

# W.E.B. Du Bois

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**Presenter:** Suzanna Schmeelk  
**Date:** September 12, 2018

**Professor:** Christian Swinehart  
**PGDV5100:** Data Visualization and Information Aesthetics

# W.E.B. Du Bois (2/23/1868 – 8/27/1963)



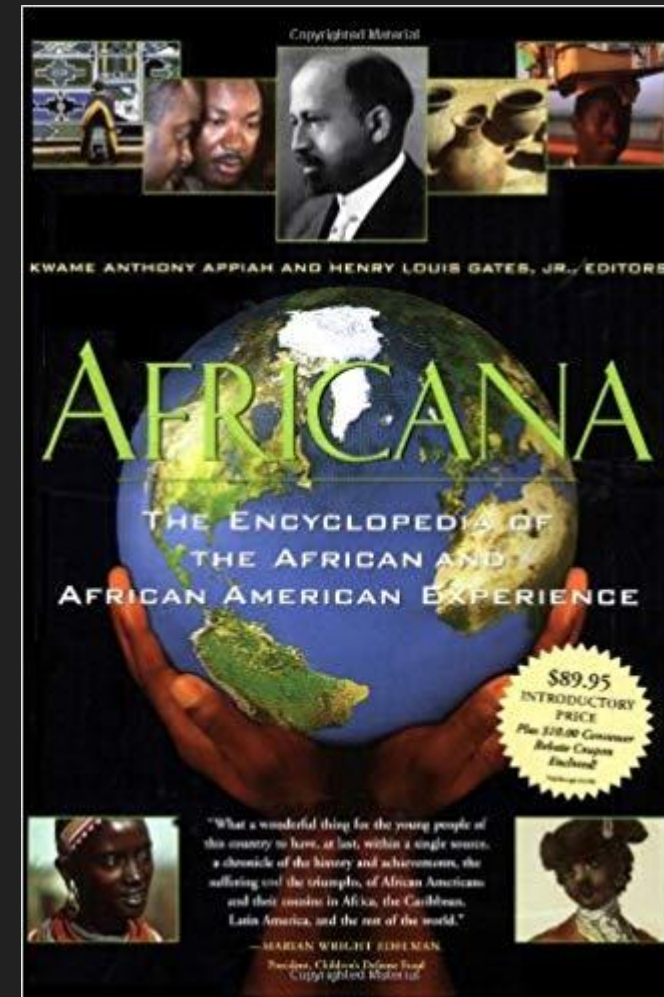
- Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts
- Du Bois attended
  - Fisk University, a historically black college in Nashville, Tennessee, from 1885 to 1888
  - Harvard College, for 2<sup>nd</sup> bachelors in history, (which did not accept course credits from Fisk) from 1888 to 1890
  - In 1892, Du Bois received a fellowship from the John F. Slater Fund for the Education of Freedmen to attend the University of Berlin for graduate work.
  - In 1895 he was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University
    - Dissertation: Suppression of the African Slave Trade in the United States of America: 1638–1871
- Du Bois married Nina Gomer, one of his students, on May 12, 1896.
- Seminal Written Piece: The Souls of Black Folk
- Founded NAACP in 1909: <https://www.naacp.org/naacp-history-w-e-b-dubois/>
- New School (Manhattan, NY) in 1948: Taught first African-American history and culture course

Further Reading

# W.E.B. Du Bois: Encyclopedia Africana

- Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience.

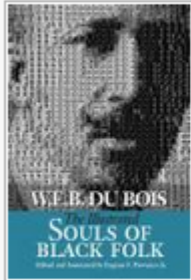
Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Kwame Anthony Appiah, eds.





# W.E.B. Du Bois: Seminal Works

## Illustrated Souls of Black Folk



by W. E. B. Du Bois , and Eugene F. Provenzo

**PUBLISHER**  
Routledge

**DATE**  
2015-12-22

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Page 1

### THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK I OF OUR SPIRITUAL STRIVINGS

O water, voice of my heart, crying in the sand,  
All night long crying with a mournful cry,  
As I lie and listen, and cannot understand  
The voice of my heart in my side or the voice of the sea,  
O water, crying for rest, is it I, is it I?  
All night long the water is crying to me.

Unresting water, there shall never be rest  
Till the last moon droop and the last tide fail,  
And the fire of the end begin to burn in the west;  
And the heart shall be weary and wonder and cry like the sea,  
All life long crying without avail,  
As the water all night long is crying to me.



