

Free or low cost ways of accessing works by W.E.B. Du Bois

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Samples of interest:

The Problem of the Color Line at the Turn of the Twentieth Century; The Essential Early Essays, W. E. B. Du Bois, Fordham University Press; N.D. Chandler, ed., 2014. “Early essays from the sociologist, displaying the beginnings of his views on politics, society, and Black Americans’ status in the United States. This volume assembles essential essays, some published only posthumously, others obscure, another only recently translated by W. E. B. Du Bois from 1894 to early 1906. They show the first formulations of some of his most famous ideas, namely, “the veil,” “double-consciousness,” and the “problem of the color line.” Moreover, the deep historical sense of the formation of the modern world that informs Du Bois’s thought and gave rise to his understanding of “the problem of the color line” is on display here. Indeed, the essays constitute an essential companion to Du Bois’s 1903 masterpiece *The Souls of Black Folk* – publisher. (385 pages) ([preview here](#))

Dusk of Dawn; An Essay Toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept, W.E.B. Du Bois, 1940. Irene Diggs, ed., Transaction Books, 1984. “In her perceptive introduction to this Transaction edition, Irene Diggs sets this classic autobiography against its broad historical context and critically analyzes its theoretical and methodological significance. She explains the changes that occurred in DuBois’ own attitudes and writings, tracing the development of his lifelong concern with the problem of race: how non-Whites might be openly and effectively admitted into the freedom of democracy.” – publisher (334 pages)

The Souls of Black Folk, W.E. B. Du Bois, A.C. McClurg, 1903-4.

This book contains powerful arguments that show the problem of the position of black people in the US at the turn of the 20th-century. Du Bois identified three significant issues ('the color line'; 'double consciousness'; and 'the veil') that acted as roadblocks to true black emancipation, and showed how each of these in turn contributed to the problem of inequality. Du Bois carefully investigates all three problems, constructing clear explanations of their significance in shaping the consciousness of a community that has been systematically discriminated against, and dealing brilliantly with counter-arguments throughout.

“I believe that all men, black and brown and white, are brothers, varying through time and opportunity, in form and gift and feature, but differing in no essential particular, and alike in soul and the possibility of infinite development ..(Credo).” “ Are we not coming more and more, day by day, to making the statement *I am white*, the one fundamental tenet of our practical morality...” -publisher (264 pages)

The Talented Tenth, W. E. B. Du Bois, James Pott, 1903. Amazon digital, 2020: “The Negro race, like all races, is going to be saved by its exceptional men. The problem of education, then, among Negroes must first of all deal with the Talented Tenth; it is the problem of developing the Best of this race that they may guide the Mass away from the contamination and death of the Worst, in their own and other races. Now the training of men is a difficult and intricate task. Its technique is a matter for educational experts, but its object is for the vision of seers. If we make money the object of man-training, we shall develop money-makers but not necessarily men; if we make technical skill the object of education, we may possess artisans but not, in nature, men. Men we shall have only as we make manhood the object of the work of the schools-intelligence, broad sympathy, knowledge of the world that was and is, and of the relation of men to it-this is the curriculum of that Higher Education which must underlie true life. On this foundation we may build bread winning, skill of hand and quickness of brain, with never a fear lest the child and man mistake the means of living for the object of life.” -author (36 pages)

The Negro, W.E.B. Du Bois, H. Holt, 1915. Project Gutenberg, 2011. “The time has not yet come for a complete history of the Negro peoples. Archæological research in Africa has just begun, and many sources of information in Arabian, Portuguese, and other tongues are ...” publisher (254 pages)

[Darkwater](#): *Voices from Within the Veil*, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, Harcourt, Brace and Howe, 1920. Harvard digital, 2006. "These are the things of which men think who live: of their own selves and the dwelling place of their fathers; of their neighbors; of work and service; of rule and reason and women and children; of Beauty and Death and War"- author. *Darkwater* helped to open the eyes of readers to the [widespread and multilayered] problems of racial discrimination in America. In his review of *Darkwater* in the popular magazine *The Survey*, Robert Foerster writes, "Actually it is a book so skillfully put together, so passionately felt, so lyrically expressed, that it will be read widely." (276 pages)

[John Brown](#), W.E.B. Du Bois. G.W.Jacobs, 1909. This is a "biography of abolitionist John Brown is a literary and historical classic. With a rare combination of scholarship and passion, Du Bois defends Brown against all detractors who saw him as a fanatic, fiend, or traitor. Brown emerges as a rich personality, fully understandable as an unusual leader with a deeply religious outlook and a devotion to the cause of freedom for the slave. This new edition is enriched with an introduction by John David Smith and with supporting documents relating to Du Bois's correspondence with his publisher."- Libri GmbH (406 pages)

[The Education of Black People: Ten Critiques](#), 1906 – 1960, W. E. B. DuBois, Monthly Review Press, 2001 edition, Herbert Aptheker. "Undoubtedly the most influential black intellectual of the twentieth century and one of America's finest historians, W.E.B. DuBois knew that the liberation of the African American people required liberal education and not vocational training. He saw education as a process of teaching certain timeless values: moderation, an avoidance of luxury, a concern for courtesy, a capacity to endure, a nurturing love for beauty. At the same time, DuBois saw education as fundamentally subversive. This was as much a function of the well-established role of education from Plato forward as the realities of the social order under which he lived. He insistently calls for great energy and initiative; for African Americans controlling their own lives and for continued experimentation and innovation, while keeping education's fundamentally radical nature in view. Though containing speeches written nearly one-hundred years ago, and on a subject that has seen more stormy debate and demagoguery than almost any other in recent history, *The Education of Black People* approaches education with a timelessness and timeliness, at once rooted in classical thought that reflects a remarkably fresh and contemporary relevance." -publisher (224 pages)

[The Autobiography of W. E. B. DuBois](#), W. E. B. Du Bois, Diasporic Africa Press, 2013. "The present volume is quite different from the other two autobiographies by Du Bois not only because of its additional two-decade span, and the significantly altered outlook of its author, but also because in it—unlike the others—he seeks, as he writes, "to review my life as frankly and fully as I can." Of course, with the directness and honesty which so decisively characterized him, he reminds the reader of this book of the intense subjectivity that inevitably permeates autobiography; hence, he writes, he offers this account of his life as he understood it and as he—would like others to believe—it to have been. Certainly, while Dr. Du Bois was deep in his ninth decade when he died, longevity was the least remarkable feature of his life. As editor, author, lecturer, scholar, organizer, inspirer, and fighter, he was among the most consequential figures of the twentieth century. Necessarily, therefore, the full and final accounting of that life and his times becomes an indispensable volume." – publisher (450 pages)

[The World and Africa](#): *An Inquiry Into the Part which Africa Has Played in World History*, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, International Publishers, 1965. "Against a background of the vast contributions of ancient and modern Africa to world culture, peace and industry, Dr. Du Bois documents the historic injustices of the rape of Africa from the slave trade to its partition by the colonial powers. The articles and essays on the emerging new nations and personalities of Africa, written by Dr. Du Bois from 1955-1961, have been added to the original manuscript." - publisher (352 pages)