, 2015).
 Ron Childress, *And West Is West* (Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2016).
 Dave Eggers, *The Every* (San Francisco: McSweeney's, 2021).

Terrorism

Ken Kalfus, *A Disorder Peculiar to the Country* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2006).
 Claire Messud, *The Emperor's Children* (New York: Random House, 2006).
 John Updike, *Terrorist* (New York: Random House, 2006).
 Don DeLillo, *Falling Man* (New York: Scribner, 2008).
 Amy Waldman, *The Submission* (New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2011).
 Thomas Pynchon, *Bleeding Edge* (New York: Penguin Books, 2014).

Previous attachment

War

Kevin Powers, *The Yellow Birds* (Boston: Little, Brown, 2012).
Roxana Robinson, *Sparta* (New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2013).
Charlotte Rogan, *Now and Again* (Boston: Little, Brown, 2016).

Also, look for more titles by:

John Grisham

Barbara Kingsolver

Willy Vlautin

Jodi Picoult

Dave Eggers