

# W. E. B. Du Bois

## Quotes

*Men, Believe, Race, People, World, Real, Thinking, Ignorance, America, Art,  
Simple, Soul, Color, White, Dark, Black, Lying, Dream, Children, Work*

Either America will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

There is in this world no such force as the force of a person determined to rise. The human soul cannot be permanently chained.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Children learn more from what you are than what you teach.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Strive for that greatness of spirit that measures life not by its disappointments but by its possibilities.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

There is no force equal to a woman determined to rise

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Nothing in the world is easier in the United States than to accuse a black man of crime.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

We must complain. Yes, plain, blunt complaint, ceaseless agitation, unflinching exposure of dishonesty and wrong - this is the ancient, unerring way to liberty and we must follow it.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

To be a poor man is hard, but to be a poor race in a land of dollars is the very bottom of hardships.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

I am especially glad of the divine gift of laughter: it has made the world human and lovable, despite all its pain and wrong.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Education must not simply teach work-it must teach life.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

I most sincerely doubt if any other race of women could have brought its fineness up through so devilish a fire.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Unfortunately 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

There can be no perfect democracy curtailed by color, race, or poverty. But with all we accomplish all, even peace.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The emancipation of man is the emancipation of labor and the emancipation of labor is the freeing of that basic majority of workers who are yellow, brown and black.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color-line, -- the relation of the darker to the lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and the islands of the sea.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

For education among all kinds of men always has had, and always will

have, an element of danger and revolution, of dissatisfaction and discontent.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

All womanhood is hampered today because the world on which it is emerging is a world that tries to worship both virgins and mothers and in the end despises motherhood and despoils virgins.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The cause of war is preparation for war.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

We shall never secure emancipation from the tyranny of the white oppressor until we have achieved it in our own souls.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The chief problem in any community cursed with crime is not the punishment of the criminals, but the preventing of the young from being trained to crime.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The worker must work for the glory of his handiwork, not simply for pay; the thinker must think for truth, not for fame.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Disfranchisement is the deliberate theft and robbery of the only protection of poor against rich and black against white.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Believe in life! Always human beings will live and progress to greater, broader, and fuller life.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

A little less complaint and whining, and a little more dogged work and

manly striving, would do us more credit than a thousand civil rights bills.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Ignorance is a cure for nothing.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

We cannot escape the clear fact that what is going to win in this world is reason, if this ever becomes a reasonable world.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Men must not only know, they must act.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

There is but one coward on earth, and that is the coward that dare not know.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Most men in this world are colored. A belief in humanity means a belief in colored men. The future world will, in all reasonable probability, be what colored men make it.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

No universal selfishness can bring social good to all.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The power of the ballot we need in sheer defense, else what shall save us from a second slavery?

~W. E. B. Du Bois

When you have mastered numbers, you will in fact no longer be reading numbers, any more than you read words when reading books  
You will be reading meanings.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Whiteness is ownership of the earth.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

When in this world a man comes forward with a thought, a deed, a vision, we ask not how does he look, but what is his message? . . . The world still wants to ask that a woman primarily be pretty. . . .

~W. E. B. Du Bois

To stimulate wildly weak and untrained minds is to play with mighty fires.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The future woman must have a life work and economic independence. She must have the right of motherhood at her own discretion.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

What do nations care about the cost of war, if by spending a few hundred millions in steel and gunpowder they can gain a thousand millions in diamonds and cocoa?

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Harriet Tubman fought American slavery single handed and was a pioneer in that organized effort known as the Underground Railroad.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Education is that whole system of human training within and without the school house walls, which molds and develops men.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

As Negro voting increased, Congress got an improved sense of hearing.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The music of an unhappy people, of the children of disappointment; they tell of death and suffering and unvoiced longing toward a truer world, of misty wanderings and hidden ways.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The main thing is the YOU beneath the clothes and skin--the ability to do, the will to conquer, the determination to understand and know this great, wonderful, curious world.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

There may often be excuse for doing things poorly in this world, but there is never any excuse for calling a poorly done thing, well done.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

So often do you see collegians enter life with high resolve and lofty purpose and then watch them shrink and shrink to sordid, selfish, shrewd plodders, full of distrust and sneers.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

A classic is a book that doesn't have to be written again.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

If there is anybody in this land who thoroughly believes that the meek shall inherit the earth they have not often let their presence be known.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The most ordinary Negro is a distinct gentleman, but it takes extraordinary training and opportunity to make the average white man anything but a hog.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Would America have been America without her Negro people?

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The world is shrinking together; it is finding itself neighbor to itself in strange, almost magic degree.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Whether you like it or not the millions are here, and here they will remain. If you do not lift them up, they will pull you down... Education must not simply teach work - it must teach life.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Liberty trains for liberty. Responsibility is the first step in responsibility.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Progress in human affairs is more often a pull than a push, a surging forward of the exceptional man, and the lifting of his duller brethren slowly and painfully to his vantage-ground.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

I believe in Liberty for all men: the space to stretch their arms and their souls.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

A man does not look behind the door unless he has stood there himself

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The time must come when, great and pressing as change and betterment may be, they do not involve killing and hurting people.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Race prejudice decreases values, both real estate and human.

~W. E. B. Du Bois



The world still wants to ask that a woman primarily be pretty and if she is not, the mob pouts and asks querulously, 'What else are women for?'

~W. E. B. Du Bois

How shall Integrity face Oppression?

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Half the Christian churches of New York are trying to ruin the free public schools in order to replace them by religious dogma.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

I believe in pride of race and lineage and self: in pride of self so deep as to scorn injustice to other selves.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Most men today cannot conceive of a freedom that does not involve somebody's slavery.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

All art is propaganda...I do not care a damn, for any art that is not used for propaganda.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

We black men seem the sole oasis of simple faith and reverence in a dusty desert of dollars and smartness.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The true college will ever have but one goal - not to earn meat, but to know the end and aim of that life which meat nourishes.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

It is as though nature must needs make men narrow in order to give them force.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Lord, make us mindful of the little things that grow and blossom in these days to make the world beautiful for us.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

It is the stars, it is the ancient stars, it is the young and everlasting stars!

~W. E. B. Du Bois

I am one who tells the truth and exposes evil and seeks with Beauty for Beauty to set the world right.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

If you want to feel humor too exquisite and subtle for translation, sit invisibly among a gang of Negro workers.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The dark world is going to submit to its present treatment just as long as it must and not one moment longer.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Thus all Art is propaganda and ever must be.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

To the real question, How does it feel to be a problem? I answer seldom a word.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

At best, the natural good-nature is edged with complaint or has changed into sullenness and gloom. And now and then it blazes forth in veiled but hot anger.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

I believe that there are human stocks with whom it is physically unwise to intermarry, but to think that these stocks are all colored or that there

are no such white stocks is unscientific and false.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

Liberty trains for liberty.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

America is not another word for Opportunity to all her sons.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

I sit with Shakespeare and he winces not.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

If the unemployed could eat plans and promises, they would be able to spend the winter on the Riviera.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

The kind of sermon which is preached in most colored churches is not today attractive to even fairly intelligent men.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

I insist that the object of all true education is not to make men carpenters, it is to make carpenters men.

~W. E. B. Du Bois

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