

(Ebook pdf) The Educator And The Oligarch: A Teacher Challenges The Gates Foundation

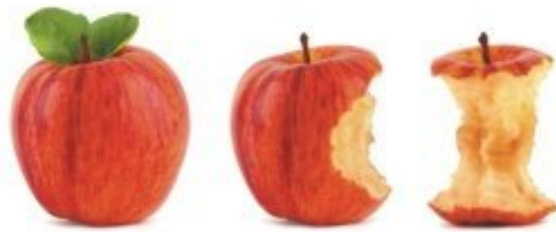
The Educator And The Oligarch: A Teacher Challenges The Gates Foundation

Anthony Cody

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Recipient of the **NCTE George Orwell Award** for
The Educator And The Oligarch

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A Teacher Challenges The
Gates Foundation



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Anthony Cody : The Educator And The Oligarch: A Teacher Challenges The Gates Foundation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Educator And The Oligarch: A Teacher Challenges The Gates Foundation:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. An enormous amount of time and energy (not to mention hand-wringing and anxiety) goes into implementing the latest and greatest.By TLRTThis book should be required reading for

every policy maker in America. As a public school teacher in NY, I've watched the same 'reforms' cycle through every few years (they do seem to be cycling faster now). An enormous amount of time and energy (not to mention hand-wringing and anxiety) goes into implementing the latest and greatest. Speakers are paid to give us mediocre (at best) and insulting talks about all that we're doing wrong. New initiatives and committees are formed and business goes on as usual. I was very concerned about 'data' in regards to my students being given to InBloom. The local paper claimed it was a nonprofit and the data would be kept confidential. I was amazed that more parents weren't screaming about this. I looked into the board members. It's not that hard to look behind the curtain to see the 'wizard' with the internet at your fingertips and, yet, not many seem to be doing that. All of these people may sit on the board at a 'nonprofit' but they're all executives of for-profit companies. Thankfully, this farce was dismantled. No shady organization should have that kind of information on so many of our children. In this book, Anthony Cody has ripped away the curtain and laid the double talk bare so we don't have to do all the work. There's no longer any excuse for not knowing who 'belongs' to who despite their current titles and it should be plain what their driving motivations are (a hint: it's not your kids). So many of the things touted by the Gates Foundation are just disturbing but there was one quote by Bill himself in a 2008 interview that just terrifies me: "There's a lot of issues about governance, whether its school boards or unions, where you want to allow for experimentation, in terms of pay procedures, management procedures, to really prove out new things. As those things start working on behalf of the students, then I believe the majority of teachers and voters will be open-minded to these new approaches. And so we have to take it a step at a time. They have to give us the opportunity for this experimentation." Anyone else feel the need to scream "I am not a lab rat and neither are my students!"? Bill Gates and his wife and cronies don't see any of us as people. They're willing to experiment with the livelihood and careers of thousands of educated adult professionals as well as the founding education of an entire generation of children. What if his 'experiments' fail? Too bad so sad for YOU, not him. They'll still make plenty of money and their children will have a very different educational experience and opportunities. And as a former researcher, I'm pretty sure you legally need informed consent to experiment on human subjects. I never signed this paperwork. Did you? I'm currently rated as a 'highly effective' teacher. (Although, that's subject to change every year because my students change every year. Some of that 'success' is rightfully theirs, as are the failures. Something that has been lost in all of this 'experimentation' is the students' ownership of their own successes or failures.) I'm not looking for merit pay (that system will not work) and I don't want to compete with my colleagues. I like to freely share lesson ideas with them - it makes us all better teachers. But, to be honest, I despair when I read about all these insane policies. It makes me want to just change careers. Voters need to start educating themselves about what's going on and who's behind it. This book is a good start. 18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. A Board certified teacher, master educator goes beyond a Gate's genuflect, Cody writes a book. By a gentle sound. Deeply embedded in our culture is the notion-if you make billions you might ALSO be able, through your wealth, to masterfully solve all the "problems" of this world-a living god. It's nothing new as an idea on the planet really. This book does not examine the fallacies of this view, of WHY Gates is seen as remotely qualified to determine an educational system in a democracy-but it does do a great job of talking (through basically very digestible essays) about HOW Bill Gates Foundation has "worked" on education if you can let loose of notions that's such a terrific thing, or even have a small space for such a thought, then the book has something to offer you by way of facts. Anthony Cody is an educator, well educated, and willing to look at the effects on public education from what clearly is a corporate attempt to "enter the playing field" of education as expert. So many do not have even an beginning understanding of the Gates Foundation work, not really, and many more attribute what are very tuned, honed and deliberate strategies to a benign desire to just help out. Gates and wife themselves promote that view. Are we all really just "in this together"? The fact Gates own children are not in public school might give you a clue about how he views the schools. Over the course of time this ed writer/activist presents his careful work documenting and dealing with The Gates Foundation. What I enjoyed was the readability. I know the essays stick with you as they have framed my understanding for a good while-they appeared in EDWEEK, and are incredibly useful to a public teacher in understanding why and how teacher evaluation among other issues are changing. I will be reading and using this book as I inform myself of the position of those I personally see doing so much damage corporatizing, data driving, and monetizing to ultimately privatize school. For me this informs my own eyes seeing those with \$ further isolated in wealth from the policies, and those without with nothing to give further left behind-clearly the terrific losses in public ed over these last years have roots. This is how I see it-but the book will have multiple interpretations and uses. And you may well not use the book in that way. If I were in school in study to be a teacher, now, I'd expect a course called "The Corporate Education Model" and Cody's book on the reading list. If I were a parent trying to understand my way through schooling my children-I'd read this book. If I were a teacher, school Super., Board Member I'd read this book, and frankly if I were a citizen in a DEMOCRACY I'd definitely want to understand the perspectives of this teacher as he interacts ultimately with the Gates Foundation. At some point- as Cody often does- we might want to pose a question, for me that is-"Does this billionaire have your children's best interests at heart?" That, again is not a question directly addressed here but ultimately this might help you address the incredible impact the Gates has had on your child's public education, and will have as it pores money towards its goals, and how our current society is having that public education "framed" as

