



The Souls of Black Folk

W. E. B. Du Bois (1868 – 1963)

Read by:	Torias Uncle	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	7 hours 22 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1150
Language:	English	UPC:	0683422134654
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	History, Sociology		

The Souls of Black Folk by W. E. B. Du Bois is book everyone in America should read, a fundamental work in three distinct areas. First, it is a classic in the annals of American Literature; second, it is a seminal work in the discipline of sociology; and, third, it is a cornerstone of Afro-American literature. Published in 1903, the book is a collection of essays that cover the various aspects of the black experience. In it he introduces the metaphor of the veil as a visual symbol of the color line and the corresponding idea of “double-consciousness” that describes the reality of constantly perceiving one’s self both subjectively and through the eyes of others. In addition to sections on history, education, the sociology of the black community, and the role of the black church, there

are narratives of the lives of individuals, a short story, and a closing chapter on black music. The importance and the impact of the book cannot be overstated. In *Living Black History*, Du Bois’s biographer, Manning Marable, observes:

Few books make history and fewer still become foundational texts for the movements and struggles of an entire people. *The Souls of Black Folk* occupies this rare position. It helped to create the intellectual argument for the black freedom struggle in the twentieth century. “Souls” justified the pursuit of higher education for Negroes and thus contributed to the rise of the black middle class. By describing a global color-line, Du Bois anticipated pan-Africanism and colonial revolutions in the Third World. Moreover, this stunning critique of how ‘race’ is lived through the normal aspects of daily life is central to what would become known as ‘whiteness studies’ a century later.

William Edward Burghardt “W. E. B.” Du Bois (February 23, 1868 – August 27, 1963) was an American author, editor, sociologist, historian and activist best known for his leading a leading and pivotal role in the civil rights movement. Born in western Massachusetts, he was the first Afro-American to earn a doctorate degree as a result of his graduate studies at Harvard, and worked as a professor of sociology, history and economics at Atlanta University. He was a co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and both edited and contributed frequently to its journal *The Crisis*. His core premise was an insistence on equal rights, opportunities, and representation for blacks, in opposition to the Atlanta compromise developed by Booker T. Washington. He was a pioneer in the emerging academic discipline of sociology, writing the first scientific treatment in the subject. IN that capacity he was an acute student of the elements and effects of racism and spoke out against lynching, Jim Crow laws, and discrimination. He also advocated that capitalism was a primary cause of racism and was sympathetic to socialist causes. His essay collection *The Souls of Black Folk* is a seminal work in Afro –American literature, and his 1935 masterpiece *Black Reconstruction in America* debunked the idea that blacks were responsible for the failure of Reconstruction. He died at the age of 95 in 1963, a year before the passage of the Civil Rights Act.