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## The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America 1638 - 1870

**W. E. B. Du Bois (1868 – 1963)**

Read by: Multiple readers      Language: English  
Length: 6 hours and 54 minutes      Style: Solo  
Genre: History, Law, Sociology

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*The Suppression of the African Slave Trade* is a fundamental work of African-American history that is a detailed survey of the laws governing slavery from its beginnings in the early days of the American colonies through its peak in the era of King Cotton and the efforts to suppress, limit and eliminate the practice before the Civil War and Reconstruction era. It is based on the doctoral thesis of W. E. B. Du Bois and was published in 1896 as the first in a series of Harvard Historical volumes. The following is from the introduction.

*“This monograph was begun during my residence as Rogers Memorial Fellow at Harvard University, and is based mainly upon a study of the sources, i.e., national, State, and colonial statutes, Congressional documents, reports of so-*

*cieties, personal narratives, etc. The collection of laws available for this research was, I think, nearly complete; on the other hand, facts and statistics bearing on the economic side of the study have been difficult to find, and my conclusions are consequently liable to modification from this source. The question of the suppression of the slave-trade is so intimately connected with the questions as to its rise, the system of American slavery, and the whole colonial policy of the eighteenth century, that it is difficult to isolate it, and at the same time to avoid superficiality on the one hand, and unscientific narrowness of view on the other. While I could not hope entirely to overcome such a difficulty, I nevertheless trust that I have succeeded in rendering this monograph a small contribution to the scientific study of slavery and the American Negro.” (W.E. Burghardt Du Bois, Wilberforce University, March, 1896)*

**William Edward Burghardt “W. E. B.” Du Bois** (February 23, 1868 – August 27, 1963) was an American author, editor, sociologist, historian and activist best known for his leading a leading and pivotal role in the civil rights movement. Born in western Massachusetts, he was the first Afro-American to earn a doctorate degree as a result of his graduate studies at Harvard, and worked as a professor of sociology, history and economics at Atlanta University. He was a co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and both edited and contributed frequently to its journal *The Crisis*. His core premise was an insistence on equal rights, opportunities, and representation for blacks, in opposition to the Atlanta compromise developed by Booker T. Washington. He was a pioneer in the emerging academic discipline of sociology, writing the first scientific treatment in the subject. IN that capacity he was an acute student of the elements and effects of racism and spoke out against lynching, Jim Crow laws, and discrimination. He also advocated that capitalism was a primary cause of racism and was sympathetic to socialist causes. His essay collection *The Souls of Black Folk* is a seminal work in Afro –American literature, and his 1935 masterpiece *Black Reconstruction in America* debunked the idea that blacks were responsible for the failure of Reconstruction. He died at the age of 95 in 1963, a year before the passage of the Civil Rights Act.