

## Olaudah Equiano: A Rudimentary Double Consciousness



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## OLAUDAH EQUIANO: A RUDIMENTARY DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS



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GRIN Verlag Gmbh Aug 2008, 2008. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 209x144x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject American Studies - Literature, printed single-sided, grade: 1,3, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, course: Narratives in Colonial America (SS 2007), 23 entries in the bibliography, language: English, comment: Die Arbeit überzeugt vor allem durch eine luzide Erläuterung der Du Bois'schen Terminologie und deren Implikationen zur Beschreibung eines individuellen Identitätskonflikts. Die Arbeit überzeugt vor allem durch einen klaren konzeptionellen Zuschnitt und die Fähigkeit der Vf.in eigenständig eine überzeugende Interpretation des Primärtextes zu entwickeln. , abstract: The very first look on the front cover of Olaudah Equiano s autobiography The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African presents an uncommon picture, at least uncommon for the eighteenth century. This frontpiece shows an indisputably African body in European dress (Carretta Introduction xix). This could be seen as a potential indication of a so-called double consciousness as it was coined by William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1868-1963). In his introduction to Olaudah Equiano s narrative, Vincent Carretta states that Equiano possesses such a double consciousness. Frank Kelleter also invokes this term in his discourse on Ethnic Self-Dramatization and Technologies of Travel in order to describe Equiano s identity (cf. 73). Equiano was kidnapped as an eleven-year-old boy from Africa and sold into slavery. Not only did he embark on several voyages across the Atlantic (Middle Passage) and traveled to different British colonies but what is more, he embarked on a process of cultural assimilation which shaped his identity. This paper will focus on the question if the notion of double consciousness, which Du Bois coined in *The Souls of Black Folk* in 1903, can be applied...



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