



They sang to forget the chains and misery. The sorrow will one day turn to joy. All that breaks the heart and oppresses the soul will one day give place to peace and understanding, and every man will be free. That is the interpretation of the true Negro spiritual.

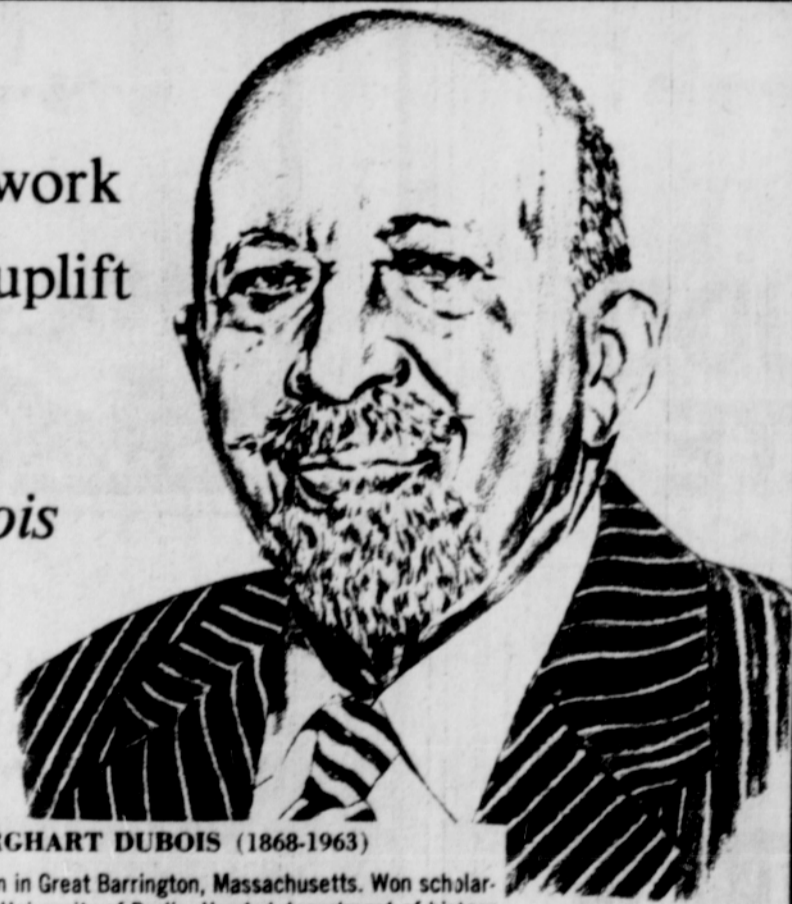
—Paul Robeson

The artist must elect to fight for freedom or for slavery. I have made my choice. I had no alternative. The history of the capitalist era is characterized by the degradation of my people: despoiled of their lands, their culture destroyed . . . denied equal protection of the law, and deprived of their rightful place in the respect of their fellows.

—Paul Robeson

“Education and work are the levers to uplift a people.”

—W.E.B. DuBois



WILLIAM EDWARD BURGHART DUBOIS (1868-1963)

SCHOLAR, SPOKESMAN, WRITER. Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Won scholarships to Fisk and Howard Universities and the University of Berlin. Headed department of history and economics at Atlanta University for 13 years. Wrote for Atlantic Monthly and other magazines. One of the founders of the NAACP in 1908 and editor of its Crisis Magazine. In 1919, launched Pan-African Congresses in Paris. Published many outstanding books. First Negro elected to membership in National Institute of Arts & Letters, 1943. Regarded as one of the most profound scholars of his time and generation and the 'dean' of Negro Intellectuals.

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No race can prosper 'till it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.

—Booker T. Washington

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