

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963)



- Grew up in Massachusetts during Reconstruction
 - BAs from Fisk and Harvard
 - Ph.D. from Harvard; post-graduate work in Germany
 - Ph.D. thesis: *The Suppression of the African Slave Trade*
 - Major study: *Black Reconstruction in America* (1935)
 - Well-known book: *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)
 - “The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line”
 - Founder of the NAACP in 1904
 - Under-recognized by American academia
 - Became increasingly Marxist, anti-colonialist, and Pan-Africanist
 - Died in Ghana at age 93
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Reconstruction Era (1863-1867)

- **Post-Civil War promise of democracy, racial emancipation, economic independence for Black American citizens.**
 - **Struggle between**
 - A) Federalist vision (in line with assassinated President Abraham Lincoln) of universal male suffrage and full legal integration/civil rights for freed slaves.
 - B) States rights vision (driven by President Andrew Johnson, from Tennessee) that ultimately lead to segregation and widespread restriction of civil rights (Jim Crow era lasting until the 1950s/60s Civil Rights movement)
 - *Adoption of 14th Amendment and Civil Rights Act of 1866 (adopted via congressional veto of Johnson)*
 - *Rise of the Ku Klux Klan, terrorism and murder of Black Americans and pro-Reconstruction politicians and activists*
 - Reconstruction ENDED in 1876/77 – Hayes v. Tilden compromise after disputed presidential election
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Du Bois. *Black Reconstruction* (1935)

- Links democracy and economic security / social justice and economic justice
 - Failure of Reconstruction due to “doctrine of racial separation” (192)
 - “[...] it failed to work because the theory of race was supplemented by a carefully planned and slowly evolved method, which drove such a wedge between the white and black workers that there probably are not today in the world two groups of workers with practically identical interests who hate and fear each other so deeply and persistently and who are kept so far apart that neither sees anything of common interest” (p. 192).
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The white wage

- “the white group of laborers, while they received a low wage, were compensated in part by a sort of **public and psychological wage**” (192).
 - Privilege in the form of deference, access, recognition
 - Favoritism and representation in police, courts, voting/politics, media, access to public space, etc.
- Black laborers weighed down with “various badges of inferiority” (192).
- Thus, “a new dictatorship of property in the South” was established “through the color line. It was a triumph of men who in their effort to replace equality with caste and to build inordinate wealth on a foundation of abject poverty have succeeded in killing democracy, art and religion.”

****What does this history teach us about race and racism in America today? Is/How is the history of Reconstruction, and its failure, relevant?**

Jane Addams (1860-1935)

- Born in Illinois, daughter of a State Senator
- Sociologist, social worker, prominent public intellectual (pragmatist thinker)
- Important founding figure of American sociology and the Chicago School of Sociology (University of Chicago)
- Activist focused on economic and social justice, public health, world peace, women's rights, children's rights, the labor movement, and more.
 - ❖ Cofounder of Hull House in 1910, a settlement house.
 - ❖ Cofounder of ACLU in 1920
 - ❖ Nobel Peace Prize in 1931



Hull House, Chicago

- **A Settlement House:**

- Brought intellectuals and activists of class privilege together and into neighborhoods of working class and poor people of different ethnic backgrounds (many of whom were recent immigrants).

- A neighborhood center for art, politics/activism, culture, social services (education, medical care, childcare, etc.), research, and, above all, COMMUNITY.

- Quite radical and effective impact on social welfare and the well-being of people connected to it.

- Check out <https://www.hullhousemuseum.org/>



“The Settlement as a Factor in the Labor Movement” (1895)

- Class power and solidarity: “the power to combine”
- “isolation [...] results in dreariness and apathy” and “tends to extermination.” (56)
 - The “subdivision” of workers (by ethnicity, sex/gender, etc.) leads to lowering of wages for all (p. 56).
- “If the settlement, then, is convinced that in industrial affairs lack of organization tends to the helplessness of the isolated worker, and is **a menace to the entire community**, then it is bound to pledge itself to industrial organization, and to look about it for the lines upon which to work. And at this point the settlement enters into what is more technically known as the labor movement” (57).

***How might capitalists benefit from racial, ethnic, sex/gender, or other divisions among workers? Are there advantages to the type of solidarity and coordinated community focus Addams advocated?*