BETWEEN me and the other world there is ever an unasked question: unasked by some through feelings of delicacy; by others through the difficulty of rightly framing it. All, nevertheless, flutter round it. They approach me in a half-hesitant sort of way, eye me curiously or compassionately, and then, instead of saying directly, How does it feel to be a problem? they say, I know an excellent

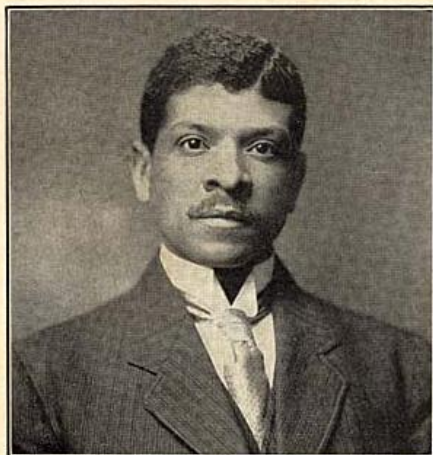


AKTIV STRIVINGS.



IN THE HOSIERY MILL  
OWNED AND OPERATED SUCCESSFULLY BY NEGROES  
WITH NEGRO HELP

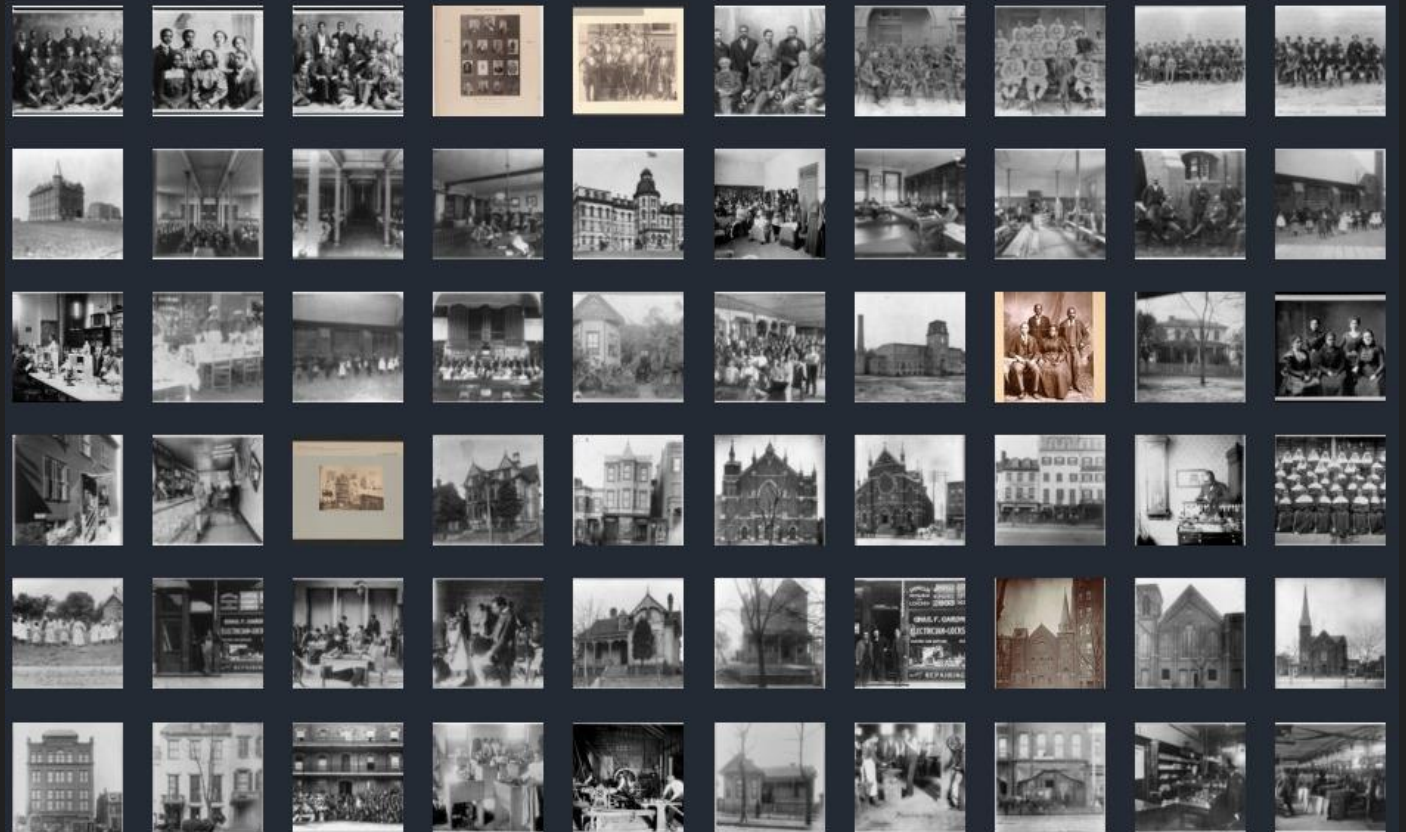
IN THE HOSIERY MILL  
OWNED AND OPERATED SUCCESSFULLY BY NEGROES  
WITH NEGRO HELP



C. C. SPAULDING

THE MANAGER OF THE LARGEST NEGRO INSURANCE  
COMPANY IN THE WORLD, ONE OF THE LEADERS  
IN THE GROUP OF NEGROES WHO HAVE  
BUILT UP BLACK DURHAM

