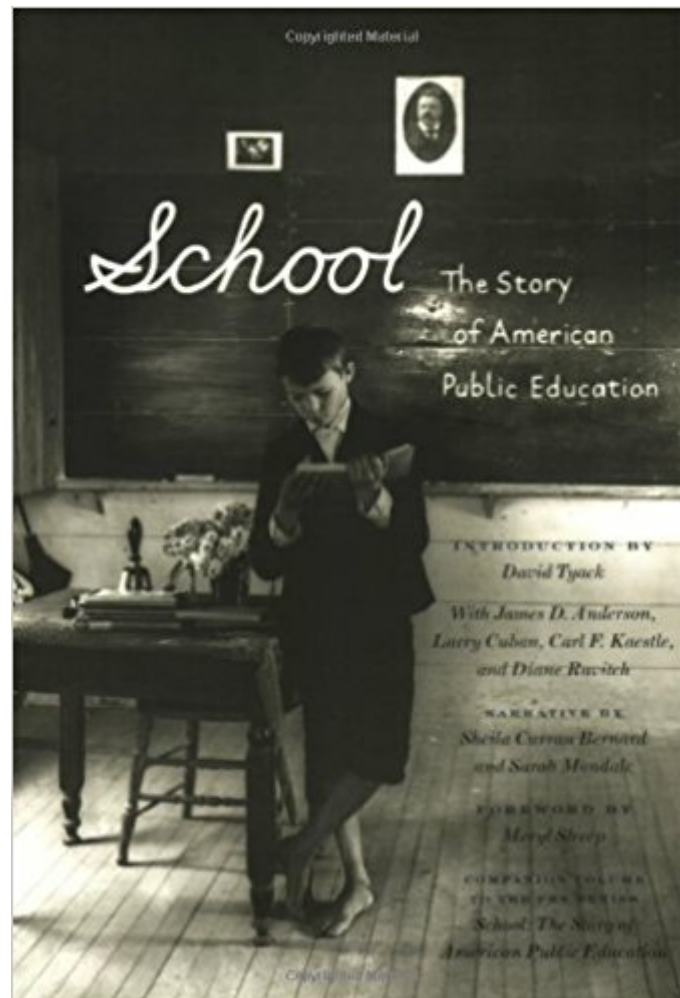


The book was found

School: The Story Of American Public Education



Synopsis

Esteemed historians of education David Tyack, Carl Kaestle, Diane Ravitch, James Anderson, and Larry Cuban journey through history and across the nation to recapture the idealism of our education pioneers, Thomas Jefferson and Horace Mann. We learn how, in the first quarter of the twentieth century, massive immigration, child labor laws, and the explosive growth of cities fueled school attendance and transformed public education, and how in the 1950s public schools became a major battleground in the fight for equality for minorities and women. The debate rages on: Do today's reforms challenge our forebears' notion of a common school for all Americans? Or are they our only recourse today? This lavishly illustrated companion book to the acclaimed PBS documentary, *School*, is essential reading for anyone who cares about public education.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chronologically arranged in four sections (1770-1890, 1900-1950, 1950-1980, 1980-2000), this anthology covers much ground (charter, common, frontier and dame schools) at a brisk, engaging pace. These five eminent scholars catalogue the experiences of African-Americans, Catholics, Native Americans, Mexican-Americans, people with disabilities and girls in an educational system originally designed for Protestant white boys. Tyack and company nimbly chart changing educational philosophies (Horace Mann, John Dewey, the Gary Plan, Archbishop John Hughes) and public debates, such as those aroused by the introduction of IQ tests in the 1920s, the 1957 launching of Sputnik (prompting fear that Soviet education outshone U.S. education) and the 1983

publication of *A Nation at Risk*, an assessment of the state of public education by "a presidential commission of corporate and public leaders and educators." And there are surprises "black literacy soared in the decades after the Civil War, from 5 percent to 70 percent

Adult/High School-A direct and well-written text and the liberal use of historical photographs make *School* one of the few books available on the history of education in America written for the layperson. Although some earlier material is included, the bulk of the text and photographs covers the founding of a universal public-educational system in the mid to late 19th century to the inclusion battles of the early 1970s. A single flaw of this otherwise worthy book is a bias against the more bottom-line and business-oriented influences following the "America at Risk" report in the early 1980s. Those looking for a harsh critique of the American school system will not find it here. The history of alternative schooling is not included, and there's not much coverage given to curriculum-development issues such as the phonics/whole-language debate, and other methodologies. The roughly chronological layout allows readers to trace the roots of the philosophy and rituals still surrounding the average public-school day for most students. This information will be the primary attraction for teen readers, as the whys and hows of their school day unfold beneath their fingertips. A companion book for the "School: The Story of American Public Education" documentary series on PBS television. Sheryl Fowler, Chantilly Regional Library, VA Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I enjoyed the book. It was pretty easy to read and straight forward. It was a decent amount of information about the ever changing history of our school systems. As a history buff, it was a good overview. If you're looking for more specifics, this probably isn't the book for you. But for a basic overview and idea of it all, this is the book. Check it out

I am using this book with my second-year teacher preparation class. It is fully of great, accurate information that is written in an easy to read manner, a fresh distraction from all the text books we read.

rental

I am an educational researcher and I found this book essential in helping create a basic

understanding of the challenges we as Americans have faced in creating our public schools. Too often history glosses over the tough issues, avoiding the times when we failed or only met the needs of a select group of people. This book helps us understand that living in a democratic society requires us to learn from our struggles. Essential reading if you are an American citizen looking to understand where we have been and what lessons we should reflect upon as we move forward.

If you want to understand public education, its successes and failures, read this book. It's a fast read, but it details all the mistrust between the races, of course, but also the fears and mistrust between the Catholics and Protestants. It's a great look at the culture and attitudes in each of the eras.

I purchased this for a course but read it through on a rainy Saturday afternoon. Illuminating and insightful and easy to understand.

This is a great time line of education and there are also correlating videos. Interesting and well written!

Good for a book

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