

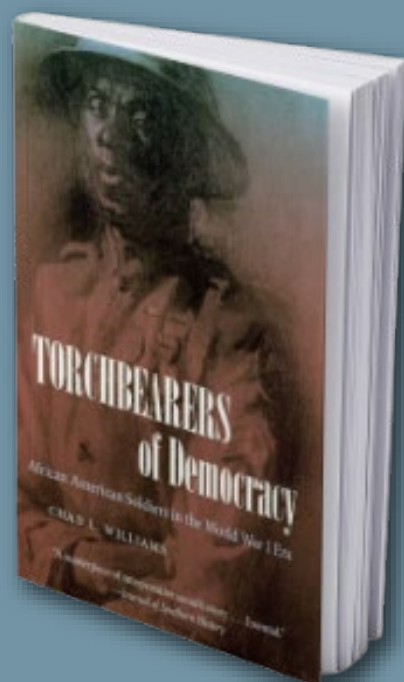
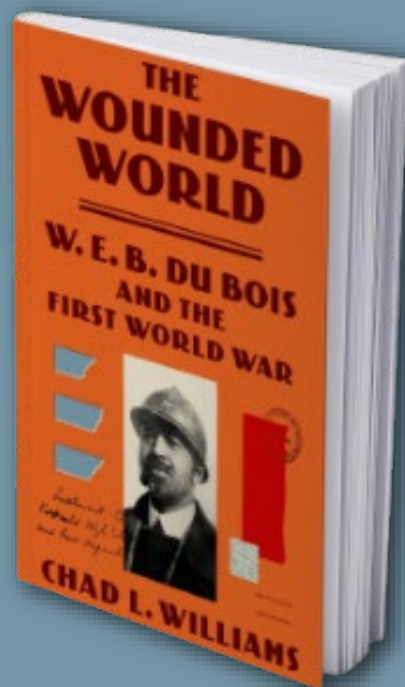


CHAD L. WILLIAMS

AUTHOR ● PROFESSOR

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BIO

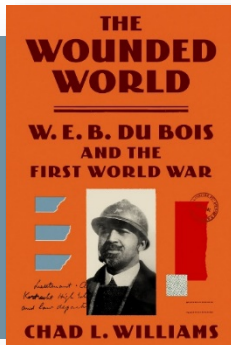


Chad Williams is the Samuel J. and Augusta Spector Professor of History and African and African American Studies at Brandeis University. Chad earned a BA with honors in History and African American Studies from UCLA, and received both his MA and Ph.D. in History from Princeton University. He

specializes in African American and modern United States History, African American military history, the World War I era and African American intellectual history. His first book, *Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era*, was published in 2010 by the University of North Carolina Press. Widely praised as a landmark study, *Torchbearers of Democracy* won the 2011 Liberty Legacy Foundation Award from the Organization of American Historians, the 2011 Distinguished Book Award from the Society for Military History and designation as a 2011 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title. He is co-editor of *Charleston Syllabus: Readings on Race, Racism and Racial Violence* (University of Georgia Press, 2016) and *Major Problems in African American History, Second Edition* (Cengage Learning, 2016). Chad has published articles and book reviews in numerous leading journals and collections. He has earned fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Ford Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. His book, *The Wounded World: W. E. B. Du Bois and the First World War*, was published on April 4, 2023, by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

THE WOUNDED WORLD:

W. E. B. Du Bois and the First World War



PUBLISHER: Farrar, Straus and Giroux

PUBLICATION DATE: April 4, 2023

ISBN-13: 978-0374293154

FORMAT: Hardcover (544 pages)

PRICE: \$29.73 (Hardcover)

Praise for *The Wounded World: W. E. B. Du Bois and the First World War*

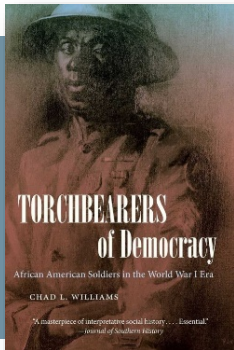
"Stirring intellectual history . . . Williams convincingly renders Du Bois as a tragic figure whose optimism was dashed by the intransigence of racism, adding poignancy to a story about the limits and fragility of American democracy. At once a moving character study and a deeply researched look at a dispiriting era from the country's past, this is history at its most vivid." —**Publishers Weekly**

"Until Professor Williams's heroic accumulation of sources, his stunning mastery of them, and uncanny reckoning with his subject's ego, Du Bois's unfinished history of the Great War remained a mystery. We can now write Q.E.D. to Chad Williams's brilliant *The Wounded World*." —**David Levering Lewis, author of *W.E.B. Du Bois: Biography of a Race, 1868-1919*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize**

When W. E. B. Du Bois, believing in the possibility of full citizenship and democratic change, encouraged African Americans to "close ranks" and support the Allied cause in World War I, he made a decision that would haunt him for the rest of his life. Seeking both intellectual clarity and personal atonement, for more than two decades Du Bois attempted to write the definitive history of Black participation in World War I. His book, however, remained unfinished. In *The Wounded World*, Chad Williams offers the dramatic account of Du Bois's failed efforts to complete what would have been one of his most significant works. The surprising story of this unpublished book offers new insight into Du Bois's struggles to reckon with both the history and the troubling memory of the war, along with the broader meanings of race and democracy for Black people in the twentieth century.

Drawing on a broad range of sources, most notably Du Bois's unpublished manuscript and research materials, Williams tells a sweeping story of hope, betrayal, disillusionment, and transformation, setting into motion a fresh understanding of the life and mind of arguably the most significant scholar-activist in African American history. In uncovering what happened to Du Bois's largely forgotten book, Williams offers a captivating reminder of the importance of World War I, why it mattered to Du Bois, and why it continues to matter today.

TORCHBEARERS OF DEMOCRACY: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era



PUBLISHER: The University of North Carolina Press
PUBLICATION DATE: August 1, 2013
ISBN-13: 978-0807833940
FORMAT: Hardcover (472 pages)
PRICE: \$228.80 (Hardcover)

Praise for Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era

"Torchbearers of Democracy reclaims the legacy of black soldiers and establishes the World War I era as a defining moment in the history of African Americans and peoples of African descent more broadly. . . . This book is an important addition to a W.W.I library." —**The Lone Star Book Review**

"[The] balance between the stories of black culturalists and those of black objects of terror, along with an astonishing breadth of scholarship and a graceful style. . . makes *Torchbearers of Democracy* the best account yet of a complex and decisive moment in African American social, civic, and cultural history."
—**African American Review**

On April 2, 1917, Woodrow Wilson thrust the United States into World War I by declaring, "The world must be made safe for democracy." For the 380,000 African American soldiers who fought and labored in the global conflict, these words carried life or death meaning. Relating stories bridging the war and postwar years, spanning the streets of Chicago and the streets of Harlem, from the battlefields of the American South to the battlefields of the Western Front, Chad L. Williams reveals the central role of African American soldiers in World War I and how they, along with race activists and ordinary citizens alike, committed to fighting for democracy at home and beyond.

Using a diverse range of sources, Williams connects the history of African American soldiers and veterans to issues such as the obligations of citizenship, combat and labor, diaspora and internationalism, homecoming and racial violence, "New Negro" militancy, and African American historical memories of the war. Democracy may have been distant from the everyday lives of African Americans at the dawn of the war, but it nevertheless remained a powerful ideal that sparked the hopes of black people throughout the country for societal change. *Torchbearers of Democracy* reclaims the legacy of black soldiers and establishes the World War I era as a defining moment in the history of African Americans and peoples of African descent more broadly.

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