W.E.B. Du Bois: The Problem of the Color Line
The Issue of Race

In 1861, the United States of America erupted in a great civil war. After years of intensifying resentment, the nation shattered, fracturing North and South. The origin of this deep hatred: the institution of slavery. For four years combat plagued the American landscape.

By 1865, the war was heading to a rapid close. The Union army was advancing on the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia, and the Southern economy was crumbling from mass inflation and starving supply reserves (Faragher 558-559). Congress, sensing an impending end that favored the North, passed revolutionary legislation (Faragher 547). With the Thirteenth Amendment Congress emancipated all those under bondage.

On April 9, 1865, at the Appomattox Court House, Confederate forces capitulated to the Union Army (Faragher 559). The Civil War was over and thus began the arduous process of Reconstruction. The country was once again united, but there remained a deep divide. Plantation owners vehemently resisted emancipation. Black codes emerged throughout the South. African-Americans were barred from serving on a jury, punished for idleness and prohibited from abandoning sharecropping contracts. The South, in a sense, was re-enslaving the freedmen. Racism was rampant; blacks were cheated and terrorized by organizations like the Ku Klux Klan (Lewis 15).

In response, Congress created the Freedman's Bureau to protect the African-American community and passed the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. However

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1 The Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship to the freedmen.
2 The Fifteenth Amendment granted suffrage to all males regardless of race.
the Panic of 1873\(^3\) diverted the North’s attention from the South and, therefore, the plight of the freedmen was overlooked. The era of radical reconstruction had ended (Lewis 35). The African-American community had been deserted.

In the subsequent decades, the African-American population fought for equality as their newly found rights were strangled. Whites were re-erecting and solidifying their supremacy at great cost to the black community (Lewis 15). W.E.B. DuBois, a man of color, was at the front of the fight for equality in the early twentieth century. DuBois battled tirelessly to overcome the obstacles placed before his race. He was a man of passion and protest. DuBois would accept nothing less than total civic equality for the black community. W.E.B. DuBois led in the agitation efforts to gain civil rights for the African-Americans and built a legacy through the continuing impacts of the organization he helped found, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

**Discovering the Color Line**

William Edward Burghardt DuBois (W.E.B. DuBois) was born on February 23, 1868. Growing up in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, DuBois did not experience the racial prejudice prevailing in the South. For generations his family and other black members of Berkshire County enjoyed freedom. As a result, the Thirteenth Amendment, passed just three years prior to his birth, had little direct impact on DuBois’ early life (McKissack 12). His parents were neither slaves, nor the children of slaves and therefore

\(^3\) This recession was caused by over speculation in the railroad industry
“...were never shackled by the physical or mental chains of the plantation system...” (McKissack 12).

DuBois’ mother, Mary Burghardt, had instilled in her son the value of education from a young age (McKissack 16). DuBois was the sole child of color at his school and lived in deep poverty, however his scholastic excellence earned him admiration from teachers and peers (Pickney 68). This appreciation for knowledge would shape his actions and beliefs in the future. DuBois’ innate gift for public speaking and debate landed him a job as a correspondent for the *New York Globe* while he was in high school (McKissack 17). This would become the start of his extensive journalistic career. DuBois was highly motivated and undoubtedly talented; he planned to continue his higher education.

In 1885, DuBois attended Fisk University and for the first time in his life, DuBois was immersed in a culture of deep racism. Fisk was located in Nashville, Tennessee, notorious for its racial bigotry. “...I suddenly came to a region where the world was split into white and black halves, and where the darker half was held back by race prejudice and legal bonds, as well as by deep ignorance and dire poverty...” (McKissack 23). At Fisk, DuBois studied alongside black men who had been slaves and therefore often fearful to be assertive with whites. DuBois was perplexed and fascinated by this reality. Clearly disturbed by these revelations, DuBois began to explore the history of slavery and its influences on society.

