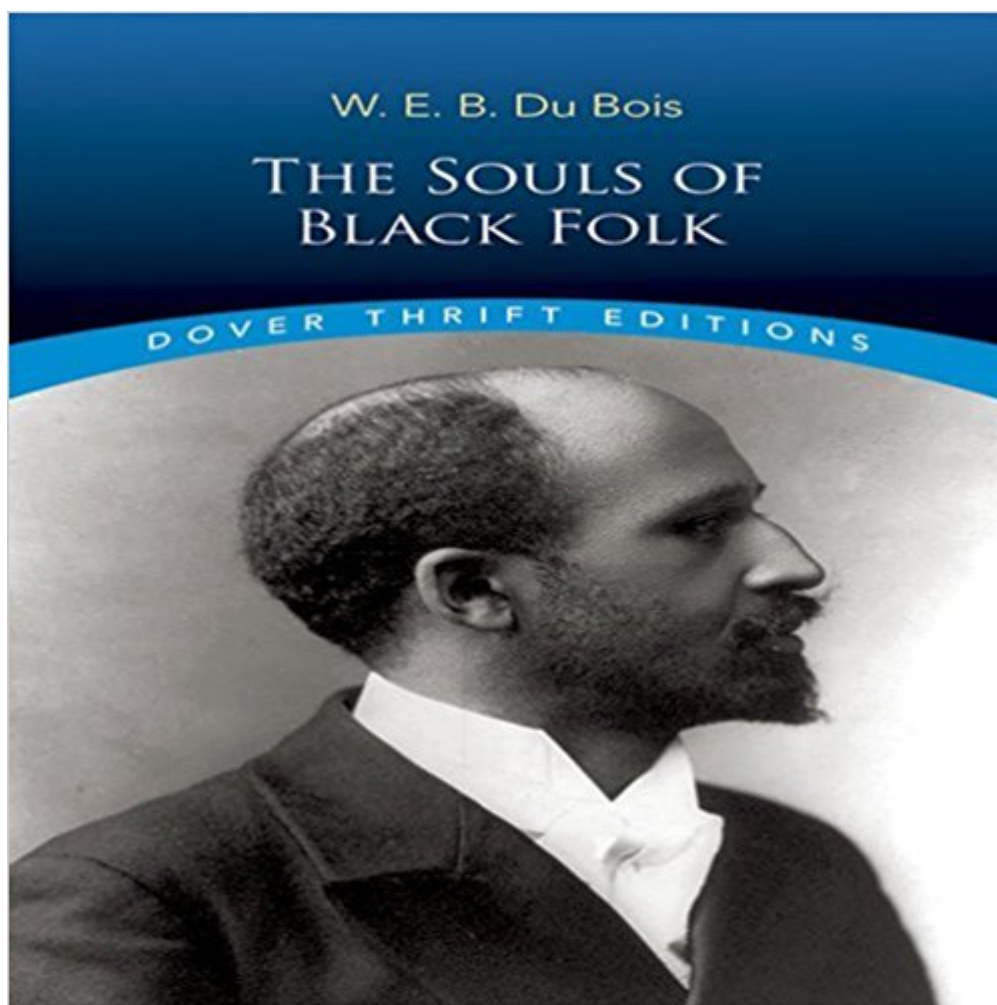


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The Souls Of Black Folk (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

This landmark book is a founding work in the literature of black protest. W. E. B. Du Bois (1868–1963) played a key role in developing the strategy and program that dominated early 20th-century black protest in America. In this collection of essays, first published together in 1903, he eloquently affirms that it is beneath the dignity of a human being to beg for those rights that belong inherently to all mankind. He also charges that the strategy of accommodation to white supremacy advanced by Booker T. Washington, then the most influential black leader in America, would only serve to perpetuate black oppression. Publication of *The Souls of Black Folk* was a dramatic event that helped to polarize black leaders into two groups: the more conservative followers of Washington and the more radical supporters of aggressive protest. Its influence cannot be overstated. It is essential reading for everyone interested in African-American history and the struggle for civil rights in America.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Jonathan Holloway introduces W. E. B. Du Bois's 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's *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's 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 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This one should be a must read to all who really care about race relations in America - now it's more relevant than ever. At the low price, everyone can afford it. It would really help us all to understand who the people are that we tend to lump together and stereotype. Highly recommended!

Not only does this book have historical and cultural significance, but at the Kindle price it is a must-have for my digital library!

The classic has not lost its power more than a century later, and anyone trying to make sense of the economics and politics of race in America in this new century could do a lot worse than starting here.

Tear down everything you think about our history right after the civil war as well as the mistreatment of an entire race. This was an amazing book and great for discussion. Many of the issues he discusses are still prevalent today.

A true masterpiece. It may be redundant and verbose, but when you consider the era along with this man's accomplishments, the fact this was published at all speaks to an amazing tribute to a great mind.

We had to read for Lit II class. While I love history, and the story of W.E.B Du Bois is fascinating, his style of writing is a little bit harder to interpret so not as fun reading it. However, I would recommend the book if you love true history.

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.

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.

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