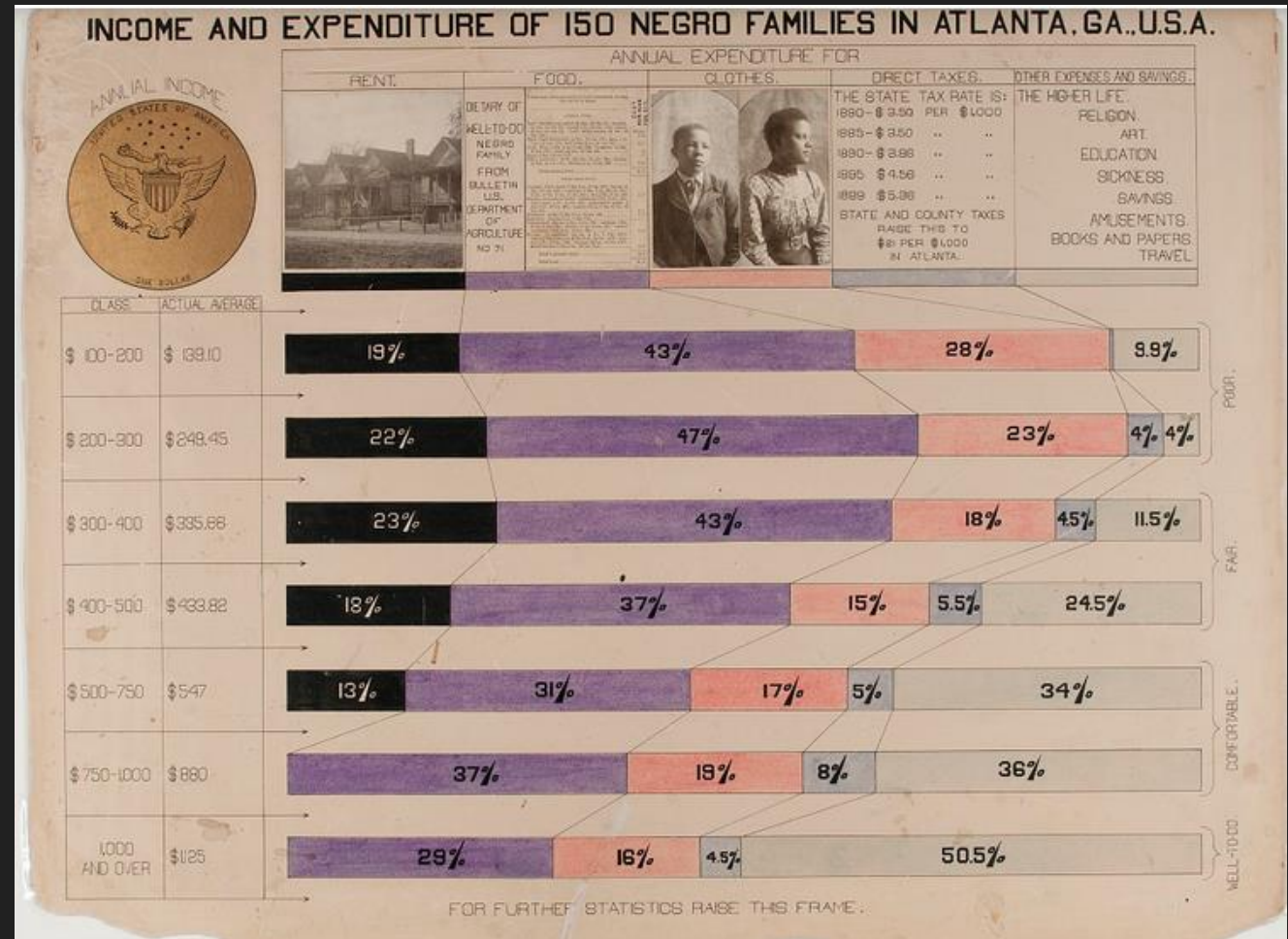
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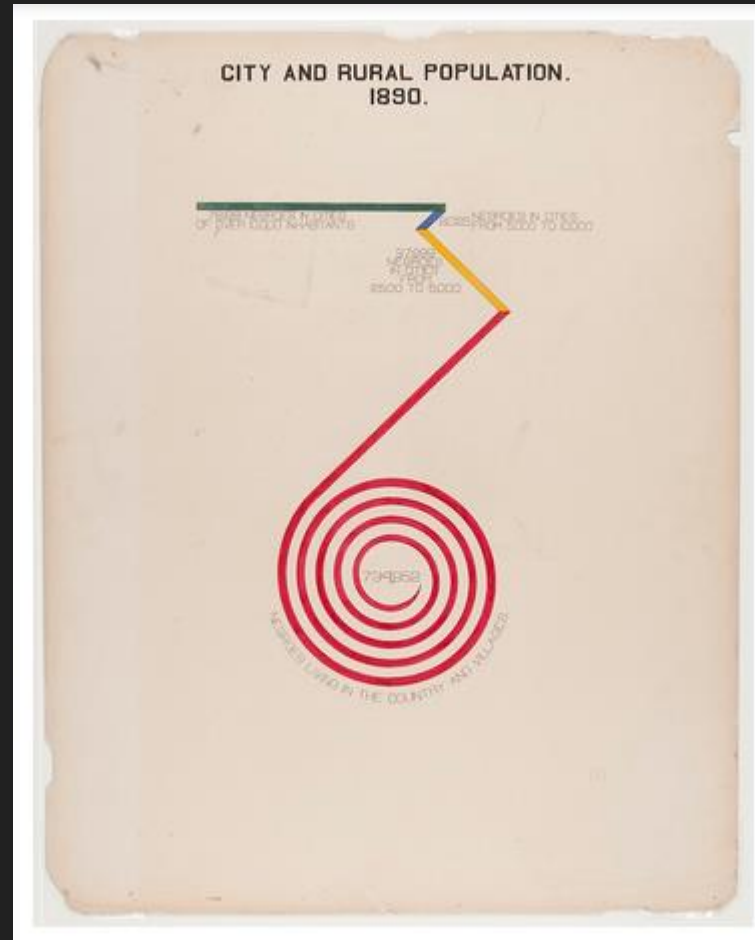