For two summers, during his time at Fisk, DuBois taught at a black school outside of Nashville in Winston County. The schoolhouse was grossly inadequate and
structurally unsound (DuBois, "A Negro Schoolmaster…"). As a schoolteacher DuBois began to advocate that the African-American community could be empowered and improve its socio-economic standing through the education of its youth (DuBois, "Strivings of the…").

DuBois then attended Harvard University where his color-conscious heightened. DuBois felt ostracized, even though Harvard renounced segregation. DuBois affirmed that he never felt like a Harvard man (Pickney 72). DuBois was becoming perceptibly aware and frustrated by the division in society created by concepts of skin color.

DuBois then attended the University of Berlin in Germany. While DuBois attended the University of Berlin, European imperialism of Africa and Asia was at its height. DuBois vehemently opposed the practice for it encouraged the insubordination of people of color. Germany itself did not imperialize Africa. DuBois was fond of his time in Germany; it was a welcomed escape from the American racial superficialities (McKissack 38). DuBois completed his education in 1896 with a doctorate from Harvard in history and sociology, the first African-American to do achieve this (McKissack 39).

During his schooling, DuBois began to verbalize and categorize aspects of black cognizance. DuBois synthesized these ideas into his book, The Souls of Black Folk, a sociological study of the African-American community, arguably his most illustrious work. "The problem of the twentieth century," he stated in The Souls of Black Folk, "is the problem of the color line." In his book he also defined two revolutionary concepts of
the black perception, "The Veil" and "Double Consciousness." While these feelings were not new, DuBois was the first person to articulate them. (DuBois, "The Souls of..."). DuBois was turning into a great challenger of racial inequality, developing his own ideas and methods for combating racism.

Two Superpowers Collide

In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, Booker T. Washington was the figurehead of the African-American community. He was the President of the Tuskegee Institute, which received massive white support (Booker T Washington). It encouraged blacks to stay in lower-ranking, subordinate jobs (Weidman). In 1895, Washington gave his famous Atlanta Compromise speech asking the black community to find opportunity in agricultural, mechanical and domestic jobs, the servile professions they already occupied. "Cast down your bucket where you are..." ("Booker T. Washington: Atlanta..."). Washington counseled the African-American populace to focus on bettering themselves economically instead of fighting for social equality, at least for the time being ("Booker T. Washington: The...").

W.E.B. DuBois refused to condone Washington's message. DuBois foresaw three dooming effects of the compromise:

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4 A metaphor DuBois used to describe the differing ways African-Americans view the world because of their social economic and political standings
5 The internal struggle of African-Americans of desiring to stay true to their African culture as well as become American
6 This was a trades school for African-Americans
DuBois deemed it of utmost importance to rebel against Washington's proposition. In direct response to the Atlanta Compromise, DuBois organized a meeting in Niagara Falls and formulated a set of resolutions to guarantee full civil liberties. DuBois outlined these demands in his Niagara Movement speech of 1906 ("W.E.B. Du Bois: Niagara...”).

DuBois demanded the end of segregation in all its forms. He required the guarantee of full manhood suffrage and the enforcement of laws against all people. Finally, he commanded that Negro children be educated, not as inferior workers, but as intelligent beings. DuBois stipulated that the only way to achieve these mandates was to rise in constant agitation until change was realized (W.E.B. DuBois: Niagara..."). "We do not believe in violence...but we do believe...in that incarnate spirit of justice, that hatred of a lie, that willingness to sacrifice money, reputation and life itself on the altar of right." ("W.E.B.Du Bois: Niagara..."). DuBois would not accept anything less than total equality.

DuBois also came to heads with Washington over how the African-American community would gain equality. DuBois believed that a group he referred to as the "talented tenth," the top educated men in the African-American community, would lead blacks in the acquisition of total civil liberties. Washington championed the common Negro ("W.E.B. DuBois": American...).
DuBois’ movement almost ended as abruptly as it began. Many African-Americans at the time had been former slaves and the ideas of Washington seemed more practical to them, especially in Southern regions where agricultural jobs were plentiful and little education was offered. "What saved the movement was an act of racial terrorism" (Axelrod 168). In Springfield, Illinois, after an African-American man was charged with raping a white woman, white mobs began massacring blacks.

