

Read the fourth paragraph in Chapter 1 of W. E. B. DuB Bois's "Of Our Spiritual Strivings", from "The history of the American Negro is the history of this strife" to "the doors of Opportunity closed roughly in his face."

1. What word does Du Bois use to describe "the history of the American Negro"? What is the effect of this word choice?
2. How does this "strife" (par. 4) relate to the ideas of "twoness" in paragraph 3?
3. What does *merge* mean in this context?
4. What makes the merged self "better and truer" (par. 4)?
5. How does Du Bois's sentence structure contribute to the development of his ideas about the "American Negro[']s" identity?
6. How does the strife of African Americans relate to the "wish[]" in this sentence?
7. How does this "wish[]" (par. 4) to "make it possible for a man to be both a Negro and an American" connect to the metaphor of the "veil" (par. 2, 3)?