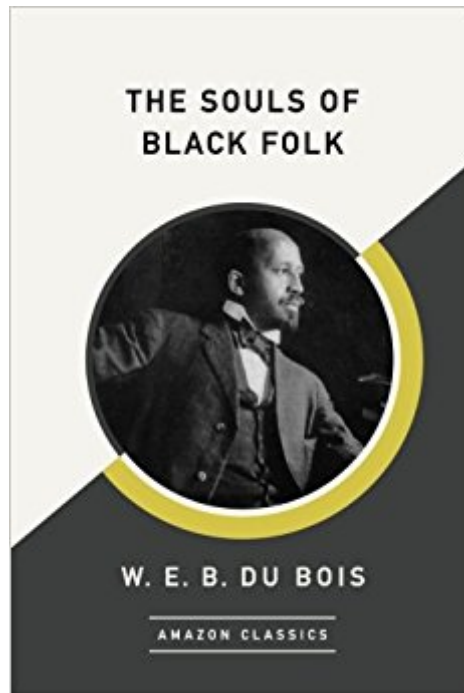




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# The Souls Of Black Folk (Classics Edition)



## Synopsis

First published in 1903, this groundbreaking work is a cornerstone of African American literary history and a foundational text in the field of sociology. In these fourteen essays, W. E. B. Du Bois introduces and explores the concept of "double-consciousness" – a term he uses to describe the experience of living as an African American and having a "sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others." Though an examination of Black life in post-Civil War America, *The Souls of Black Folk* has had a lasting impact on civil rights and the discussion of race in the United States. Revised edition: Previously published as *The Souls of Black Folk*, this edition of *The Souls of Black Folk* (Classics Edition) includes editorial revisions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

William Edward Burghardt (W. E. B.) Du Bois (1868–1963) was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. A scholar, activist, and author, Du Bois was not only the first African American to earn a PhD from Harvard University but was also the most celebrated advocate of African American rights in the early twentieth century. He cofounded the NAACP in 1909, and founded the organization's magazine, *The Crisis*, which is now the oldest Black publication in the world. In addition to his work as a professor of history, sociology, and economics at Atlanta University, Du Bois worked his entire life to promote civil rights, Pan-Africanism, women's rights, and nuclear disarmament. A prolific writer, Du Bois penned many works, including *Black*

Reconstruction in America, The Philadelphia Negro, and the seminal sociological work, The Souls of Black Folk. Du Bois died in Accra, Ghana, at the age of ninety-five – just a day before Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington.

I feel like there should be more works like this required as reading and discussion topics in high school. W.E.B. does such an excellent job at giving insight into the lives and socioeconomic standings of POC, and I think that maybe if we make our children not only read works like this, but also try to understand, empathize, and discuss with their peers, it could greatly help what is happening not only in the world today, but also into the future. Even if you don't have time to read the entire thing, give the sample pages a read, I bet you'll be hooked just from there.

I read this classic expecting something that reflected a bit more of the popular culture of the time in which it was written. Instead I found a deep, profound book. In describing the book to others I found myself describing the authors style as philosophical-poetical. Sometimes it was filled with dry facts, the language of science, used to prove and demand the equality of "black folk" and other times (as in the chapter describing the death of his firstborn son) it was so moving, the story being communicated and the manner of its communication, that I read the chapter twice. I can't say that I understood half of what I read. It was far above my head, but the pain the author was clearly and desperately trying to communicate, the Veil, was communicated. I will be re-reading in an attempt to hear and understand more of what he was writing about.

Sometimes we in this century forget about all that has happened in this passed century since DuBois was living and which now we take for granted. But we still should realize how much our black neighbors endured, not only under slavery, but under the "master's thumb" even today. I, as a northerner, brought up to believe

Are you a U.S. citizen? Read this. W. E. B. DuBois is a giant in your national heritage. He was the most politically influential black man in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; he was the Martin Luther King of his time. He changed history: born just a few years after slavery was outlawed, DuBois lived in a time when black people were routinely treated as less than human in every phase of American life. His tireless and powerful campaigning for the rights of black people bore tremendous fruit within and beyond his lifetime. Mainstream history books usually give him a few

paragraphs, if that. He deserves a chapter, not a paragraph. His name should be on the boulevards and avenues in our cities, his name should be spoken on a federal holiday commemorating the great victories for oppressed classes. Read this.

Written by the man whose organization, the NAACP, bridged from the racial darkness that dominated our great land in the late 1800's to the many successes of concerted struggles for civil rights and justice for African Americans, this book contains a variety of insightful and eloquent chapters addressed to us both inside and beyond the "veil" of color. The final chapter forthrightly claims pride of place for music coming forth from African and Slave roots. Don't let the florid classical flourishes in the early chapters put you off, WEB started writing in the 19th century, after all.

I found this an eye-opening book about the state of race relations in the US (mostly in the south) at the turn of the twentieth century and the struggle for equality. Written at a time that was roughly mid-way between the end of the American Civil War and the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, each chapter starts with a poetic quote and looks at important aspects of life - such as education, the forces breaking down the family, spiritual life, Jim Crow and the sharecropper system. Du Bois also covers the failures of early attempts by the government to foster equality such as the Freedman's Bureau and Freedmen's Bank. Especially touching was the chapter describing his feelings at the time of the death of his infant child.

The Souls of Black Folk is an excellently written book. It is important reading for anyone not only interested in the history Black Suffrage but also the field of sociology itself. Mr. Du Bois was not only the first black man to truly stress the need for educational equality but also one of the first men of ANY color to expand the field of sociology itself. The Souls of Black Folk is an important piece of American history, sociological study, and the nature of the black experience in from the time following the civil war to the time it was written in 1903.

This old book remains important for anyone interested in the history of racism in America. It is, of course, written in the old style wich is much more long-winded than today's writing, but there is no question that Du Bois is one of the most eloquent writers and thinkers of any race. Du Bois steps back and takes a philosophical look at African Americans then homes into historical details, most of which the modern lay audience do not know. Recommended for people with an American history

background

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