

Du Boiss two-ness and the dual agenda

William Monroe Trotter Institute, University of Massachusetts at Boston - "Twoness" in W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk*



Description: -

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African Americans -- Politics and government.

African Americans -- Civil rights.

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1868-1963. Du Boiss two-ness and the dual agenda

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Understanding W.E.B. Du Bois' Concept of Double Consciousness « Kristin Does Theory

. In the second context, the veil of the temple was that which separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Political defence is becoming less and less available, and economic defence is still only partially effective.

Understanding W.E.B. Du Bois' Concept of Double Consciousness « Kristin Does Theory

It would be wholly consistent with the point of his conception if, added to the doubling of consciousness consequent upon racially oppressive social conditions, other forms of psychic doubling or fragmentation, responses to other forms of inequality, might arise. He wouldn't bleach his Negro blood in a flood of white Americanism, for he knows that Negro blood has a message for the world. There are discussions in later texts that seem to involve aspects, at least, of the 1903 conception.

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This interpretation is brought out in Henry, Gordon, and Kirkland as well. Do you identify with one group more than the other? This, Gordon writes, is the second, doubling consciousness in its affirmative, fully realized manifestation. There have been some attempts to interpret various of his other works in terms of the conception, but these tend to focus on his fictional writings, and the use made of these is not primarily to develop the conception but rather to show its uses by Du Bois in other contexts.

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He originally understood the radical to be a person who either became angry by turning to vices to deal with the alienating pain, or a person who created another level of segregation by living only among other black radicals who expressed their disapproval of the existing unjust order. It is plainly autobiographical rather than programmatic, as are the *Souls* texts. And when these loyalties diverge, where shall my soul find refuge? Race became the primary signifier of Europeans and Africans and of the differences between them.

Double Consciousness (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

At the same time, the African-American culture encouraged equality and dignity. .

The Souls of Black Folk Quotes by W.E.B. Du Bois

Gilroy also identifies that ambivalence as a stable and pronounced tendency in diasporic black cultures and political debates generally. Also, to label something as a paradox has an interrogatory effect: it can call into question views and relationships taken for granted. He does not wish to Africanize America, for America has too much to teach the world and Africa.

Double Consciousness [DuBoisopedia]

Jews , but Du Bois is speaking from his perspective as it relates to African Americans. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Rather, he employs, alternately, two strategies of writing in trying to capture its fullness.

W. E. B. Du Bois: Reform, Will, and the Veil

Writing of his own personal experience, Du Bois details the effect of this environing white world on him: I was by long education and continual compulsion and daily reminder, a colored man in a white world; and that white world often existed primarily, so far as I was concerned, to see with sleepless vigilance that I was kept within bounds. According to Du Bois, these prejudices encourage doubt, being self-critical, and being inhibited. Du Bois believed that African Americans lived in a society that was oppressive and devalued them as equals.

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