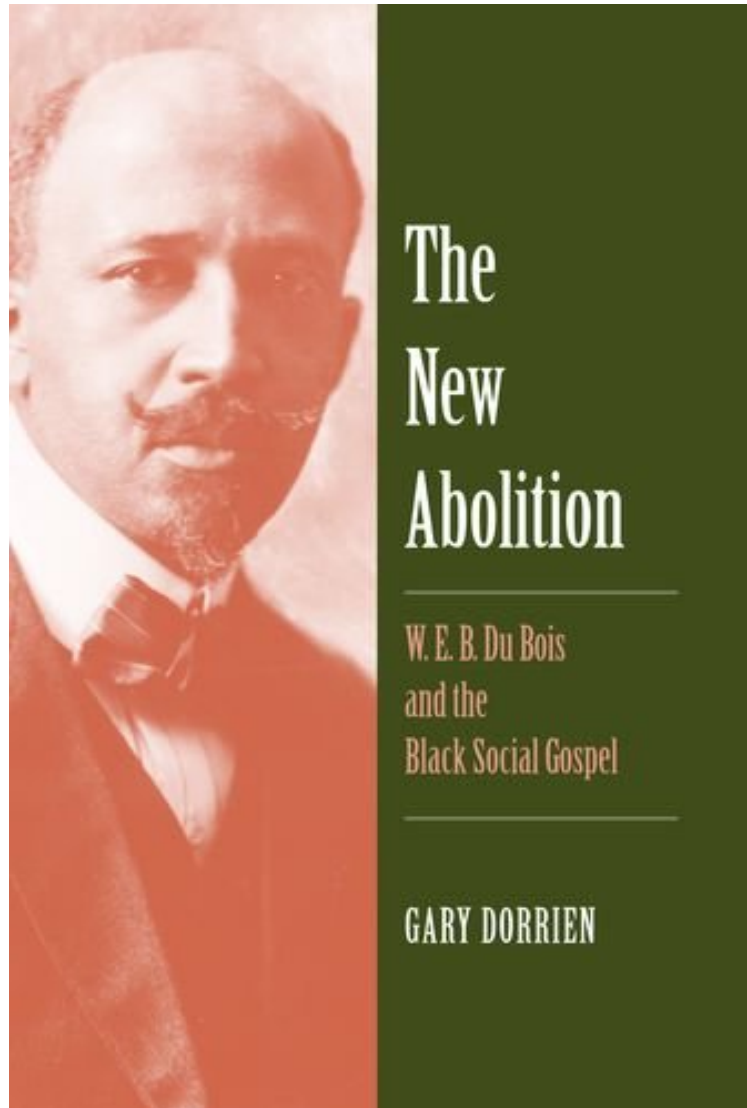


(Library ebook) The New Abolition: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Black Social Gospel

# The New Abolition: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Black Social Gospel

Gary Dorrien

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#215733 in Books imusti 2015-10-13Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.62 x 6.12l, .0 #File Name: 0300205600672 pagesYALE UNIVERSITY PRESS ACADEMIC | File size: 65.Mb

**Gary Dorrien : The New Abolition: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Black Social Gospel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Abolition: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Black Social Gospel:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy lanxtonWonderful4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A New Look at Racial History in the United States and the WorldBy Tyler DudleyI went to seminary in the 1960's and had considerable involvement in the racial issues and struggles of that time. I have also known about Reconstruction and some of the early leaders of what eventually became the Civil Rights Movement in this country. I

learned some about W.E.B. Dubois. However, I believe that Professor Gary Dorrien's new book, "The New Abolition and the Black Social Gospel", tells much about the early Civil Rights leaders, especially Dubois, that before only scholars have known. The portrait that Dorrien paints of Dubois is of a truly great man whose qualities of courage, fairness, integrity, spirituality and intelligence have not always been the popular view. Dorrien's research is exhaustive and the book is packed with information that, at least to this reader, was new and exciting. Dorrien has helped fill a number of gaps that have existed in our popular understanding of the period after Reconstruction and the next few decades that paved the way for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others. I highly recommend "The New Abolition" for those looking for a fuller understanding of the long road, not yet finished, of Black peoples' struggle and race relations in this country and beyond. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Important historical gap filled By Rudy Nelson "The arc of the moral universe is long," said Martin Luther King, Jr., "but it bends toward justice." While most of us take those words as a hopeful sign for the future, Gary Dorrien's book reminds us of a fact that King, of all people, knew very well: there wouldn't have been a civil rights revolution in the 1960s without the Black Social Gospel of earlier generations. But there has never been a full account of that movement. With his expertise in both social ethics and liberal theology, Dorrien is the ideal person to fill that gap. It's a great story but a troubling one as well. Many segments of post-Civil War America, hell-bent on preventing the thousands of freed slaves and their descendants from realizing the full potential of their human rights and responsibilities, imposed a fearful price on all resisters. In a wise and shrewd move, Dorrien makes W.E.B. Dubois, no Social Gospeler himself by any means, a lynch-pin of the movement. According to Dorrien, Dubois "changed the conversation," framing the persistent "debate over the future of black Americans." With over 500 pages of text, plus 55 pages of notes, *The New Abolition* isn't a book to be read casually. But it's well worth coming back to again and again.

The black social gospel emerged from the trauma of Reconstruction to ask what a "new abolition" would require in American society. It became an important tradition of religious thought and resistance, helping to create an alternative public sphere of excluded voices and providing the intellectual underpinnings of the civil rights movement. This tradition has been seriously overlooked, despite its immense legacy. In this groundbreaking work, Gary Dorrien describes the early history of the black social gospel from its nineteenth-century founding to its close association in the twentieth century with W. E. B. Du Bois. He offers a new perspective on modern Christianity and the civil rights era by delineating the tradition of social justice theology and activism that led to Martin Luther King Jr.

"Definitive . . . a capacious intellectual history . . . No reader will doubt the consummate professionalism of the scholarship, or the passion that Dorrien clearly has about the subject . . . with crisp narrative prose . . . gems of analysis and great personal stories from the often astonishing lives and deeply disturbing experiences of the protagonists."—Paul Harvey, *Christian Century*