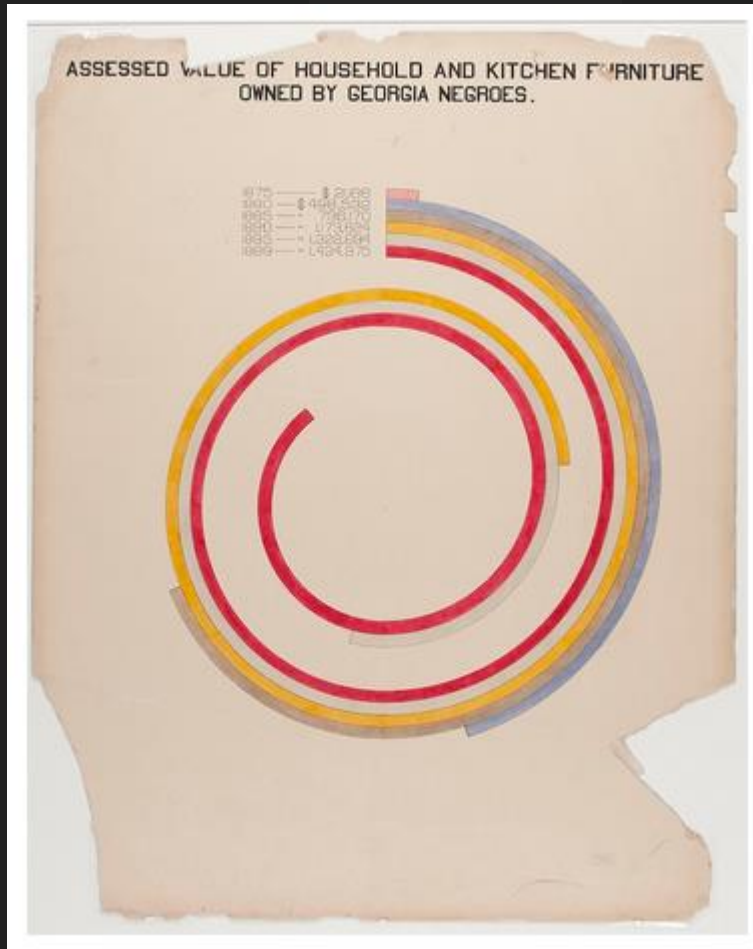
○ <https://publicdomainreview.org/collections/w-e-b-du-bois-hand-drawn-infographics-of-african-american-life-1900/>



