

W.E.B Du Bois on Reconstruction



There was one thing that the white South feared more than negro dishonesty, ignorance, and incompetency, and that was negro honesty, knowledge, and efficiency.

—W.E.B. Du Bois

William Edward Burghardt (W.E.B.) Du Bois (1868-1963) was an American historian, writer and civil rights activist. He was the first Black person to earn a doctorate from Harvard University and became a professor at Atlanta University. Du Bois was the leader of the Niagara Movement and a co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where he fought against lynching, Jim Crow laws and discrimination in education and employment. Du Bois published many works, including *The Souls of Black Folk* and *Black Reconstruction in America*.

SOURCES:

Quote: W.E.B Du Bois, *The Gift of Black Folk: The Negroes in the Making of America* (Boston, MA: The Stratford Co., 1924), 248.

Image: William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., <http://loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a29260>.