This single event encouraged many liberal whites to join the Niagara Movement. Their combined efforts led to the ultimate creation of the NAACP, an organization dedicated to improving the condition of the black community in the United States (Hughes). DuBois was a founding member of this prolific organization and became the editor of its newspaper, the *Crisis*, for twenty-five years (Axelrod 168).

**The Power of His Pen**

Some historians argue that DuBois revolutionized the use of media in social protest through the *Crisis* (Snorgrass). The *Crisis* was the official newspaper of the NAACP, but DuBois had control of its contents. "DuBois determined from the very beginning not only to make the *Crisis* the national Negro magazine he had always envisioned but also to make it his magazine in the bargain" (Ardnt).

DuBois wrote zealously and passionately about everything he deemed prejudiced or partial (Pickney 79). DuBois articles were so popular that while he was editor, the paper was self-supporting. This is a novelty for a paper of protest as it is catered to a
limited audience. In 1911, one thousand copies were printed, by 1919, at its peak, numbers reached one hundred thousand (Snorgrass).

"The effectiveness of the magazine catapulted Du Bois into national prominence. He became the most influential, respected, and feared Negro in the United States" (Ardnt). Through his articles DuBois condemned all practices that made the Negro subservient and oppressed including: lynching, white Christianity, poll taxes, Wall Street, Southern caste systems, colonialism, materialism, and even occasionally the NAACP (Snorgrass). "Little escaped the scathing vitriol of his pen…” (Ardnt).

The Crisis included an annual recap of the lynching that occurred that year. The reports were so accurately detailed that they rivaled the data collected by the Tuskegee Institute. With the paper, DuBois also launched the largest "Black is Beautiful" campaign the nation had ever seen. In the Crisis DuBois published pictures of cherubic black babies smiling with wide eyes (Snorgrass).

DuBois lost some support however when he published an editorial entitled "Close Ranks" in 1918. In the article he encouraged blacks to forget their protests for the time being and join in the war effort (Lewis 515). Critics fretted it was a plot to gain a commission in the army (Ardnt).

However DuBois was able to regain a backing and with the Crisis as a platform he propelled a new age of Pan-Africanism7 organizing the second Pan-African Congress in Paris in 1919 (Matera). Through the Crisis DuBois continued to promote racial

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7 The belief that Africans must unite worldwide for economic, social and political benefit
progress. He demanded an Africa for Africans. DuBois even launched a children's issue of the *Crisis* known as the *Brownies' Book*.

Still, DuBois' ideas began to diverge more obviously with the NAACP. He became ever more frustrated with the lack of progress. Relations soured and he officially resigned from the NAACP in 1934. "...[He] became a prophet without a paper..." (Ardnt).

In his later years, DuBois, angered by the lack of change, began to push new radical views. Du Bois had always supported left-wing ideologies, but African American exclusion from socialist groups in the United States disturbed him ("Socialism and the..."). After leaving the *Crisis* he joined the Council on African Affairs, an organization later classified as subversive and communist (Kihss). DuBois also helped found the Peace Intervention Center (PIC) and was chairman of the organization ("W.E.B. DuBois"). PIC petitioned governments around the world to ban nuclear weapons (Kihss). During the Cold War, DuBois was charged under the 1950 Internal-Security Act for failing to register as a foreign agent due to his membership with PIC, however he was acquitted (*United States v. Peace Information Center*). DuBois' more radical leanings became undeniable through his friendship with Mao Zedong and his winning of the Lenin Award. DuBois eventually defected to Ghana after officially becoming a communist in his nineties (Pinkney 80).

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a Communist leader of China at the time
The Lasting Legacy

W.E.B DuBois left a legacy behind his long trail of triumphs and trials. DuBois directed a novel movement to combat racism, boldly resisting the teachings of Booker T. Washington.