# What is the style/use/purpose of subject?

- Purpose:
  - Convey information about racial inequities within the U.S.A.
- Style:
  - Visualizations: Music, data graphs, graphics, memorabilia, photographs.
- Use:
  - Text and Visualizations
    - To convey inequalities and basic facts to humans
    - Empowerment to repressed
    - Provide a sense of justice

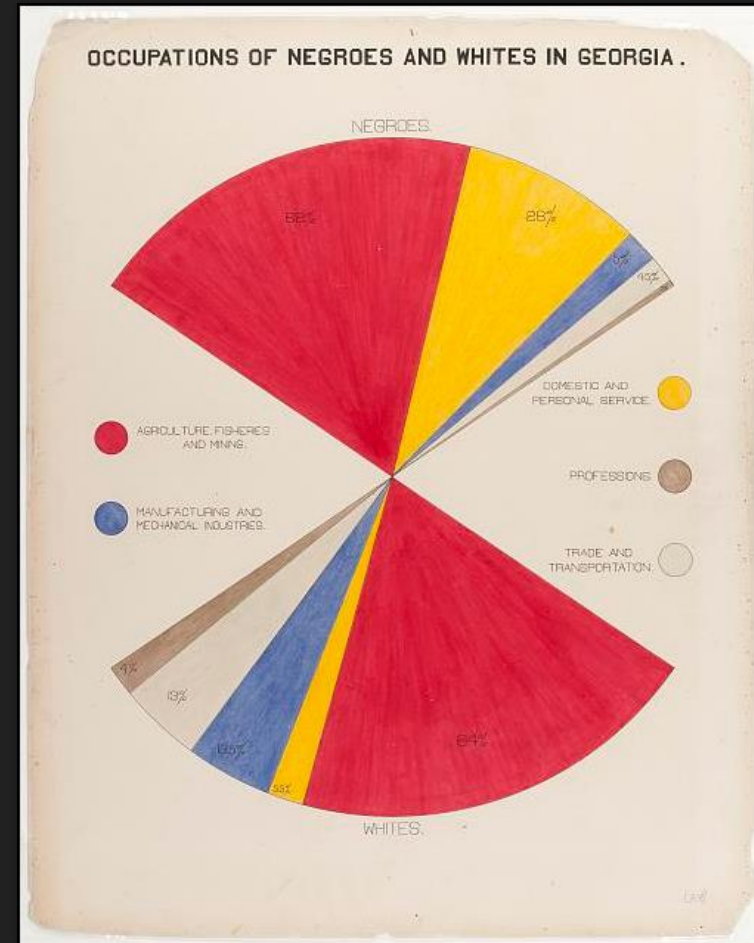
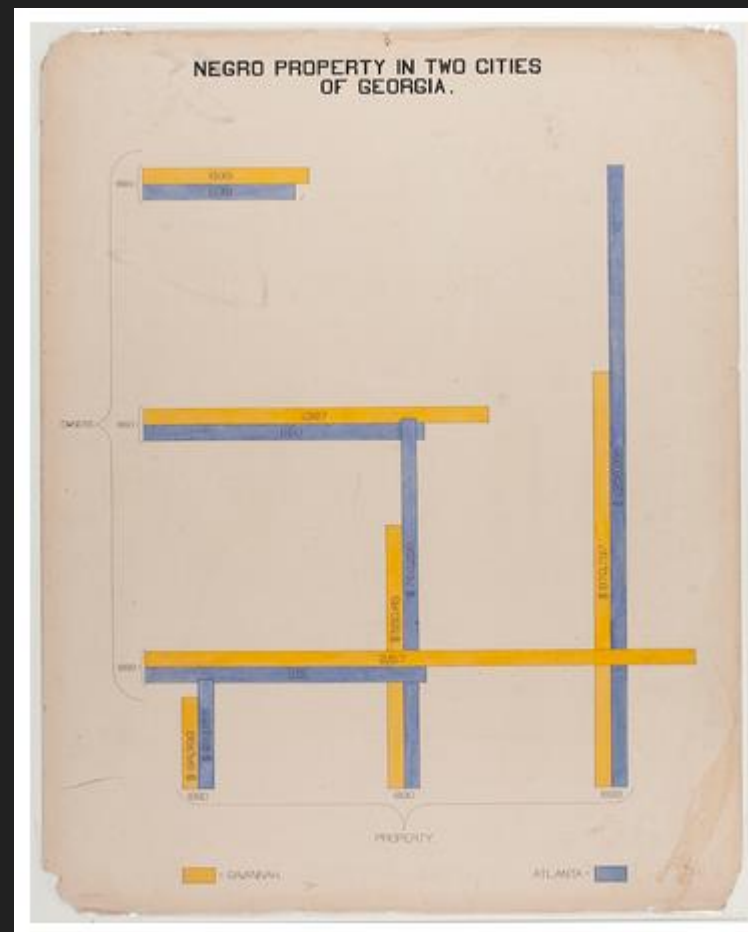
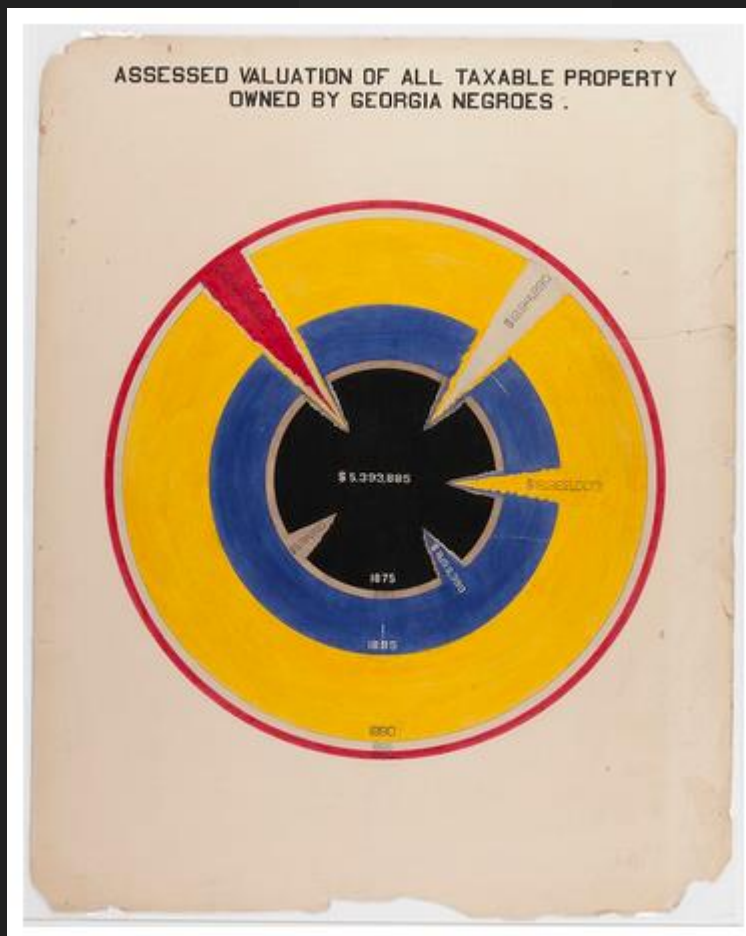
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# What does this subject do well? What do they do poorly? What do you like/dislike?

