“The Souls of Black Folk”

- Read the following excerpt from “The Souls of Black Folk” and answer the following questions.
- According to Dubois, what was Washington’s programme?
- According to Dubois, what effect did Washington’s programme have on the nation, the south, the north, and the Negroes?
- Why did Dubois say radical Southerners accepted Washington’s Atlanta compromise? (Why does Tuskegee survive?)
- According to Dubois, why did Washington not need to study French?
- Why is Dubois hesitant to criticize Washington?
- On what 2 occasions did Washington criticize the racism in the south? What happened?
- Explain the line “Mr. Washington’s counsels of submission overlooked certain elements of true manhood…”
- Which person do you think African Americans should have followed? Explain.

Political and Cultural developments in the Americas
Mid-19th century to 1919

The World of Jim Crow

Goals for the Section

- Compare & contrast discrimination in the north and south.
- Discuss the methods used to stop African Americans from voting and speaking out.
- Discuss the Importance of Plessy V. Ferguson.
- Explain how African Americans attempted to resist and overcome obstacles.
- Discuss Washington and Dubois.
- Explain the rise of African American schools and universities.
- Identify the philosophies of W.E.B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington.
African American Schools
- African Americans had always recognized the value of education.
- In 1890 only 160 African Americans were attending white colleges, but by 1900 more than 2,000 had graduated from 34 African American Colleges.
- There was a “separate but equal” view of education.
- The African American public schools received uneven state support sometimes receiving half the money of other schools and poor quality tools.

Washington
- Former Slave
- Southerner
- Wanted African Americans to make themselves acceptable and useful to whites: “Atlanta Compromise” advocated separate but equal.
- Started Tuskegee in Alabama for that purpose.
- “Cast down your Buckets”
- Wrote From Slavery.

Dubois
- Born Free
- Northerner
- Wanted African Americans to take pride in themselves and their heritage.
- African Americans should seek a well-rounded education including lit, art, and other advanced liberal arts.
- First African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard.
- “Talented Tenth” / “Crabs in a Bucket”
- Wrote Souls of Black Folk one of the founding members of the NAACP and editor of The Crisis.

Washington

Dubois
Plessey v. Ferguson

- The Civil Rights Cases of 1883 overturned the civil Rights Act of 1875 that guaranteed African Americans rights in public places.
- The Civil Rights cases of 1883 said the 14th amendment did not give the government the power to stop private discrimination.

Plessey v. Ferguson (2)

- This paved the way for Plessey V. Ferguson in 1896.
- Homer Plessey argues that his 14th amendment rights were violated when he was forced to sit in a separate train car while riding in Louisiana on a public railroad.

Plessey v. Ferguson

- The court ruled that separation was legal as long as the facilities were equal.
- The court further stated that the 14th amendment was not intended to give African Americans social equality just political and civil equality.
- This decision established the separate but equal clause that allowed segregation. African American facilities were never equal.
Southern Discrimination

- Southern discrimination grew out of the fear of being outnumbered.
- It was legal and written down in “Jim Crow” laws.
- These laws legally separated the races and were reaffirmed as a result of the Plessey v. Ferguson.

Northern Discrimination

- Northern discrimination is called “de facto” discrimination by custom, not law.
- It was more laid back, not written down but very understood.
- African Americans did have a considerable amount of ideological and verbal freedom in the north, but they still were expected to know their place.

Silencing Methods

- The best method for African Americans to voice their dissatisfaction was by voting.
- Several methods were used to stop African Americans from voting: poll taxes, property test, and literacy test.
- To ensure that whites would still be allowed to vote, grandfather clauses were instituted.
Racial Etiquette

- To ensure blacks knew their place in the south, a system of racial etiquette developed.
- Black men were called “boy” or by their first name but white men insisted on being addressed as “mister” or “sir”.
- Blacks had to tip their hats and step to the side as whites passed by.
- Violence was also used to quiet blacks.
- Lynching - the murder of an accused person by a mob without a lawful trial was a horrible reality for thousands of blacks.
- Between 1880-1920 more than 3,000 African American lynchings took place. Most went unresolved.
The lynching of Leo Frank at Foy's Mill in Cobb County, Georgia, on the morning of August 17, 1915.

(Photograph courtesy Kenneth O. Fugate Collection, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, Georgia)