

W. E. B. Du Bois



W. E. B. Du Bois was an American civil rights activist, leader, Pan-Africanist, sociologist, educator, historian, writer, editor, poet, and scholar. Born in Massachusetts, he attended Fisk University and Harvard University. As a sociologist, Du Bois began to study and document the oppression of Black Americans and their striving for equality in the 1890s. By 1903 Du Bois had produced one of his major works, *The Souls of Black Folk*, in which he wrote: "The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line." A few years later, Du Bois joined other black leaders to found the Niagra Movement, a group that tried to abolish all distinctions based on race. In 1963, at the age of 95, he became a naturalized citizen of Ghana; he died there that year, and was given a state funeral.