- Well

- Diversity of visualization content/representations
- Diversity of visualization uniqueness

- Poorly

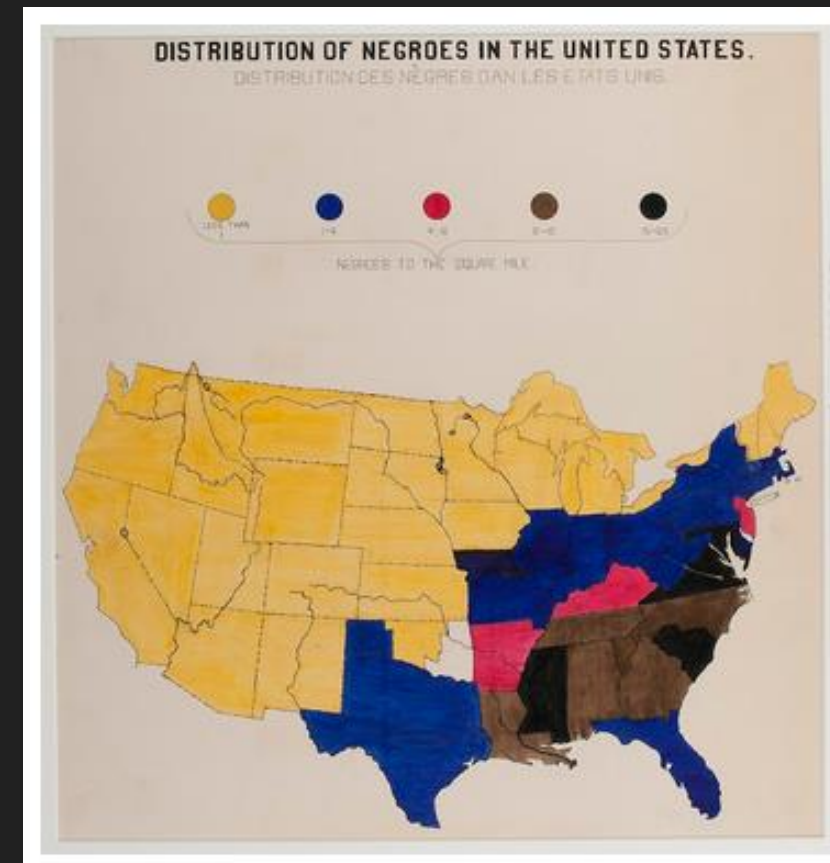
- Data collection techniques unclear

