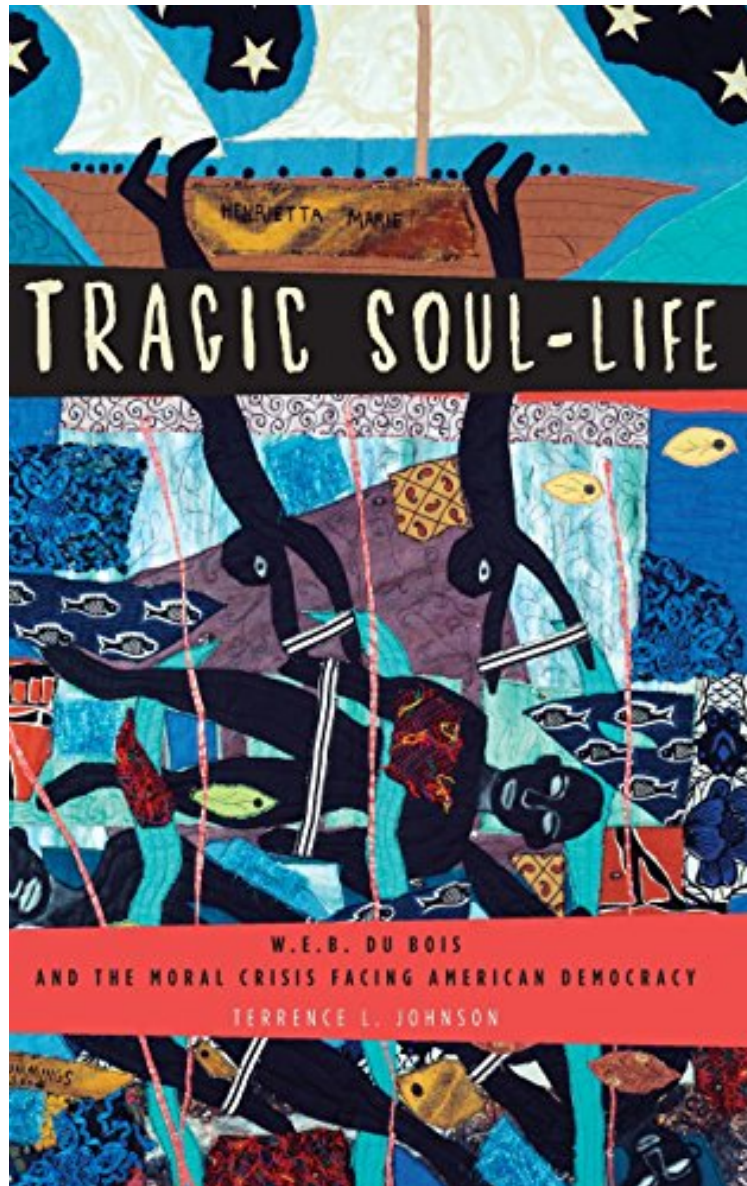


(Download pdf ebook) Tragic Soul-Life: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Moral Crisis Facing American Democracy (Imagining the Americas)

## Tragic Soul-Life: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Moral Crisis Facing American Democracy (Imagining the Americas)

*Terrence L. Johnson*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#738461 in Books Oxford University Press, USA 2012-07-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.40 x .80 x 9.40l, .90 #File Name: 0195383982208 pages | File size: 27.Mb

**Terrence L. Johnson : Tragic Soul-Life: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Moral Crisis Facing American Democracy (Imagining the Americas)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tragic Soul-Life: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Moral Crisis Facing American Democracy (Imagining the

Americas):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful. By R. Pearman I cannot afford this book...maybe it will come to my library but based on what I can read here, it challenges the reader to examine their heart; not something most people run towards. I am reminded of a friend who asked me, "Do you think of yourself as a white woman?" and I said, "No, I'm just me." and she said, "I always think of myself as a black woman." Mr. Terrence L. explains why. I think this must lead to other examinations of other peoples and what is "white" anyway? My ancestors are Irish and were glad to leave the name McCready to the history books and were relieved to use the name Hall in order to escape the prejudice against the Irish. I didn't even know we were Irish until I was in my 40's. Our accent had vanished. I think of the history of the state of Alaska and how very many years people 'in the lower 48' were confident that the native population was incapable of governing themselves. They were deemed 'not sufficiently developed'. So is the residue of the black man's anguish attributable to the depth of his skin color or the physical abuse of his slavery experience?? And can it even BE changed? My father was born in 1927 (the French side of my family) and if I had used any derogatory slang word referring to any other race or nationality, I'd have been in 'hot water' reserved for the F bomb! But aside from do-unto-others now, what can I do??? We have Black History Month....has it done NO good??

Contemporary debates on the role of religion in American public life ignore the overlap between religion and race in the formation of American democratic traditions and more often than not imagine democracy within the terrain of John Rawls's political liberalism. This kind of political liberalism, which focuses on political commitments at the expense of our religious beliefs, fosters the necessary conditions to open historically closed doors to black bodies, allows blacks to sit at the King's table and creates the necessary safeguards for black protest against discrimination within a constitutional democracy. By implication of its emphasis on rights and inclusion, political liberalism assumes that the presence of black bodies signifies the materialization of a robust American democracy. However, political liberalism discounts the historical role of religion in forming and fashioning the nation's construction of race. Tragic Soul-Life argues that the collision between religion and politics during U.S. slavery and segregation created the fragments from which emerged a firm but shifting moral disdain for blackness within the nation's collective moral imagination. The very problem political liberals want to avoid, our comprehensive philosophy, is central to solving the political and economic problems facing blacks.

"Johnson's brilliant analysis of Du Bois's moral imagination as the basis for his dissection of anti-black racism in the U.S. is a major contribution to the scholarship on a major American intellectual. Scholars will find Johnson's meticulous inquiry into Du Bois's probing of 'the moral problem of blackness' nothing short of breath-taking. For feminist scholars, Johnson does not disappoint, because of his attention to the gendered aspects of Du Bois's creative and political writing."-Beverly Guy-Sheftall, co-editor of Still Brave: The Evolution of Black Women's Studies "Terrence Johnson brilliantly brings the epic thought of W.E. B. Du Bois and that of the liberal political philosopher John Rawls together not simply as comparison but as a productively critical tension through which to address the travails of American political life. In one direction, he examines the religious aspects of American life; in another, race; and even further, the rhetorical and critical forces of the tragic, an aesthetic-ethical category, with music. It is, indeed, a work on Du Bois and American religious and political thought that was screaming to have been written."--Lewis R. Gordon, author of An Introduction to Africana Philosophy "W.E.B. Du Bois remains one of the most insightfully gifted hermeneuticists of African American soul-life. Terrence Johnson's Tragic Soul-Life compels us to come to a new appreciation of Du Bois's philosophical explication of this soul-life as the basis for Johnson's passionate argument for interweaving religion, democracy, and morality in American life as a whole."-Lucius T. Outlaw, author of On Race and Philosophy About the Author Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Religion at Haverford College.