

William Edward Burghardt (WEB) Du Bois (1868-1963)



Du Bois was an American civil rights activist, Pan-Africanist, sociologist, historian, author, and editor. Historian David Levering Lewis wrote, "In the course of his long, turbulent career, W. E. B. Du Bois attempted virtually every possible solution to the problem of twentieth-century racism— scholarship, propaganda, integration, national self-determination, human rights, cultural and economic separatism, politics, international communism, expatriation, third world solidarity."^[2]

The first African-American graduate of Harvard University, where he earned his Ph.D. in History, Du Bois later became a professor of history and economics at Atlanta University. He became the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1910, becoming founder and editor of the NAACP's journal *The Crisis*. Du Bois rose to national attention in his opposition of Booker T. Washington's ideas of social integration between whites and blacks, campaigning instead for increased political representation for blacks in order to guarantee civil rights, and the formation of a Black elite that would work for the progress of the African American race. He's died in Ghana as a citizen of the country.

THE
SOULS OF BLACK FOLK

ESSAYS AND SKETCHES

BY
W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS

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