**Unit Essay 2**

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**In this unit essay revision, I added what was missing in my APA formatting and checked for spelling and grammatical errors. I added and took away some things from my first and second paragraphs to make things make sense and flow better. I also added things that I could’ve expanded on before to help with clarification for the reader. The rubric mentions “notable key omissions”, so I tried to find those as best I could and add on to certain topics.**

W.E.B. DuBois was born in Massachusetts in 1868. During his time, he witnessed the Reconstruction Era and Jim Crow laws, which mainly affected African Americans and other people who identified as black by enforcing segregation and social rejection from other people in society. In his years of research, DuBois was not acknowledged for his work by white Americans because he was African American and was considered inferior, even though he was well-educated and made many contributions to the field of sociology. With DuBois being African American and an emancipated slave, he felt that he and people like him were alienated from society. People would indirectly ask, “How does it feel to be a problem?” and he expresses that it’s a “strange experience” (The Atlantic, 2018). He saw that he and other African Americans were different from the majority, and this led him to question why. As a result, he began studying racial identities and how and why black and white Americans’ lives differed after the emancipation of slaves (CrashCourse, 2017). He then continued his studies, researching how segregation, lack of job opportunities, and education, and prejudice were withholding African Americans of so many opportunities to better themselves and their families. DuBois’s research on African American identities and race in the U.S. led him to the founding of multiple theories, which include the color line, the veil, and double consciousness.

There are three key concepts DuBois established to help others understand race. The first concept is the color line, which shows how race was and still is an organizing force in society. The color line also reveals the experiences of living in a society where a multitude of things, like ideas and institutions, are built on racism. The second concept is the veil. DuBois stated that “the Negro is a sort of seventh son, born with a veil, and gifted a second-sight in this American World.” (Allan & Daynes, 2017). The concept of this veil is to show that the color of black people makes them physically different from white people, and this makes white people not see black people as “true” Americans because they do not look like the majority (Scott, n.d.). The last concept is double consciousness. DuBois also stated that African Americans are “gifted with a special insight” into the American world (Allan & Daynes, 2017). This is because he believed that the identity of African Americans is divided into two different parts: being able to understand themselves within their families and communities, and viewing themselves through the eyes of others who see them as inferior (Scott, n.d.). This leads to tension not only in black communities but in white America as well. To be emancipated from double-consciousness, DuBois proposes that black people need to recover their alienated self-consciousness from being defined by other people and end the system of American racial apartheid.

DuBois also contributed to some other concepts, like the use of mixed methods in his experiments and critical theory. He was not the inventor of these concepts, but he was one of the first scholars to use mixed methodology in his studies, which is when both qualitative and quantitative measurements are used. DuBois had a critique of society, and because he was an African American, he had different critiques compared to his white counterparts. He then modified this theory, which became known as critical race theory. The purpose of critical race theory is to uncover and critique racially oppressive social structures, meanings, and ideas, so that racism can be tackled.

DuBois’s theoretical contributions are still relevant in studying and understanding society today because many African Americans can apply these theories to their everyday life. Black Americans still face racism from the veil that they have, which is their skin color. Because of this minor difference, they are also treated differently in society. In a store, the sales associate would follow an African American around because they would assume they’re stealing, while white Americans would almost never have that sort of experience. There are plenty of white people who steal from stores as well, so why would only the black person be followed in the store? This could also stem from black Americans still having fewer opportunities to acquire jobs or a higher education. African Americans have had this disadvantage since the freeing of slaves, and this lack of equality has led to racial prejudice. Racial prejudice and the construct of race only help the majority (white Americans). Black Americans also have applied the use of double consciousness almost every day in their lives. Being black and American are two different things, as white people don’t see them as just American. They have to interact with people based on their views of them, not only as an American but also as a black person. Through the eyes of white people, a majority of them only see color, but not all. No matter what black people identify as, they still look at African Americans as different and maybe even inferior, which leads to discrimination and racism that we’ve always had in society ever since race was socially constructed.

**References**

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