

W. E. B. Du Bois and The Souls of Black Folk

A. 1868-1963

B. His origins; raised in Great Barrington, Mass.

C. Education: elementary school; Fisk University; Harvard; Berlin; Harvard

D. Historical context of DuBois's early work: African Americans in the late 19th century

1. end of Civil War, end of slavery (Emancipation)
2. 13th (end of slavery), 14th (citizenship, "equal protection of the laws"), and 15th (right to vote independent of race for all males) Amendments (the "Reconstruction Amendments")
3. Economic situation of blacks after Emancipation
4. Ku Klux Klan
5. defeat of Reconstruction in 1877
6. rise of "Jim Crow" segregation in 1890's
7. lynching
8. demeaning view of blacks among whites — *increased* since slavery ended

E. Intellectual influence of German philosopher Herder: each people/"nation" has its own spirit

F. DuBois's political engagement, after Souls

1. Niagara Movement (with W. M. Trotter) and NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).
2. Counterpoint to Booker T. Washington among black leadership
3. Edits *Crisis*, NAACP magazine, 1910-1934
4. Pan-African Congresses (between 1919 and 1945), and critique of US imperialism
5. Becomes more sympathetic to Marxism: Black Reconstruction (1934)

6. Persecuted during McCarthy era (1950's)

7. Moves to Ghana in 1961

8. Death (re 1963 March on Washington)