

## Du Bois – Reading Notes

Du Bois, The Philadelphia Negro, University of Pennsylvania Press; Reprint edition, 1995 [1899], ISBN-10: 0812215737, ISBN-13: 978-0812215731. Chs. XII-XVI, pp.197-367.

Elijah Anderson Intro.

xviii. Notes that DB follows Booth (London) & Addams' (Chicago) city studies, in the context of the Settlement Movement.

xix. Notes how capitalists set Blacks & white immigrants in competition with each other.

xxii. DB was disillusioned that elites did not emerge as benevolent.

xxvi ff. Describes Philadelphia today: gentrification and problems due to the crack epidemic.

### XII. THE ORGANIZED LIFE OF NEGROES

31. History of the Negro Church in Philadelphia

197. Black Church is what is left of African tribal life.

32. The Function of the Negro Church

201. NB the Mother AME Church.

33. The Present Condition of the Churches

207. Church is the center for all efforts at social betterment, incl mutual aid societies, secret societies, charitable activities.

34. Secret and Beneficial Societies, and Co-operative Business

221. Art of organization hard to learn, & Blacks show their deficiencies here.

222. Mutual aid societies go back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century & are the most important form of organization in the Black community today.

224. Secret societies furnish a pastime from monotony. They hold parades, organize insurance. Some insurance schemes are swindles.

35. Institutions

36. The Experiment of Organization

233-4. These organizations represent the best hope for the advancement of Blacks. However, they are not well organized. Too much intrigue & extravagance, dishonesty & inefficiency. The Black community needs more education & civic education.

### XIII. THE NEGRO CRIMINAL

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37. History of Negro Crime in the City

235. Immigration causes a lack of harmony with the environment, & hence, crime.

38. Negro Crime Since the War

39. A Special Study in Crime

252. Most criminals are young single men under 30.

40. Some Cases of Crime

### XIV. PAUPERISM AND ALCOHOLISM

41. Pauperism

42. The Drink Habit

43. The Causes of Crime and Poverty

282. Causes of crime are the same for whites & blacks & covary. But they are higher for blacks because there is more poverty among blacks.

283f. Particular causes of crime among Blacks. 1. Slavery & emancipation. 2. Immigration from the South to Philadelphia. 3. Color prejudice.

### XV. THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NEGRO

44. Houses and Rent

295f. Blacks pay much higher rents. This is due to: 1. Segregation & shortage of housing in the Black neighborhoods; 2. Need to live near work & bad transportation [spatial mismatch]; 3. Prejudice. This also leads to great crowding & bad housing conditions.

45. Sections and Wards

46. Social Classes and Amusements

310ff. The four social classes. I. Higher class of educated white-collar workers & professionals w wives at home & kids in school & stable homes. II. Respectable working class. III. The honest poor. IV. The "submerged tenth" of criminals, prostitutes & indigent. [longer descriptions of each]

316f. Upper classes. Duty of the upper class is to serve & lead the lower classes. Mostly born in Phil & descendants of house servants & often of mixed race.

### XVI. THE CONTACT OF THE RACES

47. Color Prejudice

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322ff. One of the chief causes of problems of Blacks. Enumerates different spheres where it causes problems: Work, expenditures, children, social intercourse.

351. Partial cause of crime.

48. Benevolence

49. The Inter-marriage of the Races

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Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk, Dover, 2016 [1903], ISBN-10: 9780486280417, ISBN-13: 978-0486280417. Chs. I, II, IV, VII, IX, XIII.

### I. Of Our Spiritual Strivings

1. "How does it feel to be a problem?"

2. Veil. Second sight. Double consciousness.

### II. Of the Dawn of Freedom

9. "The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line."

10. History of the Freedmen's Bureau, 1861-72.

22. Accomplishments: established the beginnings of peasant proprietorship, recognition of Blacks before courts, founded free public schools. Failed to improve race relations, discouraged self-reliance, failed to provide land.

24. Present situation of the Negro: not free, can't leave plantation of birth, economic slavery, unequal before courts, segregation, penitentiary, crime. These are all shortcomings of what the Freedmen's Bureau failed to fix.

### IV. Of the Meaning of Progress

Describes the summer teaching he did as a student at Fisk in the countryside of Tennessee, and the aftermath when he re-visited people some years later.

### VII. Of the Black Belt

Describes a trip to the Black Belt of southern Georgia, cotton land. Note the many negative comments about Jews as exploiters, who own plantations now. He's generally speaking of Northern capitalists, but again & again of Jews, often Russian Jews.