failure. And teachers as "bad." Is this always done in benign good hearted wisdom? 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Anthony Cody Speaks Truth to Power, and We All Win By Claudia Swisher Anthony Cody is one of the first educators I saw using his teachers voice to stand up to reformers to push back against reformers. He helped organize and host the Save Our Schools March and Rally on July 30, 2011. I was there, in awe, watching education heroes come to the makeshift stage and remind us how important our fight was. How much the children of our country needed us to keep pushing. I watched Anthony take on Bill Gates and his Foundation. I read the series of letters back and forth on important issues. This book, *The Educator and the Oligarch*, was born, partly from those dialogues. But its more. Its a careful investigation into the how and why of Gates power play. The circular reasoning that allows him to live in his echo chamber, unconcerned by the voices of students and teachers who are being forced to live with his many hunches about education. Gates has fixated on the bad teacher myth and he believes, with no evidence, that teacher evaluations connected to student test scores is the way to find those crummy teachers and root them out. Anthony takes apart this argument with the precision of a surgeon, and leaves the foul carcass bare. Anthony connects the dots: money buys power. Money buys more power. Money buys politicians. Money buys influence. But Gates money cannot buy teachers. And I think that bothers him. Anthony shows how Gates has bought into the education establishment: ASCD has been partially funded by the Gates Foundation. NBPTS has been funded by the Foundation to revise the National Board process. Gates was invited to speak at the conference last year, and Anthony reports his words and his intentions. He asked NBCTs to be vocal about supporting CCSS now, he wants help from teachers. Anthonys dialogue with the Gates Foundation revolved around fundamental questions about public education: How do we build the teaching profession? How do we consider evidence of learning in evaluations? Can schools defeat poverty by ignoring it? What is the purpose of K-12 education? What happens when profits drive education? Good for the Foundation that they agreed to engage in this conversation they just didnt realize that Anthony held all the intellectual weapons. These questions SHOULD be the centerpiece of any discussion about reforming schools. Anthony chronicles some of Gates more bizarre hunches: galvanic bracelets, his TED talk promoting video cameras in classrooms, his fixation on evaluations tied to scores, his faith in technology (a funny/sad look at BF Skinners teaching machine reminds us weve dealt with this nonsense before), MOOCs, Common Core, technology, technology and technology. My favorite chapter was the Billionaire Philanthropist Evaluation. I laughed out loud and cheered. Standard 1 Awareness of the social conditions targeted by philanthropy Standard 2 Understanding of how learning is measured Standard 3 Understanding how teaching is evaluated Standard 4 Understanding of effective instruction. Understandably, Mr. Gates was below the standard in each of these four areas. I took 10 pages of notes, quotes from the book that sang to me. Ill just share a few: Last September BG said, It would be great if our education stuff worked, but that we wont know for probably a decade. VAM is a disaster. Charter schools, are, as a sector, not better than public schools. CCSS and the high-stakes accountability system is on its way to the graveyard of grand ideas. BG has made it clear that this was an experiment from the start. What he did not seem to allow for in his scenario was the possibility that his experiment would not succeed. Hand there was an impatient imperative in his demands. They have to give us the opportunity for this experimentation. We, the citizens, students, parents, and educators, were not asked nor allowed to vote on this. BG and his allies decided this was needed, and they made it happen, suing the levers of power within their control. Indeed. When are we the citizens, students, parents, and educators going to rise up, use our voices, and tell Gates enough is enough. Anthony has given us the evidence, and the call to action. Buy this book if you care about public education. Then buy another copy and donate it to your legislators. Make them accountable for following their lead. Maybe Antony will write a Legislators Education Evaluation instrument too!

