

## Bending Twigs

by

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*caveat lector*

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When free public education becomes mandatory public education, then education becomes brainwashing.

For years, I've heard people complain about the failures of the government schools. Sadly, the complaints have usually been about things that aren't very important and that can be corrected in a student's later life. In all of those years, I've never yet heard anybody correctly identify the really serious failures.

Here are some good examples of the failures of the government schools.

- The government schools have failed to teach the students the difference between liberty and permission.
- They have failed to teach the students the [principles of liberty](#).
- They have failed to inform the students of the routine and flagrant violations of those principles, by the government.
- They have taught the students that equality is desirable and that it should be imposed by force.
- They have taught the students that security is more important than liberty.
- They have taught the students that security can be provided only by the government.
- They have taught the students that surveillance and intrusion by the government are undertaken for the sake of liberty.
- They have taught the students that we must sacrifice our liberty in order to preserve it.
- They have failed to instruct the students in the ancient principles of contract.
- They have failed to tell the students that a contract obtained on behalf of someone, by someone else, without the understanding or the consent of the person for whom the contract was obtained, is void from its inception and cannot legitimately be enforced against the person for whom it was obtained.
- They have failed to tell the students that their Social Security numbers, obtained for them when they were minors, represent such contracts.
- They have failed to advise the students that each student's first act as an adult should be to go to the nearest Social Security office and demand that the contract be rescinded.
- They have failed to teach the students the definition of [money](#) or the consequences of [interest-bearing transactions](#) and [fractional reserve banking](#).
- They have taught the students that the United States is a democracy.
- They have taught the students that democracy is the best possible form of government.
- They have failed to teach the students that, when citizenship is mandatory, then there isn't any difference between citizenship and slavery.

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- They have told the students that it's good for the U.S. government to forcibly impose its political theories, its economic systems, its social ideologies, and its religious dogmas onto people in other countries.
- They have failed to inform the students of the atrocious acts committed by the U.S. government in foreign lands and within the United States.
- They have led the students to believe that U.S. foreign policy is intended to liberate foreign peoples.
- They have failed to reveal the numerous flaws in the pedigree and the substance of the [U.S. constitution](#) and the [Bill of Rights](#).
- They have failed to teach the students that a constitution should limit the powers of the government and not either define or limit the rights of the people.
- They have failed to teach the students that neither a constitution nor a bill of rights is a source of rights. Instead, they have told the students that the U.S. constitution, with its Bill of Rights, is the sole and exclusive source of all of the rights of the American people.
- They have failed to teach the students the difference between a [right and a privilege](#).
- They have taught the students that people have an inherent obligation to obey authority.
- They have discouraged the students from questioning authority.
- They have failed to teach the students the difference between despotism and legitimate authority.

'Tis education forms the common mind:

Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.

—*Moral Essays* [1720 — 1735]

Alexander Pope

If the government schools had failed only to teach the students to read or to do arithmetic, then that might have been tolerable. The failure of the government schools is worse than that. They have fostered the growth of generations of increasingly ignorant, misinformed, and gullible people thereby, almost single-handedly, enabling the growth of the American police state. Sometimes, I think of the schools as brainwashers. When my mood is less generous, I think of them as enemies of liberty, which is exactly what they are.

The hand that rules the cradle rocks the world.

—[Penultimate Straw](#)

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