



On MisEducation (Critical Perspectives)

Noam Chomsky , Donaldo Macedo (Editor)

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This collection of Chomsky's influential writings on education builds a larger understanding of our educational needs, starting with the changing role of schools today, yet broadening our view toward new models of public education for citizenship.

On MisEducation (Critical Perspectives) Details

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From Reader Review On MisEducation (Critical Perspectives) for online ebook

Roberto Suarez says

From one of the most cited scholars of our time, Noam Chomsky, “MisEducation” lays out an impelling argument of how American education reproduces dominant ideology and discourages individuals from developing into independent and critical thinkers.

Privatized and indoctrinating systematic propaganda controls education by having children reproduce, legitimize, and maintain the current dominant social order. Children are not valued with having an innate self-worth in which education assists in guiding a pedagogy based on encouraging investigation, questioning, and discovery of truth. Schools simply follow the social order of stratifying individuals into futures of “haves and have nots” by basing students’ values on tests scores that are strongly correlated to socioeconomics. As a popular saying in Cambridge illustrates, “Harvard trains the people that rule the world; MIT trains those who make it work”, establishes a belief that there’s a social order based on a hierarchy founded on intellectual and economic capital.

It seems those indoctrinated into the current dominating social order of intellectual and economic worth, including myself (an aristocrat who fears and distrusts people who draws all powers from them into the hands of the higher classes), enjoy the benefits of such a hierarchal system which has led to an unquestioning status quo state-of-being. A moral imperative currently exists in American education and the answer to address it lies with those who desire to question it.

P.H. says

Fuck Noam Chomsky.

I'd leave it there, but let me elaborate for a few sentences.

I read this when I was twelve years old.

If a twelve year old who reads at a 12th grade level cannot understand your writing, you are writing in terms unnecessary. If not for the billowing footnotes and rank nonsense, perhaps I might have enjoyed his very bullshit critique of education in the Western World.

I re-read it when I was sixteen, giving the armchair sissy another chance.

If you want anarchy, read CrimethInc.

Fuck Noam Chomsky.

Roger B says

tough read as Chomsky gives a blow by blow of the intrigue in Central America during the 80s. the common thread of "miseducation" weaves through the narrative in that often official policy and orthodox journalistic narratives are at odds with reality. same as it ever was 30 years later.

Michael Brickey says

I tried to read this book once before, but had little success. He assumes that the reader has a basic knowledge of the US role in Latin American affairs of the past thirty years. I do not have that foundation knowledge (miseducation perhaps?), therefore, it was hard for me to follow his analysis of the media's coverage of the events. However, it corresponds to the "propaganda model" he thoroughly, yet no less confusingly, posits in Manufacturing Consent; which, I also had to lay down a few years back for the same reasons mentioned above. The great thing about Chomsky is that he opens your eyes to blatant falsification and misinformation in such a way that you become more aware and therefore more critical of media in general. You can read his essays and books, or listen to him speak over and over again, and each time you learn something new. That's why I'm trying to read this one again.

Adam says

I picked this up hoping for a good discussion of the ills of the current school system, how they came about, and alternatives to it. However, this is touched on only briefly in the first chapter, an interview with the editor, Macedo, and then in the best part of the book, an essay on John Dewey and the connection between education and real democracy. The rest of the book consists of various lectures, speeches, and debates Chomsky has given, with the implication that doctrinal education is partly to blame for the atrocities of US Foreign Policy he details throughout the rest of the book. The connection is important and sound, but it is not what I felt the book was going to be or ought to be. It is all classic Chomsky, reiterating what he usually says about specific US Foreign Policy examples and how they differ from the stated doctrine.

Nativeabuse says

Love the guy, and agree with everything he says, but this is far from his best work. These Chomsky interview books are usually just him saying the same stuff over and over again every single book. This is no exception. I thought it might be an exception because of the fact that it is labeled as a book on education, but it barely touches upon these topics before getting back into the timeworn topics he always discusses, Nicaragua, Central America, South America, Vietnam, Israel, US atrocities, ect.

The attempt to link this stuff to education was half-assed at best. Not one of his better books.

Zac says

The book is several separate parts put together under a common theme. I'd actually give 4 or 5 stars to the piece 'Democracy and Education' taken from Chomsky's 1994 speech at Loyola endorsing and defending John Dewey. I'd give a solid 4 stars to the piece 'Market Democracy in a Neoliberal Order.' 3 or 4 stars is for the rest which is a little uneven. Each part is good enough, but it's also all more of the same: the role of

media and complicit journalists in building the controlling narratives that support/justify established U.S. government power. Several chapters are available in other books. It's excellent and awakening if you're seeing it the first time, more of the same if you've seen Chomsky's other work.