78. "The Jew is the heir of the slave baron..."

### IX. Of the Sons of Master and Man

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Intergroup relations between Blacks & whites in the South.

100f. Physical dwelling: segregation.

101f. Economic conditions: the crop lien (& share-cropping). Again, frequent mention of Jews as new exploiters.

104f. Political activity.

107f. Crime: 1. Result of Emancipation was increase in crime, 2. Police system of south was mainly to control slaves. But Blacks also have a responsibility to reduce crime among them.

111f. Social contact. Cites with approval the relations between some masters & house servants.

113. Bad conditions & prejudice feed on each other; not possible to reduce one without reducing both.

XIII. Of the Coming of John

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Du Bois, "The Negro Question in the United States," Archiv für Sozialwissenschaft und Sozialpolitik, 1906 [Weber's journal]

243. Emancipation changed little for Blacks in the South. "Negroes had become an unfree caste of laborers. No law changed any of this."

245ff. The sharecropping system. Merchant was in the middle, but made the biggest profits.

248f. The four classes of Black labor. Renters, croppers, sharecropper (vast majority), tenant.

251ff. Crime & convict labor. Origins of the Southern police in the slave patrols. Blacks bound to the soil; resistance to Northern labor recruiters. Antebellum police became Ku Klux Klan. Imprisonment for vagrancy. State made great profits by renting out convicts. Blacks lost faith in the law & prisons became schools for criminals.

264f. Segregation.

267. Exploitation; mentions "clever and unscrupulous Jews."

268ff. Discussion of trade unions & Blacks' exclusion. Supported divisions in the working class.

273ff. Disenfranchisement after the Postbellum amendments.

280f. No social interaction between Blacks & whites. "Before and immediately after the war, as the best Negroes were house servants in the best white families, bonds of intimacy, of affection and sometimes of blood relations between the races existed."

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281f. Decline of democratic ideology in the US. "The causes of this are (1) the growing inequality in the distribution of wealth, (2) the rise of imperialism and (3) the color line."

284. "The Negro question is only one indication of the increasing class and racial privileges and not, as many optimistically believe, its cause."

286. Cause of antipathy of Blacks by white workers: fear that they will lose their precarious advantage & sink lower.

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Du Bois, Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil, 2014 [1920], Martino Fine Books, ISBN-10: 1614276889, ISBN-13: 978-1614276883. chs. 2, 4, 6, 7.

### II. The Souls of White Folk

On colonialism, exploitation, & the World War.

20. Europe is great because of the non-European heritage on which it was built. The World War was caused by competition for colonies to exploit.

21. Exploitation is age-old, but only in the European age has it been based on race. White workers are gaining advantages, but the exploitation of dark-skinned people world-wide means that even modest-income people in the homeland can live better.

22f. Competition for colonies was the cause of the World War. Example of Germany. America lost its right to claim it stood for freedom as it joined this competition for colonies.

### III. The Hands of Ethiopia

29. "Today instead of removing laborers from Africa to distant slavery, industry built on a new slavery approaches Africa to deprive the natives of their land, to force them to toil, and to reap all the profit for the white world."

31. "If the slave cannot be taken from Africa, slavery can be taken to Africa."

34. American Blacks could provide leadership to Africans for their liberation.

### IV. Of Work and Wealth

Class struggle & race hatred in East St. Louis

41. Three groups: the Northern capitalists, the Eastern immigrant workers, and the Southern Black workers.

43. As immigration was cut off after the World War, Northern industrialists looked to Southern Blacks for labor.

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45f. Blacks were willing to engage in solidarity with the white workers & join unions, but the whites were afraid that their control of the labor market would be threatened by the ongoing migration from the South. The result was the race riots in East St. Louis.

### VI. Of the Ruling of Men

Industrial democracy and political democracy. In the face of tyranny of the majority, calls for Proportional Representation.

66. Shortcomings of developments after the Civil War & the constitutional amendments. Capitalists of the North & South divided labor by race.

67f. Socialism or communism as an answer to industrial democracy limited by restrictions on participation by women, Blacks, & others.

73f. Problem of permanent minorities like Blacks who can never be a majority. Answer may be proportional representation & multiple parties, leading to shifting coalitions in legislation. Notes the tyranny of the many over the few. Notes that minorities do not always want to be just like the majority; they just want to be themselves.