DuBois’ action against Washington ultimately produced the NAACP, an organization that continues to advocate for all minority groups. The NAACP played an essential role in many legal decisions benefiting blacks long after DuBois’ death. The group aided in the disestablishment of grandfather clauses at the polls as well as literacy tests and poll taxes. They were a power in the Supreme Court decision of Brown v Board of Education of Topeka Kansal ("National Association for..."). Among the NAACP’s greatest contributions are the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Civil Rights Act of 1968\textsuperscript{10}, and the Civil Rights Act of 1975 ("National Association for...").

The NAACP remains the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States, its membership reaching over 500,000 people ("National Association for..."). Current issues include: combatting negative portrayals of people of color in Hollywood films, continued legal force behind various laws guaranteeing civil liberties, and eliminating the racial and ethnic disparities in health care. The organization also works to pass legislation to keep non-violent offenders out of prison. "The NAACP advocates for smarter, results-based criminal justice policies to keep our communities safe..."

\textsuperscript{9} This Supreme Court ruling overturned Plessey v Ferguson and ended segregation in public schools.
\textsuperscript{10} This act included the Fair Housing Title.
(Advocacy and Issues). This includes treatment of addiction and mental health problems and the ending of racial disparities in the judicial system. The organization has also expanded to include issues of obesity and climate change (Advocacy and Issues).

W.E.B. DuBois was born in the shadow of the Civil War and educated at the dawn of a new era of freedom for the African American. Gifted with the opportunity of education in a unique home and an unequalled energy and spirit, his influences were remarkable. He had unfettered hopes for his people and dedicated his life to these dreams. He lived passionately. Sadly however DuBois died a somewhat broken man, disheartened by others' narrow-mindedness. Regardless of his own frustrations and the failures of the time, the achievements of this individual remain insurmountable. W.E.B. DuBois’ dedication to the acquisition of immediate equality changed the course of protest in the early twentieth century and continues to impact the modern world through the lasting influences of the NAACP.
Works Cited

Primary Sources


This speech by Booker T. Washington outlined his plan for African Americans to gain true equality with whites. Washington promoted a policy of separate by equal. He believed that race relations could be improved if African Americans accepted their positions as industrial and domestic workers instead of trying to immediately jump to high positions in society. If this was done, Washington thought the whites would realize the value of the African Americans and their importance in everyday life and accept the African Americans as equal. This speech helped in my research because W.E.B. Du Bois strongly advocated against the ideas held by Booker T. Washington. W.E.B. DuBois held that an elite, highly educated class of African Americans would through great demonstrations and achievements would gain equality for the rest of their community.


This speech was given by Booker T. Washington and outlines his main argument that must accept their subservient positions in society and focus on laying an economic foundation for their improvement in the future. He believes that by working and saving money, one day the African-American community will be able to secure social equality with whites. Blacks must begin on their road to equality by cultivating and owning land. This speech helped in my research because it further explained Booker T.
Washington's approach to gaining equality for the black community which was starkly different from W.E.B. DuBois' own plan for the "Talented Tenth" to lead African-Americans to immediate and total equality.

DuBois, W.E.B. "A Negro Schoolmaster in the New South." *Atlantic Monthly* Jan. 1899: n. pag. *The Atlantic Online*. Web. 7 Dec. 2014. <http://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/unbound/flashbkslblacked/duschool.htm>. In this article written by W.E.B. DuBois, DuBois explains the importance of education to improving the social status of African Americans. When Du Bois finished with school, he became a teacher in a very poor part of rural Tennessee, deep in the racist South. He describes the despair of the town and advocates that only education can improve his pupils' lives. This article helped in my research because in this work Du Bois clearly conveys his ideal that education will improve the socio-economic standings of African-Americans. DuBois was a strong proponent for education of the black youth, but he did not want them to be taught trades for he believed this would only continue the current cycle with blacks at the bottom of society, a cycle he sees in Tennessee that greatly depresses him. Instead Du Bois wanted equal, good education for the black community.

community. Du Bois stated that the black community was the community that suffered the most and therefore needed the most aid, yet the socialist party was denying that. Du Bois believed that if the socialist party did not help the Negro, the people that are not black but still suffering will one day get better but will not help the Negro because they did not help them when the Negro was suffering along with them. This website helped in my research because it is one of the few pieces I have on Du Bois' political standing. He was clearly frustrated with his own party.