Can a teacher challenge the wealthiest man in the world? This is the question Garn Press asked in 2014 when Anthony Codys *The Educator And The Oligarch* was first published. The answer is a resounding Yes! Anthony Cody not only challenged Bill Gates, but also received the 2015 NCTE George Orwell Award, which recognizes writers who have made outstanding contributions to the critical analysis of public discourse, and the 2015 eLIT Silver Medal Award in the education/ academic/ teaching category. In recognition of the importance of Anthonys steadfast resistance to Gates unacceptable manipulation of public education policies, Garn Press just published a new edition of *The Educator And The Oligarch* with a new preface by Anthony. The new edition is available in paperback and eBook formats, and for the first time, as a hardcover book. Anthony Cody spent 24 years working in the high poverty schools of Oakland, California, and since that time he has been a tireless advocate for teachers and children in U.S. Public Schools. Bill Gates, on the other hand, with no teaching credentials or public school experience, has arbitrarily made education reform one of the top domestic priorities for the Gates Foundation, and his philanthropic organization has poured billions of dollars into reshaping American schools. Gates money has paid for research, advocacy, and a whole non-profit industry aligned with his self-proclaimed agenda. Based on indisputable scientific research evidence, in *The Educator And The Oligarch*, Anthony Cody makes the case that the chosen path of Bill Gates and the Gates Foundations data-driven reform, centered on high stakes tests, educational technology and market-based competition between schools, threatens great harm to public education. *The Educator And The Oligarch* is a book for parents and

teachers and a must read indictment of big money public school reform for all politicians, policy makers, and public officials.

A powerful and important book by one of the most courageous advocates for sanity and simple justice in our public schools. Jonathan Kozol This book is a record of Anthony Cody's valiant struggle to force the nation's most powerful foundation and richest person to listen to the voice of an experienced teacher. Diane Ravitch Anthony Cody, drawing on eighteen years as a classroom teacher, looks Bill Gates in the eye and announces that even he cannot buy our schools. Jesse Hagopian, teacher, Garfield High School, Seattle. Anthony says "The trust teachers are given is a precious thing, and it obligates us to exercise our consciences and independent judgment." We must continue to fight for and be deserving of that trust. Karen Jennings Lewis, President, Chicago Teachers Union Bill Gates War on Public Education should alarm not only every American who cares about teaching and learning, but everyone who fears that the concentration of wealth at the top is eroding our best traditions. Anthony Cody gives us all the evidence we need to fight back, not only to save our schools, but to save our country."