

## Transcribed Excerpts from W.E.B. Du Bois' Letter to President Woodrow Wilson, November 1918

### Excerpt 1:

The world is wondering to-day how America is going to avoid at least an indictment of inconsistency and perhaps a suspicion of insincerity. No epoch in the History of our nation has been so propitious as the present to clear the atmosphere of doubt as to the national intention in this matter.

The International peace Congress that is to decide whether or not peoples shall have the right to dispose of themselves will find in its midst delegates from a nation which champions the principle of the "consent of the governed" and "Government by representation." That nation is our own, and included in itself more than 12 million souls whose consent to be governed is never asked. They have no numbers in the legislatures where they are in the majority and not a single representative in the National Congress.

## **Excerpt 2:**

His traditions in the wars of our country has been that of a worthy patriot and a good soldier; the very birth of the nation was consecrated by the blood of Chispus Attucks; he left his fifty thousand dead on the battle fields of the Secession; he saved a difficult situation at San Juan Hill; he distinguished himself in this last and greatest struggle in the history of mankind, proving himself to be the equal of the best soldiers on the field; he participated brilliantly in the final combat; thus from the Boston massacre to the last battle of Sedan he has maintained traditions worthy of the American people.

Has this race not earned as much consideration as most of the smaller nations whose liberties and rights are to be safeguarded by international convention?