Tllls book was Du Bois' most famous work. It is a collection of articles he previously published in "Atlantic Monthly Magazine." In Chapter One Du Bois lays out his thesis for the book; blacks need the right to vote, a good education, and to be treated as equals. It also defines what DuBois calls "double consciousness" or the idea that blacks always look at themselves through the eyes of how others perceive them. In the second chapter covers life for African Americans after Reconstruction. In the third through the fifth chapters DuBois outlines his argument for education and criticized Wslllington's call for education only in practical trades. Chapters Seven through Ten are sociological studies of the black community. The final chapters are narratives of individuals including the story of his own son who passed away. This book helped in my research because it furthered my understanding of his beliefs using his own words. It also helped establish his legacy. The Souls of Black Folk is also an important piece in social science in the field of sociology of the black community.

In this article written by DuBois, Du Bois describes the struggle of African-Americans as they work to obtain equality. He believes there are three main periods that African-Americans have gone through as they worked and continue to work for equality. At first they fought for emancipation and next came the struggle for legislation. DuBois says these were both important strides, but neither secured equality for blacks. Du Bois believes the education is the current fight. He believes it will be a long, arduous path and it will require unyielding devotion but it will be powerful. This article helped in my research because Du Bois clearly outlined his idea that education is what will empower the African-American community and secure their equality. When I compared the Du Bois' views portrayed in this article it became clear to me why he despised Booker T. Washington's approach.


This article published in the New York Times in 1961 announces that DuBois joined the Communist party. DuBois' relationship was estranged with the NAACP after he became aligned with a number of left-wing organizations. DuBois had ties with Council on African Affairs, cited to be subversive and Communist, as well as the Peace Information Center. He even won the Soviet Lenin Prize. This article helped in my research because
it showed the leftist ties DuBois formed in the later years of his life and it also explained why he split with the NAACP, possibly the greatest legacy he had.


In this court case the Peace Information Center is being tried for refusing to register in accordance with the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The defendant has foreign allegiance and according to legislation, must register with the Attorney General. The Attorney General will then keep tabs on the Peace Information Center and see if they participated in "Un-American" activities. DuBois was eventually acquitted of the charge for failing to register as a foreign agent. This court case was helpful in my research because it showed that DuBois' alignment with PIC. In fact DuBois created PIC, which called for the disannament of all nations, which will be helpful as this develops his legacy aspect for my paper.


In this speech W.E.B. DuBois calls for the end of segregation in all its forms. He outlines five overarching demands; full manhood suffrage, that laws are enforced against all people both black and white, and finally he demands that the African-American children are educated not to become workers in subservient positions, but as intelligent beings. Du Bois stipulates that the only way to accomplish these mandates is to rise in constant agitation until change is realized. This speech helped in my research because
this speech shows the leadership role Du Bois took in the struggle for equality for blacks. He was an active fighter and leader for the African-American community.

Secondary Sources


<http://www.naacp.org/programs>.

This website is the official website of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It describes their current missions including: combatting negative portrayals of people of color in Hollywood films, continued legal force behind various laws guaranteeing civil liberties, and eliminating the racial and ethnic disparities in health care. The organization also works to pass legislation to keep non-violent offenders out of prison. This website helped in my research because it established DuBois' legacy. He helped found the NAACP and they are continuing their positive impact today through a variety of reforms and movements.


This article describes DuBois' influence through the Crisis, the NAACP's magazine. The NAACP provided Du Bois with the first alliance with white liberals. DuBois was allowed to freely write in the Crisis making virtually his own magazine. The relationship between Du Bois and the NAACP was always one of convince however, as both had something to gain and give to the other. The Crisis was so important to DuBois because it provided a respectable forum to share his ideas. With the Crisis, Du Bois perhaps
became the strongest voice an American protest organization had ever had. This article also describes his slow movement towards more radical ideas as he became frustrated with the lack of progress happening towards the equality of blacks. This article was important to my paper because it highlighted the impact Du Bois had on the world through his written works in the Crisis. He was possibly the biggest leader of African-Americans of his time and the Crisis is the medium he shared most of his ideas.