- Like

- Colors
- Diversity

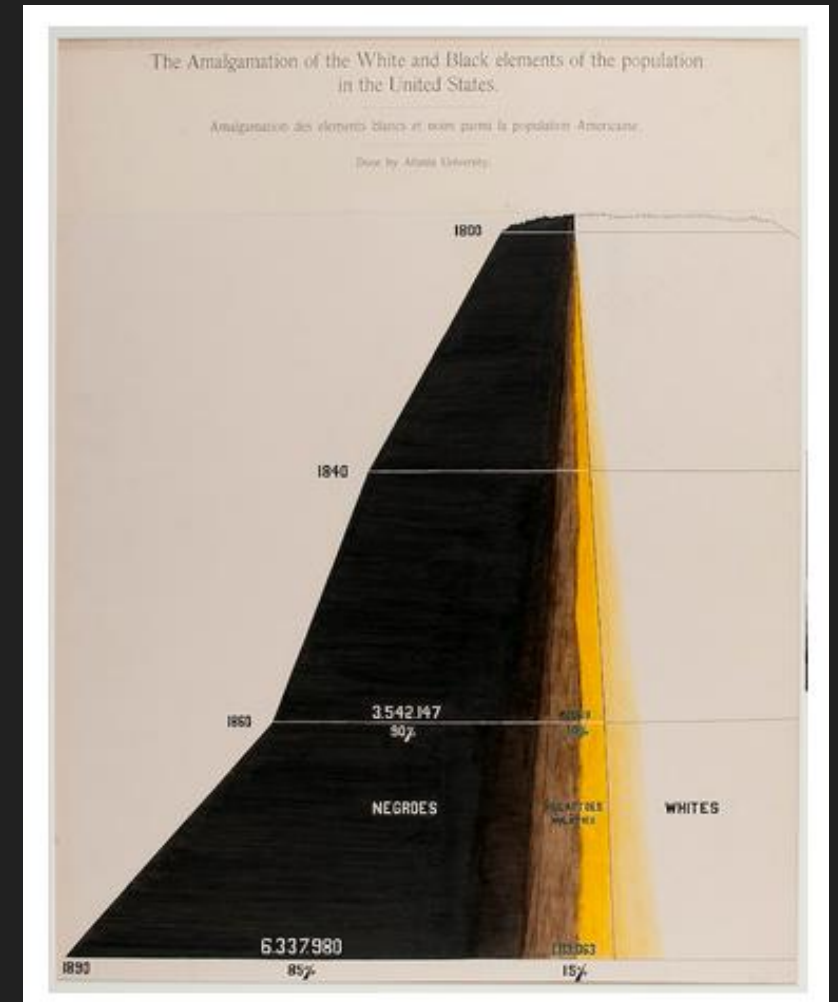
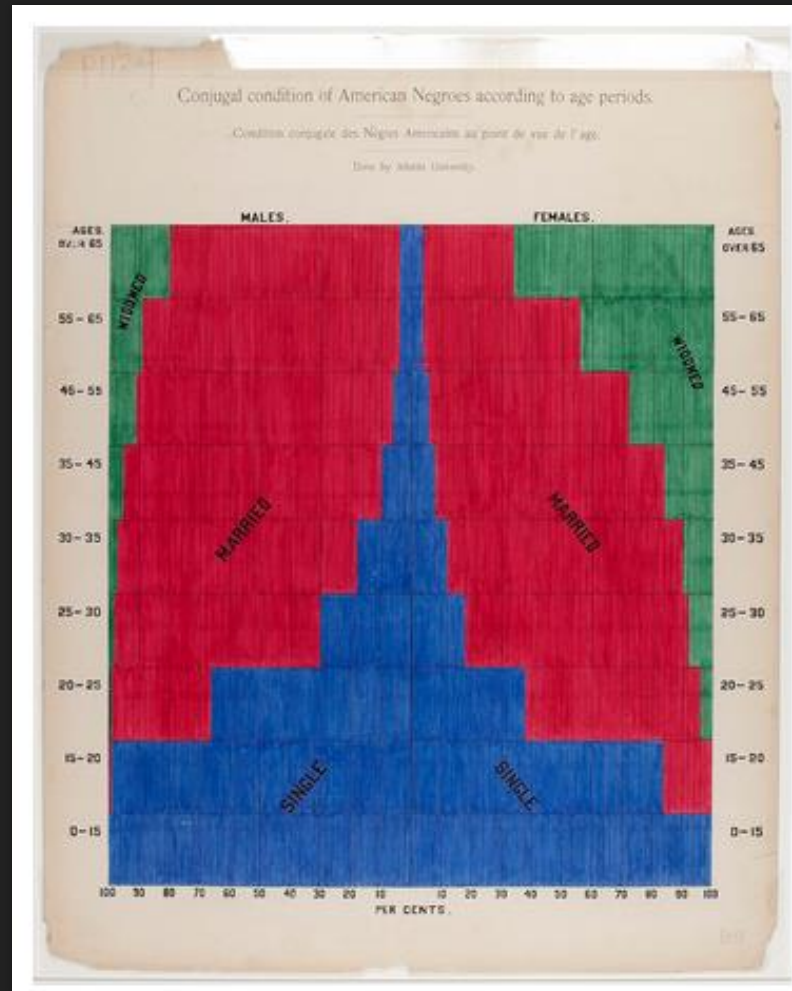
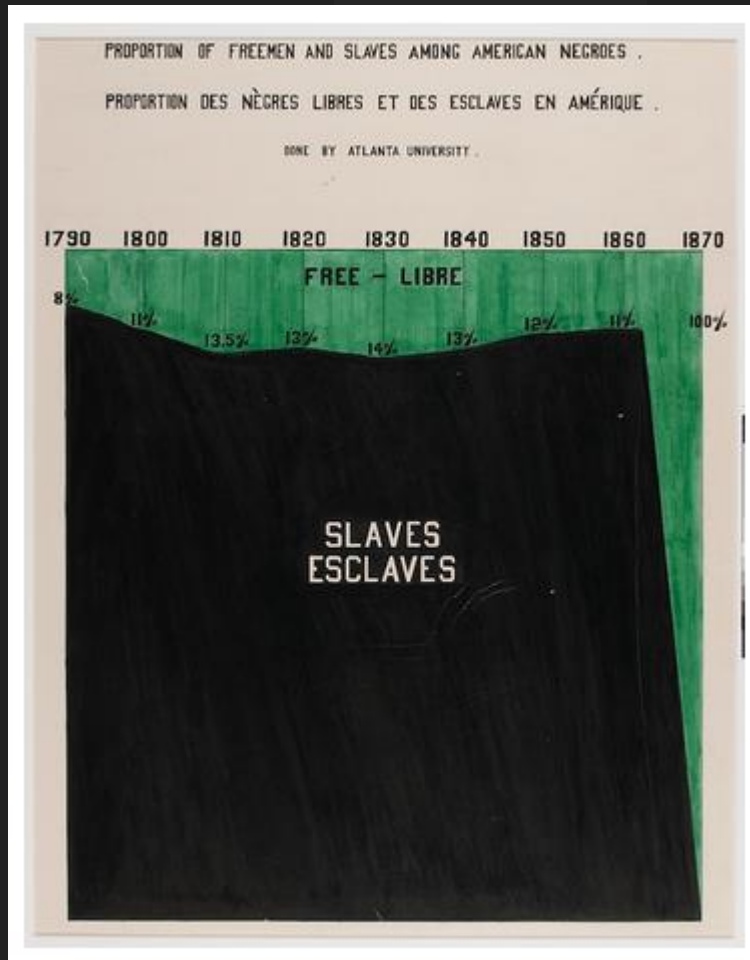
- Dislike

