



Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools

By Jonathan Kozol

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For two years, beginning in 1988, Jonathan Kozol visited schools in neighborhoods across the country, from Illinois to Washington D.C., and from New York to San Antonio. He spoke with teachers, principals, superintendents, and, most important, children. What he found was devastating. Not only were schools for rich and poor blatantly unequal, the gulf between the two extremes was widening—and it has widened since. The urban schools he visited were overcrowded and understaffed, and lacked the basic elements of learning—including books and, all too often, classrooms for the students.

In *Savage Inequalities*, Kozol delivers a searing examination of the extremes of wealth and poverty and calls into question the reality of equal opportunity in our nation's schools.

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Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools By Jonathan Kozol Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Kozol believes that children from poor families are cheated out of a future by grossly underequipped, understaffed and underfunded schools in U.S. inner cities and less affluent suburbs. The schools he visited between 1988 and 1990--in burnt-out Camden, N.J., Washington, D.C., New York's South Bronx, Chicago's South Side, San Antonio, Tex., and East St. Louis, Mo., awash in toxic fumes--were "95 to 99 percent nonwhite." Kozol (*Death at an Early Age*) found that racial segregation has intensified since 1954. Even in the suburbs, he charges, the slotting of minority children into lower "tracks" sets up a differential, two-tier system that diminishes poor children's horizons and aspirations. He lets the pupils and teachers speak for themselves, uncovering "little islands of . . . energy and hope." This important, eye-opening report is a ringing indictment of the shameful neglect that has fostered a ghetto school system in America. 50,000 first printing; BOMC and QPB selections; author tour.

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From Library Journal

In 1988, Kozol, author of *Death at an Early Age* (LJ 7/67) and the more recent *Rachel and Her Children* (LJ 3/15/88), visited schools in over 30 neighborhoods, including East St. Louis, Harlem, the Bronx, Chicago, Jersey City, and San Antonio. In this account, he concludes that real integration has seriously declined and education for minorities and the poor has moved backwards by at least several decades. Shocked by the persistent segregation and bias in poorer neighborhoods, Kozol describes the garrison-like campuses located in high-crime areas, which often lack the most basic needs. Rooms with no heat, few supplies or texts, labs with no equipment or running water, sewer backups, fumes, and overwhelming fiscal shortages combine to create an appalling scene. This is raw stuff. Recommended for all libraries. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 6/1/91 under the title *These Young Lives: Still Separate, Still Unequal*; *Children in America's Schools*.

- Annette V. Janes, *Hamilton P.L., Mass.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

Kozol again turns a floodlight on a dark corner of the nation's soul, the classrooms of the minority poor. Here, Kozol returns to the public schools where he began a career as spokesman for the powerless and conscience of the privileged 25 years ago (*Death at an Early Age*). Reports of schools in black and Hispanic communities from New York to California-- where not only books, crayons, and lab equipment but also toilet paper are rationed--are painful to read. School buildings turn into swamps when it rains or must be closed (or, worse yet, are kept open) when sewage backs up into kitchens and cafeterias. A school in the South Bronx is set up in a windowless skating rink next to a mortuary, with class sizes up to 35, lunch in three shifts, a library of 700 books, and no playground. The school population is 90-percent black and Hispanic. Yet it is only a few minutes north to a more affluent part of the Bronx and a public school surrounded by flowering trees, two playing fields, and a playground, with a planetarium and an 8,000-book library. There, the population is overwhelmingly white and Asian. More horrifying stories follow--but it's Kozol's intention to horrify, in order to make the point that these vast disparities in quality of education are caused by racism. Nearly 40 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, many US schools are still separate but no longer even remotely equal. Critics will argue that these sad case histories are isolated or rare and are situated in communities whose economies have collapsed. Partly true, but Kozol's point is that justice and decency call for sharing resources in times of trouble, not abandoning children (and their teachers) to degradation and ignorance. A powerful appeal to save children by redistributing the wealth. It will cause

angry, but perhaps fruitful, debate. -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donald Davisson:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information currently can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is from the former life are difficult to be find than now's taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you have it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools* as the daily resource information.

Josephine Mares:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools* reserve written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written with good manner for you, leaking every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still skepticism *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools* as good book not just by the cover but also through the content. This is one guide that can break don't ascertain book by its protect, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your studying sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Donald Murray:

The book untitled *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools* contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains her idea with easy way. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was authored by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice learn.

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