This book describes W.E.B. Du Bois' legacy as an activist for equality for the African-American community as he boldly stood up to Washington's wildly accepted ideas. He rejected the teachings of Booker T. Washington which Du Bois believed disenfranchised the Negro, led to the distinct status of civil inferiority for the Negro, and steadily withdrew aid from the institutions for higher education for the Negro. Du Bois could not accept the idea that Negros could only gain equality through submission. He firmly believed that "...self respect is worth more than lands and houses, and that a people who voluntarily surrender such respect, or cease striving for it, are not worth civilizing...". This book helped in my research because showed Du Bois' leadership as he boldly condemned the wildly revered teachings of Booker T. Washington and instead called for agitation to gain complete social equality as soon as possible. It also touched on his legacy informing, the still functioning, NAACP.


This website explains Booker T. Washington’s influence over the black and white communities of his time. Booker T. Washington gained the support of whites for the Tuskegee Institute when he promised the subordination, at least for the time being, of blacks if blacks were given economic opportunity. He promised that blacks would not be educated for high ranking jobs, but rather jobs in agriculture or domestic work. Washington lost support however when President Woodrow Wilson was elected and a new younger generation of African-Americans resisted the idea of subordination. This website helped in my research because it illustrated why Washington’s plan for the education of African-Americans had the support of whites. It also outlined Du Bois’ rise as leader of the black community when a younger generation of African-Americans refused their social inequality.


This book provided me with information about the Civil War and Reconstruction prior to Du Bois’ birth and influence. I learned the reasons why the South eventually gave into Union forces because the Union army was close to capturing Richmond. Also the southern economy was in ruins. I also learned specific dates. For example I learned that the Appomattox Court House treaty signing took place on April 9, 1865. This book helped in my paper because I needed to set the stage for the world that Du Bois lived in. The Civil War was prior to his birth but trends continued over from the Civil War into his lifetime. This book was great for providing facts in my introduction.

This book explains the impact of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The NAACP was an organization started by a group of African-Americans, including DuBois, who supported total equality for blacks immediately. The organization had foundations in the Niagara Movement. The NAACP made huge strides towards creating equality for minority groups and continues to function today. This book was helpful in my research because it provided great detail of the NAACP and activities it was involved in that helped further the social equality of the black community. This really helped in my paper because the NAACP is perhaps Du Bois' greatest legacies as it continues to function and advocate for equality of all people on a global scale.


This book provides the most comprehensive understanding of W.E.B. DuBois. This book outlines DuBois' life from birth to death. It delves into his belief in the Talented Tenth and the establishment of the NAACP. IT also describes the mounting tension between DuBois and the great accommodator, Booker T. Washington, particularly their differing views of Carnegie and Rockefeller's educational ideas for the black community. This book highlights the "success of his pioneering and provocative books." It goes into great detail about his most famous work, The Souls of the Black Folk, and the "fiery and galvanizing" journal the Crisis. Finally it describes DuBois'
activism during and at the end of World War I, including DuBois' fight against the brutal treatment of black veterans. This book helped immensely in my research as it provided so much detail. It also brought to my attention his leadership in helping African-American veterans, something I was unaware of until I read this book.


This article provided a comprehensive explanation of the Pan-African movements. Pan-Africanists intellectual, cultural, and political movements tend to view all Africans as descendants from a single race. They share a cultural unity and tend to be anti-imperialism. During DuBois' life, the largest Pan-African movement was led by Marcus Garvey. DuBois withdrew his support from Garvey however when Garvey declared himself provisional leader of Africa. This article helped me understand what the Pan-African movement was which is imperative to my understanding of DuBois as Du Bois was a leader in the revival of Pan-Africanism.


