



W. E. B. Du Bois' Africa

Scrambling for a New Africa

By Taharka Adé

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Offers a comprehensive Afrocentric investigation and critique of Du Bois's writings on Africa and Pan-Africanism.

W. E. B. Du Bois was one of the leading figures of Pan-African thought and activism in the twentieth century. As a sociologist, Du Bois wrote much about the historical and social circumstances of African Americans while often acknowledging the African historical background of much of African American, or *Negro*, culture. In 1946 Du Bois published *The World and Africa*, which was a culmination of previous attempts at penning a narrative of African history beginning with his 1915 publication *The Negro*, in which he included the social-historical experience of African Americans within the continuity of African history. This book delivers for the first time a comprehensive Afrocentric investigation and critique of Du Bois's writings on African history. It argues that while Du Bois presented at the time a strong critique of the Eurocentric construction of African history, many of Du Bois's descriptions and arguments about African people and history were likewise flawed with interpretations that projected the cultural subjectivities of Europe. Further, while Du Bois rightfully presents the historical relationship between African Americans and Africa as a justification for Pan-African activism, this book contends that Du Bois's failure to center African culture instead of race leads to superficial justifications for Pan-African unity.

Readership

This book is directed primarily at professional scholars as well as advanced undergraduate students and graduate students working in and associated with Africana Studies, African Studies, Cultural Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, and Sociology.

Contents

Acknowledgments; Preface; Introduction; 1. The Situation; 2. Du Bois on African History and Classical Antecedents; 3. Du Bois and the Formation of Contemporary African History; 4. Locating Du Bois; 5. "Pan-Africa"; Conclusion; References; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Taharka Adé is an assistant professor in the Department of Africana Studies at San Diego State University. Dr. Adé is an Africologist who primarily investigates the African antecedents of various cultural phenomena among African Americans ranging from language, religion, the arts, corporeal aesthetics, and motif.

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