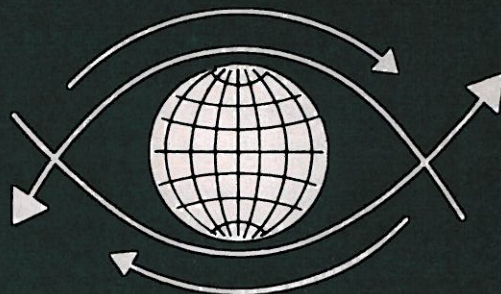


IVAN ILLICH

DESCHOOLING SOCIETY



World Perspectives

Edited by Ruth Nanda Anshen

DESCHOOLING SOCIETY

by Ivan Illich

WHY WE MUST ABOLISH SCHOOLING

"The pupil is . . . 'schooled' to confuse teaching with learning, grade advancement with education, a diploma with competence, and fluency with the ability to say something new. His imagination is 'schooled' to accept service in place of value. Medical treatment is mistaken for health care, social work for the improvement of community life, police protection for safety, military poise for national security, the rat race for productive work Not only education but social reality itself has become 'schooled.'"

—from the book

In this bold and provocative book, Ivan Illich calls for a "cultural revolution," urging us to a radical examination of the social myths and institutions by which our lives are increasingly organized in an industrialized, mechanistic, and progressively less human world. Illich presents a startling view of schooling: schooling (as opposed to education) has become our modern dogma, a sacred cow which all must worship, serve, and submit to, yet from which little true nourishment is derived. Schools have failed our individual human needs, supporting fallacious notions of "progress" and development that follow from the belief that ever-increasing production, consumption, and profit are proper yardsticks for measuring the quality of human life. Our universities have become recruiters of personnel for the consumer society, certifying citizens for service, while at the same

time disposing of those adjudged unfit for the competitive race.

Illich's suggestions for reform are radical and exciting to speculate about: legal protection from the obligatory, graded curriculum; laws forbidding discrimination on the basis of prior schooling; the formation of skill centers where useful skills can be learned, taught by those best equipped to teach them; peer-matching by which the learned may share their knowledge with those seeking instruction. Illich feels such radical measures are necessary to turn civilization from its headlong rush toward the violence frustrated expectations will certainly unleash so long as the school myth is allowed to persist.

IVAN ILLICH was born in Vienna in 1926. He came to the United States in 1951, where he served as assistant pastor in an Irish-Puerto Rican parish in New York City. From 1956 to 1960 he was assigned as vice-rector to the Catholic University of Puerto Rico. He was a co-founder of the Center for Intercultural Documentation (CIDOC) in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and since 1964 has directed research seminars on "Institutional Alternatives in a Technological Society," with special focus on Latin America.

THE EDITOR

RUTH NANDA ANSHEN, philosopher and editor, plans and edits *World Perspectives*, *Religious Perspectives*, *Credo Perspectives*, *Perspectives in Humanism*, and *The Science of Culture Series*. She also writes and lectures on the relationship of knowledge to the nature and meaning of man and existence.

World Perspectives, planned and edited by **Ruth Nanda Anshen**, is a program to bring to the public seminal books in a variety of fields by the most distinguished of contemporary thinkers and world leaders. The purpose is to reveal basic new trends in modern civilizations, to interpret the creative forces at work today, in the East as well as in the West, and to point to the new consciousness which can contribute to a deeper understanding of the interrelation of man and the universe, the individual and society, and of the values shared by all people. **World Perspectives** represents and presents the world community of ideas. This Series emphasizes the principle of unity in mankind and of permanence within change.

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Planned and Edited by RUTH NANDA ANSHEN

DESCHOOLING SOCIETY

IVAN ILLICH



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