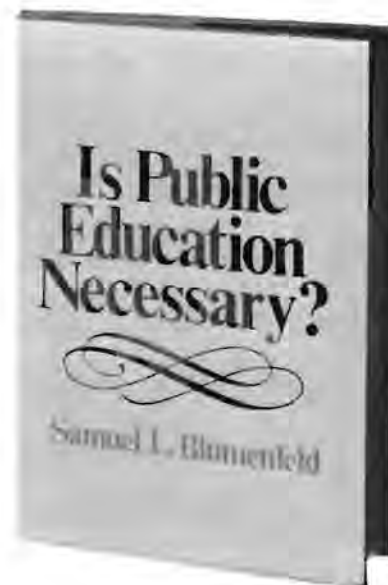


Devin-Adair Announces June  
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## IS PUBLIC EDUCATION NECESSARY?

by Samuel L. Blumenfeld



This book tells, for the first time, the story of how and why Americans gave up educational freedom so early in their history for the imagined benefits of state-controlled education, with results that are now front-page daily news. Advance reviewers comment:

There is no question that this is one of the most important books on the education issue in recent years. At the very time when the tragic failures of public education have become apparent to so many, there is an urgent need to understand the historical dimensions of the problem. Samuel L. Blumenfeld has given us that historical understanding in a scholarly but immensely readable fashion. Current debates on issues in American education will be greatly enriched by his work.

--Onalee McGraw  
Education Consultant  
The Heritage Foundation

As the title indicates, there is widening doubt on many levels whether public education as we have known it can survive. The new book may prove to be a landmark in more ways than one.

--Max Rafferty  
Author, educator, commentator

Blumenfeld answers the question in his title with a resounding no. After a scathing denunciation of contemporary

public education and a call for a return to free enterprise private education, he traces the religious and philosophical currents in our intellectual and political life that gave rise to universal public education. . . .His documentation is thorough.

--Library Journal

Alternate selection, Conservative Book Club

The author, who has earned recognition in his field with such previous books as The New Illiterates and How to Start Your Own Private School--And Why You Need One, breaks new ground in this important work. By exploring the very roots of the system, he articulates at last the sound reasons behind the pervasive unease about the current state of American education; Is Public Education Necessary? provides the missing link in our educational history.

Prepublication interest in this title has been extraordinarily high. Advance requests have come in from a very broad range of sources, including Conservatives, Libertarians, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, taxpayers' organizations and advocates, sociologists, educators, economists, historians, public policy institutes, and the major media.

Five years in preparation, Is Public Education Necessary? is the book that finally asks the question. The answer will have national repercussions in the days ahead.

272 pages  
ISBN 0-8159-5826-9

Index

Hardcover: \$12.95  
June 30, 1981

For more information contact Robin Sommer: 203-637-4531

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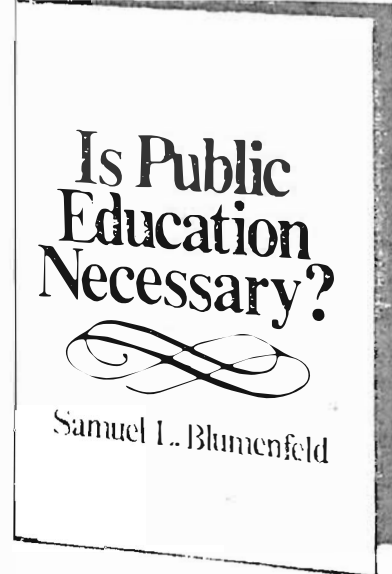
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By Samuel L. Blumenfeld



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## IS PUBLIC EDUCATION NECESSARY?

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by Samuel L. Blumenfeld

Recognizing the present state of education as a system that "creates a myriad of social, intellectual, moral and financial problems that seem to defy solution," Samuel Blumenfeld has written a well-documented history of public education, strongly advocating a return to the educational freedom that existed in our country's early years.

Private schools were thriving; adult literacy and attendance rates in New England were running high. It was only when a small group of intellectuals decided education must be socialized that Americans were "seduced" by illusions of moral progress from abroad and permitted its adoption.

Blumenfeld has turned up facts clearly indicating that:

Contrary to public belief, the American people never, at any time, clamored for government-controlled, tax-supported schools . . . The system was imposed on them gradually from above by a relatively small number of people . . . Americans were quite satisfied with the diversity and independence of the educational institutions which had grown in American soil to serve American needs and were largely paid for by those who used them.

Here — for the first time — is the story of the fascinating personalities and events that led Americans to give up educational freedom for educational statism so early in their history. *IS PUBLIC EDUCATION NECESSARY?* contains untold history on a subject of primary importance today. Blumenfeld has written several books and articles on education and is a fellow of the Institute for Humane Studies.

276 pages, 6" x 9"  
ISBN 0-8159-5826-9

Hardcover: \$10.00  
March

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Old Greenwich, Conn. 06870

# IS PUBLIC EDUCATION NECESSARY?

Samuel L. Blumenfeld

The failure of public education is the failure of statism as a political philosophy. It has been tried. It has been found sorely wanting. Having learned from our mistakes, would it not be better to return to the basic principles upon which this nation was founded? Education was not seen then as the cure-all for mankind's moral diseases. But it was on that premise that the reformers built the present system. They were wrong. The system cannot work because in a free society government has no more place in education than it has in religion. Once Americans grasp the full significance of this idea, they will understand why the return of educational freedom is essential to the preservation and expansion of American freedom in general.

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