Eduardo Velázquez says

Si bien considero que leer a Chomsky es siempre un gusto. Este libro no me aportó demasiado. En primera instancia, buscaba leer algo más vinculado a la educación propiamente, el título engaña, ya que el libro versa sobre otros temas. Si bien algo se puede rescatar en relación a la temática que yo buscaba, no es puntualmente un libro dónde el autor debata sobre la educación en si misma o derivados.

Melissa says

Noam Chomsky (linguist and activist) writes about the indoctrination of children through the education system by the state/corporate ruling class. He argues that our schools are not democratic entities, but are increasingly serving capitalistic interests. Teachers who are true intellectuals will help students become critical thinkers who question the ideologies they are asked to regurgitate in the classroom. I am in an state of quiet uproar as I read this book. It is a fascinating and motivating read.

The first chapters are the best, and could be read alone to get the gist of Chomsky's argument. The last chapters trail off about the history of injustice in South America due to U.S. influence/control.

Elisa says

Aunque el título de este libro da a entender que trata sobre cómo se educa a los niños y a la juventud estadounidense, en realidad ahonda más en el tema de Nicaragua y los contras, así como el TLC y la relación Israel-Palestina y la manera en que Estados Unidos se ha entrometido en estos asuntos y distorsionado la realidad para que encaje con sus intereses (de paso destruyendo las pocas posibilidades de desarrollo y progreso que tienen los países con democracias débiles y economías vulnerables, sobre todo en América Latina).

Este es el primer libro que leo de Chomsky y me da mucho gusto descubrir que es un crítico comprometido de las políticas de Washington. Su oposición a la política extranjera estadounidense de finales del siglo XX son aún más relevantes en un mundo después del 11 de Septiembre de 2001.

El primer capítulo (que sí trata sobre la deseducación en las escuelas norteamericanas) pone de manifiesto eso de que "dime de qué presumes y te diré de qué adoleces" en cuanto a la democracia. Para Chomsky, la democracia en Estados Unidos es una distracción retórica para que el gobierno continúe haciendo de las suyas alrededor del mundo.

Abe says

There are 55 pages in this 199 page book that can be reasonably be described as being about education. The remaining part talks about American militarism and media distortions, standard Chomsky fare. Interesting, sure, but those expecting a whole book about Chomsky's views on education will be disappointed.

Emilio Molina says

Nada relativo al sistema educativo excepto el primer capítulo, que ni siquiera escribe Chomsky, sino Donaldo Macedo.

El libro es más bien una crítica a la manipulación de EEUU e Israel en los conflictos de Nicaragua y la franja de Gaza.

Demasiados datos que retener, bastante tedioso en ocasiones, al menos para mí. Se recrea demasiado, pero sirve para tener una idea global de la falta de democracia en el país abanderado de la democracia.

En definitiva, no era lo que quería leer cuando lo compré guiándome por el título y la sinopsis.

Neil Morrison says

This could be a good start to reading Chomsky as several of the chapters are available in other books but if you have them already then this book is pretty much un-needed so I dropped a star for that.

However if your new to Chomsky this book will be a real eye-opener and perhaps awaken you to what is going on around yourself and dis-information.

The piece 'Democracy and Education' would by itself be worthy of 5 stars and if you have not read it, I urge that you hunt it down. It can be found independent of the book though as it is basically his speech to Loyola University in 1994.

If your new to Chomsky by all means buy the book, if you own Chomsky books already then you probably already have the essays.

Timali says

In the beginning is a short analysis of formal education. Afterwards, the book is about mis-education through media and political propaganda, focusing greatly on the contra war in 1980s. Also offers a critical perspective on democracy and US interventions to "restore democracy". While the title of the book is rather misleading, the book itself is educational and worth reading.

Saad Khawari says

In this book Chomsky portrays the notion that students are indoctrinated about the concept of democracy and instilled with patriotism. He also mentions that students should be discovering for themselves the nature of democracy and be practicing naturally because of it. The book talks about problems of the education system and the foreign policies that many students are unaware of. My favorite part of the book is when Chomsky gives an example of what education is. He says " Education is not be viewed as something like filling a vessel with water, rather, assisting a flower to grow in its own way. Initially I liked the book, but later on I got confused because the author believes that reader knows of many foreign policies, events, etc. Also the author doesn't really provide a further expiation of what the solutions are for the education system. I would

recommend this book to those with significant knowledge of history and passion. Overall the book wasn't bad nor good.
