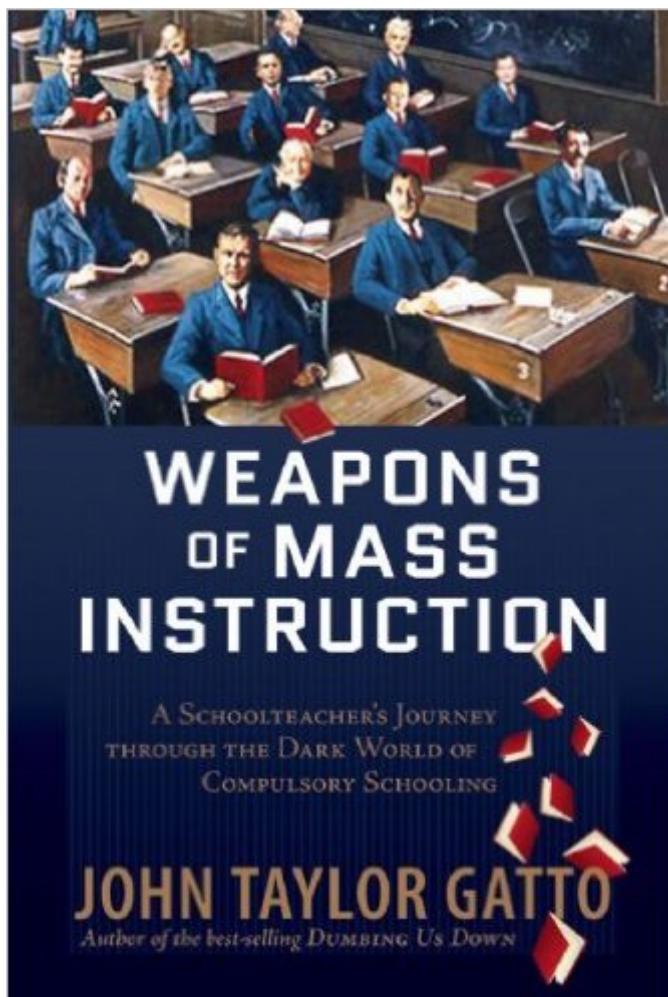


The book was found

Weapons Of Mass Instruction: A Schoolteacher's Journey Through The Dark World Of Compulsory Schooling



Synopsis

John Taylor Gatto's *Weapons of Mass Instruction*, now available in paperback, focuses on mechanisms of traditional education that cripple imagination, discourage critical thinking, and create a false view of learning as a byproduct of rote-memorization drills. Gatto's earlier book, *Dumbing Us Down*, introduced the now-famous expression of the title into the common vernacular. *Weapons of Mass Instruction* adds another chilling metaphor to the brief against conventional schooling. Gatto demonstrates that the harm school inflicts is rational and deliberate. The real function of pedagogy, he argues, is to render the common population manageable. To that end, young people must be conditioned to rely upon experts, to remain divided from natural alliances, and to accept disconnections from their own lived experiences. They must at all costs be discouraged from developing self-reliance and independence. Escaping this trap requires strategy Gatto calls "open source learning" • which imposes no artificial divisions between learning and life. Through this alternative approach, our children can avoid being indoctrinated "only then that can they achieve self-knowledge, judgment, and courage. John Taylor Gatto is an internationally renowned speaker who lectures widely on school reform. He taught for thirty years in public schools before resigning on the op-ed pages of *The Wall Street Journal* during the year he was named New York's official "Teacher of the Year." • On April 3, 2008, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard credited Gatto with adding the expression "dumbing us down" • to the school debate worldwide.Â

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: New Society Publishers; Reprint edition (April 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0865716692

ISBN-13: 978-0865716698

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (109 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #43,142 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Propaganda & Political Psychology #69 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Philosophy & Social Aspects #71 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Reference