This book goes into full detail W.E.B. DuBois' life from birth to death. It explains his early years as the son of free African American parents in New England and how he did not face discrimination in his youth like most African Americans of his time. It then goes on to explain how travels South to areas with deep racism influenced his life and led him to become an activist for equality of all races. The book also outlines W.E.B. DuBois'
beliefs and how he envisioned that a “talented tenth” of highly educated African Americans would lead the rest of the population to equality. Finally it summarizes how his activism led him to conflict with Booker T Washington, another leading African American of the time who had differing views on how Africans Americans should gain equality. This book helped in my research because it went into great detail about his early life, which was devoid of most of the discrimination of the age, and how this influenced his drastic measures to gain equality for African Americans. This book also helped me understand WEB Du Bois’ approach on how to combat discrimination and understand the specific steps he took, like creating the NAACP, to create lasting change.


This article on the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) details the creation and achievements of the NAACP. The NAACP is the oldest continuously running organization for civil rights in the United States of America. It was founded by a group of African Americans members of an organization called National Negro Committee (NNC) together with delegates from the Niagara Movement (a reactionary, counter movement to the Atlanta Compromise). The NAACP worked to create equality for the African American community by fighting against the grandfather clause and segregation in schools (*Brown v The Board of Education of Topeka*). Today this organization continues to dedicate itself to creating a world of equality. This article helped in my research because W.E.B. DuBois was one of the founding members of the NAACP. He, along with other highly established African
Americans, founded the NAACP in reaction to the Atlanta Compromise, which, unlike the NAACP, called for slow change towards equality and encouraged the African American to accept the inequality of the day with the promise that society would one day see them as equal.


This book gives a basic overview of the amazing accomplishments of W.E.B. Du Bois. This book provides a lot of background of Du Bois’ early life living in the North. It also outlines his accomplishments including reviving the Pan-African Movement and was the confounding the NAACP. This book also delved into his eventual change of party affiliation to Communism. This book helped in my research because it provided a lot of titles of books that Du Bois wrote. While it did not provide much new information for me to use it was a good jumping off point to find other works that did help me understand Du Bois on a deeper level.


This article explains Du Bois’ influence through his publications in the Crisis, a magazine commissioned by the NAACP. Du Bois was the editor of this magazine that published articles on the unfair poll taxes, discrimination in transportation and public places, and any national policy that resulted in unequal treatment of African-Americans. Du Bois also published a children's version of the magazine after he got a disturbing letter for a young black boy that said he hated whites as much as they hated him. Du Bois believed
in educating the black youth not teaching them hatred calling this disastrous and inadvisable. Ibis article helped in my research because it highlighted DuBois’ influence in the NAACP with his newspaper. It also supported another point of Du Bois’ leadership. In the article it states, "As Crisis editor, Du Bois set the tone for the organization [NAACP] and educated a whole generation of black people in the art of protest." He led the African-American community to using the media as a protest instrument.


<http://americanhistory.abc-clio.com>

This article gave W.E.B. DuBois' background. It explained his rejection of Booker T. Washington's, the acknowledged leader of the African-American community at the time, call to postpone civil rights and higher education for Negros, instead having the black community concentrate their energies on industrial education. It also goes into detail about why DuBois became estranged with the NAACP, an organization he cofounded. He became frustrated that the organization was led by white people and so he tired to Atlanta University and continued his research into the black social structure to help shed light on the problems facing the black community. He even advocated for nuclear disarmament. He was also sympathetic to the communism. This article helped in my research because it gave me an understanding of why Du Bois became estranged from the NAACCP. This is important to my paper because a main part of Du Bois' legacy today is his creation of the NAACP. It also showed that Du Bois was a leader in other issues of the day including the issue of nuclear warfare.

This article gives the history of Tuskegee Institute. Booker T. Washington was the President of Tuskegee Institute. This school gave education in practical training. Many whites liked this layout because it promised the subordination of blacks. Washington believed economic advancement would eventually lead to social advancement. This article helped in my research because it provided details on the foundation that DuBois despised. He could not accept the idea that in order to gain social equality in the future, blacks must give it up at that present moment.