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Full Show: Public Schools for Sale?

March 28, 2014

Preeminent education historian and public school advocate Diane Ravitch talks to Bill this week about the private sellout of public schools.

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Full Show: Public Schools for Sale?

March 28, 2014

Public education is becoming big business as bankers, hedge fund managers and private equity investors are entering what they consider to be an “emerging market.” As [Rupert Murdoch put it](#) after purchasing an education technology company, “When it comes to K through 12 education, we see a \$500 billion sector in the US alone.”

Education historian Diane Ravitch says the privatization of public education has to stop. As assistant secretary of education under President George H.W. Bush, she was an advocate of school choice and charter schools; under George W. Bush, she supported the No Child Left Behind initiative. But after careful investigation, she changed her mind, and has become, according to *Salon*, “the nation’s highest profile opponent” of charter-based education.

On this week’s *Moyers & Company*, she tells Bill Moyers, “I think what’s at stake is the future of American public education. I believe it is one of the foundation stones of our democracy: So an attack on public education is an attack on democracy.”

Diane Ravitch is America’s preeminent historian of public education. Her newest book is *Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America’s Public Schools*.

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Here’s what you can do to [support public schools](#).

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GUEST

- Diane Ravitch

FROM THE WEB

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Producer: Candace White. *Segment Producer:* Robert Booth. *Editor:* Rob Kuhns.

TOPICS: Democracy & Government, Equality, The Economy
TAGS: bill de Blasio, charter schools, Diane Ravitch, education, k-12, no child left behind, public education, public schools, race to the top, success academies, widget

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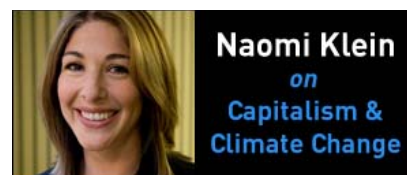
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curiositykeeper · 9 days ago
 What about charter schools as civil disobedience?
 I am one of the barely making it in America class, and I don't want my kid to go to a poor school, with over 30 kids in the class, most of them half asleep. In this neo-feudalist society that the USA has become, I refuse to accept that my kid has to stay stupid so that she will accept her assigned place in the lower class. The Republicans underfunded education; uneducated people tend to vote Republican. No. I will not be a sheep.
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Ardi Hominid · 9 days ago
 Public schools bring communities together. For profit schools divide communities. That's why small towns don't want charter/voucher schools. It's pushed on the cities because of their bigger budgets, but small towns don't want anything to do with it. Stand strong small towns!
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AmericanPlutocracy · 10 days ago
 Take 10 minutes: 5 minutes to read how for-profit Charter schools in New York City were allowed to move into schools built with tax-payer dollars. Take 5 more minutes to read about Wal-mart heirs funding of Charter schools in D.C. and across the country...
 The only conclusion that can be drawn is that charter schools have nothing to do with education and everything to do with profit. At some point we'd better wake up and realize that privatizing and making 'for profit' everything will be our undoing - no matter what the kool-aid drinkers tell you. Not so ironically, the low-information and uneducated electorate will usher in their own demise via ignorance and lack of societal awareness.
 1 ^ | ▾ · Reply · Share >

Eric Kreitzer · 25 days ago
 There would be no demand for the charter schools, whatever we may think of them, if the public school establishment had not dropped the ball and badly in low income minority neighborhoods for generations. I would love to see some this energy devoted to actually fixing



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