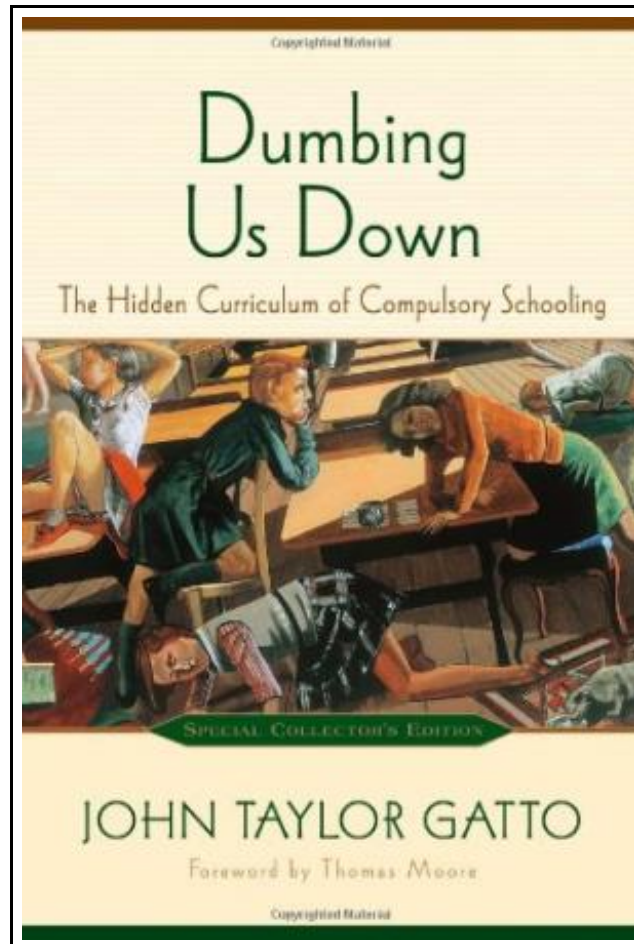


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Reviews

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(Prof. Maya Hand)

DUMBING US DOWN -- THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM OF COMPULSORY SCHOOLING



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New Society Publishers, Gabriola Island, B.C., 2002. Wraps. Condition: New. No Jacket. 10th anniversary Edition. "I began to wonder, reluctantly, whether it was possible that being in school itself was what was dumbing them down?" This brisk, 103-page paperback is the book that started it all off for Gatto, back in 1992. A teacher in the New York City public schools for almost three decades, John Taylor Gatto was named New York City teacher of the year three times and, in 1991, New York State Teacher of the Year. Since his widely publicized resignation in 1991, "he has been among the country's most penetrating, wise, irritating, informed, provocative and prophetic voices in the fierce debate over education reform." Actually, the current system of "psychopathic schools" cannot be "reformed," Gatto argues, since its purposeful design -- manifested in its physical set-up, its segregation by age cohort, its isolation from the outside world, its division of "learning" into 50-minute blocks punctuated by the sound of bells -- is to produce a docile pool of welfare-state factory workers and military recruits incapable of integrating their "information bits" into a mature and integrated personality with powers of critical analysis and judgment. Thus, no amount of money invested in the public schools can ever help them deliver happy, well-rounded, well-informed young people ready to take up the role of responsible citizens in a free country. New with publisher's catalog order card bound in at rear.



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