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Assignment 10

### Citizens as Agents of Moral Change: W.E.B. Du Bois

W.E.B. Du Bois was a trailblazing African American intellectual, scholar, and civil rights leader who dedicated his life to the fight against racial inequality and discrimination through his prolific writings, activism, and advocacy for education and the arts, ultimately becoming a moral agent of change and leaving a lasting legacy in American history.

W.E.B. Du Bois was a pioneering African American intellectual and civil rights leader. He was born in 1868 and lived until 1963. W.E.B. Du Bois was a sociologist, historian, and political activist who devoted his life to the fight against racial inequality and the promotion of civil rights for African Americans. This week we look at "The Origins of Human Morality" by Michael Tomasello. In this reading, Tomasello discusses the concept of morality and what makes humans unique among all species on Earth. The writer talks about how the human species has a highly developed sense of morality and a rudimentary understanding of good and evil, right and wrong, and the pain of others. Fighting for change is a tricky thing. It takes courage and strength, and good morality.

Throughout his life, Du Bois demonstrated a solid commitment to social justice, human dignity, and equality, which made him one of the most influential figures of the 20th century. Du Bois was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, in 1868 and grew up in a relatively tolerant and diverse community. He attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he was exposed to the realities of racism and segregation for the first time. This experience profoundly impacted him, and he became determined to fight against the injustices African Americans faced in the United States. He earned a Ph.D. in History from Harvard University, where he became the first African American to receive a Ph.D. W.E.B. Du Bois

was a prolific writer and scholar, and his works have impacted American society. In his most famous book, "The Souls of Black Folk," Du Bois wrote about the experiences of African Americans and the impact of racism on their lives. Du Bois also wrote an article titled "Returning Soldiers" in 1919. The article talks about the challenges faced by African American soldiers who returned home after World War 1. He highlights the discrimination and racism these soldiers encountered upon their return, despite their contributions to the war effort and sacrifice for their country. "We Return. We Return from fighting. We return fighting." (Du Bois, 1919). Du Bois was also a political activist who worked tirelessly to promote civil rights and equality for African Americans. He was a founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which was "founded on the belief that nonviolent protests and legal actions were the best ways to ensure equal rights for all Americans" (Library, 2000). During his time at NAACP, Du Bois also served as the editor of The Crisis for many years. Through his writings and activism, Du Bois helped bring national attention to the plight of African Americans and the need for legal and political action to address the issues of racial inequality and discrimination.

In addition to W.E.B. Du Bois's activism, he was also a visionary who believed in the power of education to transform society. He was a firm believer in the importance of education to promote social justice and equality, and he worked to improve educational opportunities for African Americans throughout his life. He was also an advocate for the arts and believed that the creative expression of African American culture was essential to developing a strong and unified African American community. The values that W.E.B. Du Bois demonstrated throughout his life are still relevant today. His commitment to social justice, human dignity, and equality inspire all who seek to make a positive difference in the world. Du Bois' life is a testament to the power of the individual to effect change and make a lasting impact on society. We can learn much from Du Bois, his life, and his writings. His unwavering commitment to the cause of civil rights, even in the face of opposition and adversity, is a testament to his

strength of character and moral courage. His belief in the importance of education and the arts as a means of promoting social justice and equality is a reminder of the transformative power of knowledge and creativity. To set positive examples for others and become extraordinary moral agents of change, it is important to understand and embrace the values that Du Bois demonstrated throughout his life. We can do this by being proactive in our communities, speaking out against injustice and discrimination, and working to promote equality and social justice. We can also educate ourselves about the issues that are important to us and become involved in organizations and campaigns that are working to address these issues.

In conclusion, W.E.B. Du Bois was very important in the fight for civil rights and equality. While Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech did not explicitly mention Du Bois, King was greatly influenced by his legacy and the need for change that Du Bois had fought for throughout his lifetime. Du Bois achieved many great things in his life, from co-founding the NAACP, which became one of the most influential organizations in the struggle for black rights, to authoring writings that advanced the cause of civil rights by exposing the horrors of Jim Crow and highlighting the injustices faced by African Americans. His legacy continues to inspire future generations, and his life is a testament to one person's power to make a difference in the world. W.E.B. Du Bois was a true champion of justice, and we will never forget his contributions to American society.

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