

CRISIS IN THE CLASSROOM

THE REMAKING OF
AMERICAN EDUCATION

**CHARLES E.
SILBERMAN**

Author of **CRISIS IN BLACK AND WHITE**



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Charles E. Silberman

CRISIS
IN THE
CLASSROOM

*The Remaking
of American Education*



VINTAGE BOOKS

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New York

To David, Ricky, Jeff, and Steve

My sons,

*from whom I have learned as much as I have taught,
this book is dedicated with love and pride*

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helpful—than my four sons, David, Ricky, Jeff, and Steve. From David, the oldest, whose specific contributions have been acknowledged above, to Steve, the youngest, who acted as a fourth research associate, supplying countless anecdotes and insights, they were a continuing source of instruction and help. This book is dedicated to them, and properly so; in an age in which cynicism and despair are hard to avoid, they continually renew my faith in the future. Commenting on a verse from Isaiah, "All your children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children," the Talmud suggests that the word *banayich*, "your children," be read instead as *bonayich*, "your builders." My sons are my builders; if their sensitivity, concern, and thoughtfulness were widely shared, great would be the peace of all the world.

Perhaps it would be most appropriate to end at the beginning, by acknowledging my profound indebtedness to my late parents, Cel. L. and Seppy I. Silberman. This book reflects their immortality; my insistence that education must involve a fusion of thought, feeling, and action is nothing more than a restatement of the beliefs they held, the lessons they taught, and the lives they led.

I hope that this book will serve as partial repayment of my intellectual and moral debts.

C.E.S.

Mount Vernon, N.Y.

June 1970

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