Customer Reviews

John Taylor Gatto has written another thought provoking book about the critical problem of allowing children to become educated. This one approaches the defects of current schooling from a number of directions that should leave no doubt about his reasons for objecting to compulsory schooling. I was a public school teacher for only a couple of years in the early 60's teaching science and math in a small rural high school. I did not experience the vicious corruption of purpose in the way that John Taylor Gatto did in New York. Never the less, I formed the firm opinion that schools supported by government were a serious mistake in a free society and were dangerous to that society's long-term health. It is small wonder that many of our citizens value freedom so lightly that they appear willing to give it up for an illusion of security. After all, most have been bored and conditioned by 13 years of government schooling to accept authority even without reasons. We need a full range of competing schools that offer the variety we find in fields such as food growing and delivery. We might also find that such schools carefully look for ways to deliver desired information more rapidly at lower cost. School costs have gone up at the same time quality has gone down. This is the picture of a failing institution, only government life support enables it to continue to miss-educate. Gatto has done us all a huge service by providing a history of educational thought in America and identified its roots and personalities. You would be correct if you thought my education school classes failed to mention this part of history. After reading his earlier books, I went back and read more thoroughly the musings of John Dewey and others.

Gatto knows what he is talking about and is absolutely right about how the State schools are destroying our children: The intent of the State is ultimately to change our children's values, not to educate them. The State is training future citizens to serve its own purposes. Businesses do not have personnel departments any more--they have "human resources." Our children are nothing more to them than future resources for the State. This book is much more likely to be read than Gatto's *The Underground History of American Education: A School Teacher's Intimate Investigation Into the Problem of Modern Schooling* because of its shorter length and easy readability. However, there are some problems that come with short-cuts. For one thing, this book is not nearly as well documented as his other books. If you want documentation, you have to read *Underground History*. Secondly, Gatto is on a mission in this book and he needlessly attacks those who could be his most avid supporters. As one example, he unfairly attacks Calvinism and Puritanism as part of the cause of our present school dilemma. Modern history has been very successful in demonizing Calvin and the Puritans, but I never trust a history book. Reading the writing of the Puritans

themselves has shown me that they were some of the most humble and joyful people who ever lived, and of all groups in history, the ones who fought most successfully for liberty from tyranny in government. While John Calvin and Martin Luther promoted public education, both were very aware of what it could turn into if taken over by the wrong people.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Weapons of Mass Instruction: A Schoolteacher's Journey Through the Dark World of Compulsory Schooling Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling, 10th Anniversary Edition Mini Weapons of Mass Destruction: Build and Master Ninja Weapons Weapons of Mass Destruction: An Encyclopedia of Worldwide Policy, Technology, and History; Volume I: Chemical and Biological Weapons and Volume II: ... Technology, and History (2 volume set) World at Risk: The Report of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism Journey Through Denmark (Journey Through series) Dark Fetishes Vol. 1 : (DARK EROTICA): Taboo Erotica (DARK EROTICA SERIES) The Bride's Instruction Manual: How to Survive and Possibly Even Enjoy the Biggest Day of Your Life (Owner's and Instruction Manual) Librarian's Guide to Online Searching: Cultivating Database Skills for Research and Instruction, 4th Edition: Cultivating Database Skills for Research and Instruction Dark Titan Journey: Wilderness Travel (Dark Titan Book 2) Nelson Mass and Mass in Time of War in Full Score (Dover Music Scores) Dark New World (Dark New World, Book 1) - An EMP Survival Story A Charlotte Mason Education: A Home Schooling How-To Manual The Photographic Guide to Schooling Your Horse: A Visual Guide to Training for: Dressage, Jumping, and Western Riding LGBTQ Voices in Education: Changing the Culture of Schooling Sexuality, Gender and Schooling: Shifting Agendas in Social Learning Additive Schooling in Subtractive Times: Bilingual Education and Dominican Immigrant Youth in the Heights We Don't Need Another Hero: Struggle, Hope, and Possibility in the Age of High-Stakes Schooling Foundational Math Skills - 100 Numbers - Wildlife Coloring Book: Fun-Schooling with Art, Creativity & Logic - 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grades Creative Dressage Schooling: Enjoy the Training Process with 55 Meaningful Exercises

[Dmca](#)