



School: The Story of American Public Education

Sarah Mondale (Editor) , Sarah B. Patton (Editor) , David Tyack (Introduction) , Meryl Streep (Foreword) , Sheila Curran Bernard (Contributor)

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School: The Story of American Public Education Sarah Mondale (Editor) , Sarah B. Patton (Editor) , David Tyack (Introduction) , Meryl Streep (Foreword) , Sheila Curran Bernard (Contributor) 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.

"Narrative" by Sheila Curran Bernard and Sarah Mondale.

School: The Story of American Public Education Details

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From Reader Review School: The Story of American Public Education for online ebook

Ren says

This is a great book for people wondering why so many people complain about the system. It gives you an unbiased, concise history of public education in our country. If you are really intrigued by education, it also mentions how education was taught in the beginning (very worth learning about), the reforms (also worth learning what each meant) and the present state of the system. I highly recommend it. When you add standardized testing to its predecessor the IQ test, you can see how to a certain degree we have a system that needs to be constantly reformed for the better.

JuJu says

This is really readable overview of the history of public schooling in America. My only real problem with it was the lack of information about special education.

Noelle says

This is an extremely informative book on the history of public education. It has been my evening reader all this week. :) Being raised in a home school, I knew nothing about the history or formation of public education as we know it. The first two sections were especially helpful - and made interesting by historic photographs.

So far, I've only encountered two paragraphs that drip with liberalism (and have nothing to do with history). If you consider the fact that PBS has partnered with the author, this is quite an accomplishment.

Ken Rideout says

Read it for class. It is based on an excellent PBS series of the same name. Just watch the show unless you need to reference the work in a paper. Very nice, broad, and quick overview from the very beginnings to modern U.S. public schooling.

Karin says

I enjoyed this as an overview of the role of public ed in our society. It makes me feel even more confident in

my homeschooling path as compulsory ed has been anything but constant since its inception. It's been one long experiment that keeps changing and morphing as new goals are desired. It really comes down to fundamental paradigms as to what you believe education is for, whether it's for vocationalizing, pure academics or learning for learning's sake. Your own goals will determine your children's course through compulsory ed.

Sabine says

Optimistic about the current state & future of American education - full of compelling facts/case studies and provides an easy-to-follow evolution of schooling in America. A quick read, but draws too much from the same sources and provides simplistic explanations for shifts in American education.

0 says

absolute garbage

Juliette says

This is a required text for a class in my teacher licensing program. It was interesting, as far as textbooks go. I am hoping to be able to watch the companion PBS series in class, which I'm sure will be good.

Jeff Bush says

Great overview of the history of US public education and the issues that have affected its development. Interesting that many of today's current issues have been around throughout education's history and that many of the assumptions of our current corporate-obsessed culture were also popular in the late-19th century, when corporate excess was last at its peak.

Mandy says

This book provides a pretty good overview of the history of public education in America. Informative? Yes. Insightful? Not so much. It gives a lot of generalized information about the issues of the public school system and how it got to where it is, but it doesn't give any solutions. I don't know if that's because the authors were just looking to give a history lesson or what, yet the language implies that they had some insights about it. Maybe they're just trying to remain impartial? I don't know. I did learn some stuff, however, and that was rewarding.

Kay says

I really enjoyed this book as a future educator. It gave me insight on how the public school system use to be. Although I was frustrated with how people were treated throughout history I feel that we must understand the good, and the ugly of history to move forward to a better tomorrow with education as a key contributor to America' success.

Khristina says

Good overview.

John Wick says

An excellent overview of the american Public school system. From colonial era, The common school, to modern times. Based on the PBS series. This is a very informative easy read for anyone who wants to grasp how public education was formed and the many changes it has gone through.

Kelsey says

Several researchers contributed to this history on public school in America. It simply scratches the surface on the facts so it's a great starter on the subject.

I was fascinated by the various topics within public school's history. I even cried at some of the hardships and courage demonstrated by children in the face of bigotry and poverty.

It's interesting to see the recurring battle between traditional curricula and those that want to implement various theories to what "ought" to be part of school.

Overall, it's a great read interspersed with black and white images of the past.

Mel says

The book would have been better with just the facts and not the author's political attacks. It's his book right? But if I had known, I probably wouldn't have read it.

The history of the public school is interesting, but as soon as the state(s) made it mandatory and took the rights away from the parents it was never "right" in any form.

The book offers a lot of what happened, what didn't work, no why and toward the end it talked about schools trying new alternatives to teaching, but again, the political opinion in the book is skewed and offering a \$25k voucher for every kid isn't the answer.

The public schools are already too concerned about the funding and not putting the students as the top priority.

Isn't that what a school should be about? The students?