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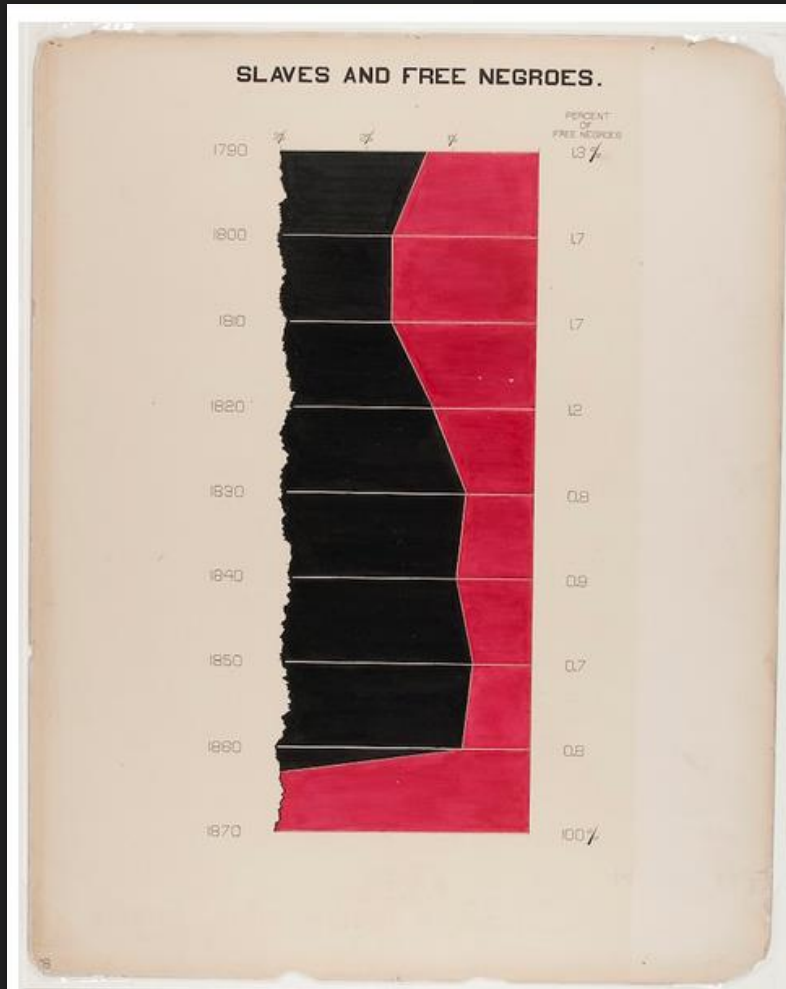
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# How does this subject connect to other readings and discussions within the course?

- Examples of how to visualize data
- Helps answer question, what data needs to be visualized?
- New questions arise from visualizing the data

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**Interior of Negro store, Buffalo, N.Y.**

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