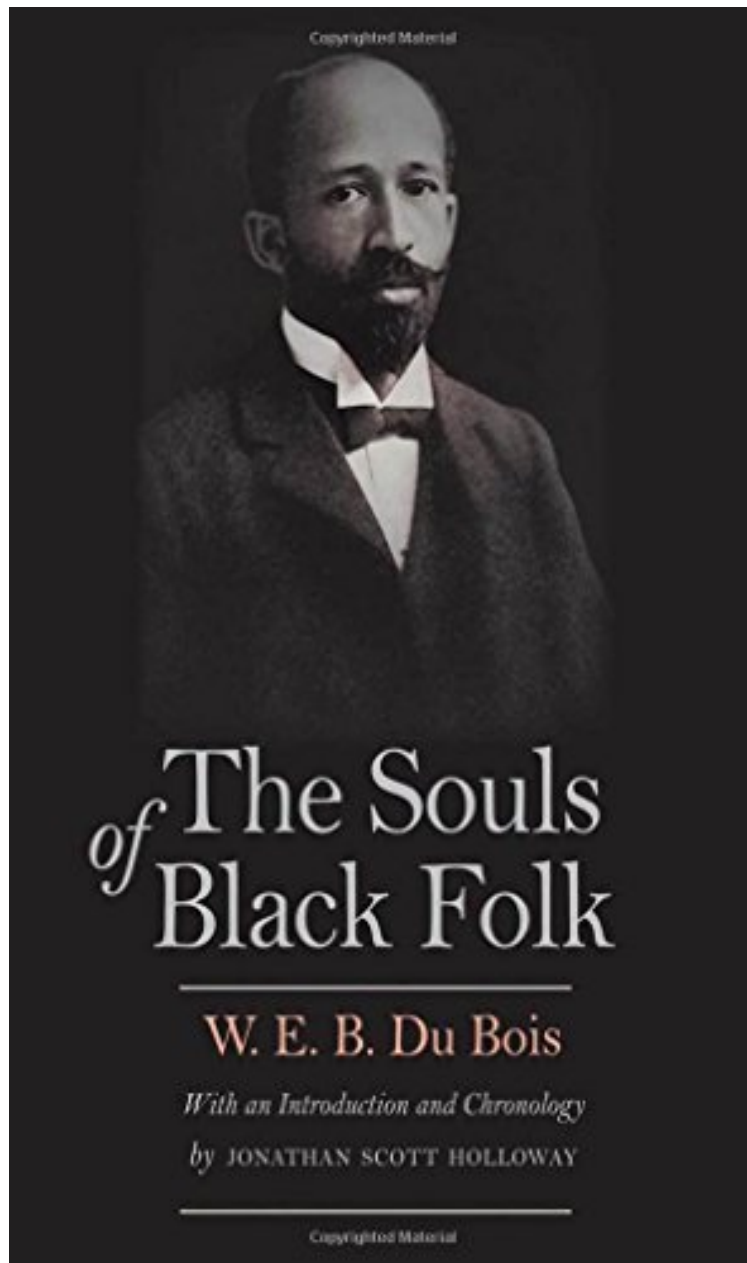


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## The Souls of Black Folk

W. E. B. Du Bois

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**W. E. B. Du Bois : The Souls of Black Folk** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Souls of Black Folk:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eloquent, Moving, and Still-Timely By Eric McDowell DuBois writes with compassion and understanding, yet he does not shy away from directly confronting readers: he makes them consider their conscious and subconscious biases and pre-conceived arguments on the race question in the United States in 1903. Sadly, the book is still relevant some 114 years since its original publication, but it is a thoroughly engaging and provocative read, and a haunting reminder of the work yet to be done towards healing and reconciliation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great addition to any school history curriculum By M. E. B. This is a book about about Black people in America from slave times through the time of the author and should be read by all Americans. A great addition to any school history curriculum. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. The Souls of Black Folk and Other Writings by W. E. B. DuBois By Toni P It was a great book. A book that should be required reading in schools, from elementary, to high school. Like all good books I had to read it twice to make sure I did not miss one single thing.

This collection of essays by scholar-activist W. E. B. Du Bois is a masterpiece in the African American canon. Du Bois, arguably the most influential African American leader of the early twentieth century, offers insightful commentary on black history, racism, and the struggles of black Americans following emancipation. In his groundbreaking work, the author presciently writes that “the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line,” and offers powerful arguments for the absolute necessity of moral, social, political, and economic equality. These essays on the black experience in America range from sociological studies of the African American community to illuminating discourses on religion and “Negro music,” and remain essential reading in our so-called “post-racial age.” A new introduction by Jonathan Scott Holloway explores Du Bois’s signature accomplishments while helping readers to better understand his writings in the context of his time as well as ours.

.com William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1868-1963) is the greatest of African American intellectuals--a sociologist, historian, novelist, and activist whose astounding career spanned the nation's history from Reconstruction to the civil rights movement. Born in Massachusetts and educated at Fisk, Harvard, and the University of Berlin, Du Bois penned his epochal masterpiece, *The Souls of Black Folk*, in 1903. It remains his most studied and popular work; its insights into Negro life at the turn of the 20th century still ring true. With a dash of the Victorian and Enlightenment influences that peppered his impassioned yet formal prose, the book's largely autobiographical chapters take the reader through the momentous and moody maze of Afro-American life after the Emancipation Proclamation: from poverty, the neoslavery of the sharecropper, illiteracy, miseducation, and lynching, to the heights of humanity reached by the spiritual "sorrow songs" that birthed gospel and the blues. The most memorable passages are contained in "On Booker T. Washington and Others," where Du Bois criticizes his famous contemporary's rejection of higher education and accommodationist stance toward white racism: "Mr. Washington's programme practically accepts the alleged inferiority of the Negro races," he writes, further complaining that Washington's thinking "withdraws many of the high demands of Negroes as men and American citizens." The capstone of *The Souls of Black Folk*, though, is Du Bois' haunting, eloquent description of the concept of the black psyche's "double consciousness," which he described as "a peculiar sensation.... One ever feels this twoness--an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder." Thanks to W.E.B. Du Bois' commitment and foresight--and the intellectual excellence expressed in this timeless literary gem--black Americans can today look in the mirror and rejoice in their beautiful black, brown, and beige reflections. -- Eugene Holley Jr. "Jonathan Holloway introduces W. E. B. Du Bois' 1903 classic for our time, when visions of a 'post-racial' America clash with the enduring centrality of what Du Bois termed 'the problem of the color-line.' We need Du Bois now more than ever, and an edition of *The Souls of Black Folk* that provides the context and the catalyst for connecting Du Bois's ideas to our present circumstances will be invaluable in my classroom and, undoubtedly, in many others."—Adam Bradley, University of Colorado, Boulder "Given that thousands of pages have been written on Du Bois and his magnum opus, it is truly remarkable that Holloway manages to convey the richness and diversity of both man and text in so short a space. The introduction does an excellent job arguing for the continued relevance of Du Bois in our contemporary 'post-racial' world."—Nico Slate, Carnegie Mellon University "W.E.B. Du Bois' *Souls of Black Folk* is one of the most iconic texts of the twentieth century. But Jonathan Scott Holloway's graceful new introduction brings *Souls* forward to a new generation as more than a primary source of our racial past, now serving as a scythe to help cut through the maddening claims of a post-racial present. Holloway powerfully asserts that 'a "post racial consciousness" is a false consciousness,' while DuBois' prophetic diagnosis of a color line continues to ail the world today as much as ever before."—Davarian L. Baldwin, author of *Chicago's New Negroes*