### VII. The Damnation of Women

82. The cruelty of the white South to Black women. DB says he can even forgive slavery because it is an old world practice, but he cannot forgive the abuse & rape of Black women.

83. Notes Black women's role in the founding & maintenance of the Black church.

84ff. Mini-biographies of several Black women, among them Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, & several others.

### VIII. The Immortal Child

Largely on the issues in raising Black children, incl when to introduce to them how to deal with race prejudice & discrimination. How to introduce dignity & self respect, integrity, citizenship.

104. "All our problems center in the child. All our hopes, our dreams are for our children. Has our own life failed? Let its lesson save the children's lives from similar failure."

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Du Bois, Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880. Free Press, 1998 [1935]. ISBN-10: 0684856573, ISBN-13: 978-0684856575. Ch. xiv, "Counter-Revolution of Property."

### XIV. Counter-Revolution of Property 580

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Du Bois, Dusk of Dawn (The Oxford W. E. B. Du Bois), Oxford University Press; 1st edition, 2014 [1940], ISBN-10: 0199386714, ISBN-13: 978-0199386710. Chs. VI-VII, pp. 68-110.

### VI. The White World 68

82. Table of the characteristic traits of: Christian, Gentleman, American, White Man. The traits of the first three are mostly positive; those of the last are violent.

85-7. Democracy cannot exist without reduction of class differences & without ending the exploitation of Black, brown, & yellow people at home & around the world.

### VII. The Colored World Within 88

Strategies for the advancement of Blacks.

95f. Role & dilemma of the talented tenth: assimilation to whites or betterment of poorer Blacks.

97. Blacks cannot duplicate the class structure of whites because they do not have the political power or wealth to get capital & command a labor force.

97ff. Three strategies: Protest, but this depends on the response of whites; emigration, which has failed, but which may one day be viable; self-segregation, which he will describe below.

103ff. Four Black responses to the Depression: Communism; joining labor unions; joining labor unions & also seeking to become capitalists; his proposal: consumer cooperatives.

105-110. Description of consumer cooperatives. It's a form of self segregation. It builds on the consumer power of the large Black population, & aims to direct their consumption to Black businesses.

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Du Bois, "My Evolving Program for Negro Freedom," 1944.

57. His summary:

"To achieve this freedom, I have essayed these main paths:

#### 1. 1885-1910

"The Truth shall make ye free." This plan was directed toward the majority of white Americans, and rested on the assumption that once they realized the scientifically attested truth concerning Negroes and race relations, they would take action to correct all wrong.

#### 2. 1900–1930

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United action on the part of thinking Americans, white and black, to force the truth concerning Negroes to the attention of the nation. This plan assumed that the majority of Americans would rush to the defense of democracy, if they realized how race prejudice was threatening it, not only for Negroes but for whites; not only in America but in the world.

### 3. 1928-to the present

Scientific investigation and organized action among Negroes, in close cooperation, to secure the survival of the Negro race, until the cultural development of America and the world is willing to recognize Negro freedom. This plan realizes that the majority of men do not usually act in accord with reason, but follow social pressures, inherited customs and long-established, often sub-conscious, patterns of action. Consequently, race prejudice in America will linger long and may even increase. It is the duty of the black race to maintain its cultural advance, not for itself alone, but for the emancipation of mankind, the realization of democracy and the progress of civilization."

41. First plan was naïve. "I was not at the time sufficiently Freudian to understand how little human action is based on reason; nor did I know Karl Marx well enough to appreciate the economic foundations of human history."

42f. 1890-1910 very consequential for Blacks. Consolidation of big capital & great efficiency of agricultural production in the South, with capital keeping Black & white workers at odds. Fraudulent government & Jim Crow. Thus, he left Atlanta U & went to the NAACP.

49. Pan African Congresses of 1919, 1921 and 1923. After Russian revolution, began to read Marx.

50. Visited Russia in 1928. "Russia was and still is to my mind, the most hopeful land in the modern world." Became more oriented to economics & developed a plan for consumer cooperatives.

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Du Bois, The World and Africa and Color and Democracy (The Oxford W. E. B. Du Bois), Oxford University Press; 1st edition, 2014 [1945, 1947], ISBN-10: 0199386749, ISBN-13 : 978-0199386741. Chs II-III, pp. 11-51.

II. The White Masters of the World 11

III. The Rape of Africa 28

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Du Bois, "Socialism and the American Negro," 1960.

Full advocacy for socialism.

3. He felt that his advocacy of consumer cooperatives failed because it really needed government support, which it did not have.