



W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington

W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington were prominent black leaders in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Washington embraced a philosophy of self-help and racial solidarity. He encouraged blacks to accept discrimination rather than fighting it, and to focus instead on improving their circumstances by working hard and achieving material prosperity. He believed that black people could “win” the respect of whites in this way, and eventually be accepted as full citizens of the United States. DuBois disagreed. He felt that Washington’s approach would only encourage oppression. DuBois believed in political activism and civil rights. He was responsible for many changes in the conditions for black people in America, and he was also responsible for changing the way they thought about themselves. In his famous book, *The Souls of Black Folk*, published in 1903, DuBois attacked Washington’s philosophy. The two remained at odds for some years, with Washington representing the “conservative” point of view on race relations, and DuBois representing the “radical” view.

DIRECTIONS: Based on the reading, label each sentence as a main idea or a supporting detail.

- _____ 1. Which man believed in self-help and racial solidarity?
- _____ 2. Which man believed in political activism and civil rights?
- _____ 3. Which man changed the way that black people in America thought about themselves?
- _____ 4. Which man represented the “conservative” view on race relations?
- _____ 6. Which man represented the “radical” view on race relations?