

Summary paper

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*The American School***Introduction**

In the book *The American School*, Joel Spring provides the readers with an opportunity to develop a comprehensive perspective on the idea of history education. Referencing the numerous historical facts presented in the book, it is upon the readers to undertake correct interpretations of the right ones (Spring, 2018). Moreover, it is integral to understand different historical events in education to comprehend the current education system in the country entirely. Historically, Spring has managed to air some key questions, such as were public schools developed for the people to ensure they protect both their political and economic power? Where did the public schools develop to protect the upper echelon's power, who control both economic and political ideas taught to the students while in schools? Or were the schools developed to preserve the dominance of the Protestants Anglo-American culture over other cultures popularly referred to as "inferior" cultures such as African-Americans, Native Americans, and Irish Americans.?

¹
The history of American education is a story about the quest for power.

During the revolution, the U.S government was facing a significant problem given they needed to acquire the Native American lands, which were located to the South and West of the lands. At the time, the government was focused on how best to deal with the tribes found in Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, South, and North Carolina. There was a grave assumption that the Indians would be willing to sell their lands, and Jefferson, in 1803, declared how the cultural transformation of the Native Americans was the only key to ensuring they acquire tribal lands (Spring, 2018). Therefore, the U.S government agents were keen to ensure they institute Jefferson civilization policies. The government agents were then instructed to ensure they develop schools that would teach the children the importance of spinning and sewing. The men were educated on using different agricultural

equipment for large-scale farming (Spring, 2018). The U.S government agents used to act as the advertisers of the manufactured goods and the teachers. These agents ensured they initiate the cultural transformation of the Native Americans whose ideologies about farming have been shifted to family, economic relations, and government structures. Thus, it was easier for the communities to be transferred in this scenario and ensure the whites would have an easier time controlling the Native Americans. The first onset would be by acquiring their lands which the whites would then own. But the best way to ensure these lands were gained was based on the education system instituted across the South.

History of American education is a story about a struggle for culture.

Centrally, American public schools have historically suffered from racism. Due to discrimination across America, protests of Anglo-American culture are preferred as the dominant culture across the U.S (Spring, 2018). The concern of racism in schools is not recent; it is centuries old. For instance, preference to ensure one culture dominated public schools began in the sixteenth century with the English immigration to the U.S and has continued till the present day with debates such as the need to embrace multiculturalism across schools (Spring, 2018). Historically, there were debates on how English colonists were superior to the Native Americans, which resulted in forming an English colony to make it a national culture focused on Protestant Anglo-American values (Spring, 2018). Thus, one of the primary objectives of developing public schools was to ensure Anglo-American values dominated over other cultures as identified to be superiors.

Later in the 20th century, the cultural wars progressed with the introduction of ¹the Americanization programs. Civil rights movements also demanded the representation of minority cultures in different public schools. Cultural perspective is central in having a proper understanding of the cultural wars. For instance, in the late 18th and early 19th century,

Native Americans decided that literacy would be an essential tool that can be used to protect their tribal lands and cultures.

1 **The history of American education is a story about economic and political freedom and equality.**

Educational development after **the** revolutionary wars **was** the precedent for the formation of public schools across America. According to numerous world culture theorists', the preference of American experience to link mass schooling with the development of modern states would be a process that could be replicated worldwide. At the time, American revolutionary leaders were concerned about stabilizing the country's political system and maintaining European Americans' loyalty (Spring, 2018). Both the minority and dominant cultures across America displayed firm conviction of European preservation of their belief. Nonetheless, European had the upper hand and ensured they educate the minority cultures, often referred to as "Heathen Savages," with the needed European cultures and racial superiority. Based on the European Americans' vision, the American land would be occupied entirely by the white communities. For instance, Benjamin Franklin was the first to share the vision of how the white race would dominate North America. Therefore, he introduced the Congressional Approval of Naturalization Act of 1790, which was used to ensure that all the non-whites were excluded from getting citizenship in North America and were ineligible for citizenship, especially the native Indians (Spring, 2018). Thus, no equality was identified between the significant cultures: the whites with the minority races, the Indians, African-Americans, and the Native Americans.

In summary, the history of American education, according to Joel Spring in the book, *The American School*, illustrates how education was used to influence power, culture, and equality in the community. The whites, who were the majority, used the education system to revolutionize the country. On the other hand, Native Americans, Indians, and African-

Americans were fighting to preserve their cultures in the prescribed American education system.

Reference

Spring, J. (2018). *The American school: From the Puritans to the Trump era*. Routledge.

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