

African Americans after Reconstruction: Booker T. Washington vs. W.E.B. Du Bois

Booker T. Washington – *Atlanta Compromise*

1. What does Washington mean by his “Cast down your bucket where you are” anecdote?
2. What are his views on the interaction of the races in Southern society?
3. How might Washington’s background influence his view on the role of African Americans?
4. What is Washington’s view of the future of race relations in America?
5. Who do you think would most support Washington’s point of view? Why?

W.E.B. DuBois – *The Souls of Black Folk*

1. What is DuBois’ main criticism of Washington’s plan?
2. Who does DuBois feel should bear the burden of the “Negro problem”?
3. How might DuBois’ background influence his view on the role of African Americans?
4. What is DuBois’ view of the future of race relations in America?
5. Who do you think would most support DuBois’ point of view? Why?

Dudley Randall – *Booker T. and W.E.B.*

1. How does this poem reflect the conflict between these two African American leaders? Give examples.

Critical Thinking: How might this conflict between Washington and DuBois limit the progress of African Americans at the time? How might it drive the movement forward?

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