

Henry Giroux

Quotes

People, Thinking, War, School, Political, Mean, Democracy, Culture, Responsibility, Violence, Military, Country, Justice, Issues, Struggle, Government, Powerful, Needs, Practice, Fighting

The new illiteracy is about more than not knowing how to read the book or the word; it is about not knowing how to read the world.

~Henry Giroux

Think of the question of mass incarceration. Think of the coding that the Republican Party has used for years, whether they're talking about Obama or blacks or Willie Horton.

~Henry Giroux

Getting ahead cannot be the only motive that motivates people. You have to imagine what a good life is.

~Henry Giroux

Collective freedom provides the basic conditions for people to narrate their own lives, hold power accountable, and embrace a capacious notion of human dignity.

~Henry Giroux

The ideology of hardness and cruelty runs through American culture like an electric current.

~Henry Giroux

The present generation has been born into a throwaway society of consumers in which both goods and young people are increasingly objectified and disposable.

~Henry Giroux

America has become amnesiac - a country in which forms of historical, political, and moral forgetting are not only willfully practiced but celebrated.

~Henry Giroux

War is one of the nation's most honored virtues, and its militaristic values now bear down on almost every aspect of American life.

~Henry Giroux

It is precisely through the indeterminate nature of history that resistance becomes possible and politics refuses any guarantees and remains open.

~Henry Giroux

Under neoliberalism, culture appears to have largely abandoned its role as a site of critique.

~Henry Giroux

Within neoliberal narratives, youth are mostly defined as a consumer market, a drain on the economy, or stand for trouble.

~Henry Giroux

Everyone, especially minorities of race and ethnicity, now live under a surveillance panopticon.

~Henry Giroux

Look, in neoliberalism the ruling elite understand something.

~Henry Giroux

Collective freedom is one devoid of material bondage and one that supports the institutions necessary for democracy.

~Henry Giroux

Youth are no longer the place where society reveals its dreams.

~Henry Giroux

Public problems collapse into the limited and depoliticized register of private issues.

~Henry Giroux

Justified by the war on drugs, the United States is in the midst of a

prison binge made obvious by the fact that since 1970, the number of people behind bars... has increased 600 percent.

~Henry Giroux

Young people refuse the notion that financialization defines the only acceptable definition of exchange, one that is based exclusively on the reductionist notion of buying and selling.

~Henry Giroux

There appears to be no space outside the panopticon of commercial barbarism and casino capitalism.

~Henry Giroux

War has become a mode of sovereignty and rule, eroding the distinction between war and peace.

~Henry Giroux

Increasingly fed by a moral and political hysteria, warlike values produce and endorse shared fears as the primary register of social relations.

~Henry Giroux

The generation of youth in the early 21st century has no way of grasping if they will ever be free from the gnawing sense of the transience, indefiniteness, and provisional nature of any settlement.

~Henry Giroux

Symptoms of ethical, political and economic impoverishment are all around us.

~Henry Giroux

The media is almost entirely about defining the subject, defining the citizen, as one of three things: a consumer, a threat in this new age of surveillance, or as utterly disposable. Excess.

~Henry Giroux

Ruling elite have think tanks, they have research institutes, they've invaded universities, they've monopolized the cultural apparatuses.

~Henry Giroux

Any dominant ideology operates off the assumption that what it has to say is unaccountable and unquestionable.

~Henry Giroux

Youth are becoming the site of society's nightmares.

~Henry Giroux

We need to figure how to defend higher education as a public good. If we can't do that, we're in trouble.

~Henry Giroux

Schools resemble the culture of prisons.

~Henry Giroux

Everywhere we look we see the encroaching shadow of the police state.

~Henry Giroux

There is the emergence of a militarized society that now organizes itself for the production of violence. A society in which the range of acceptable opinion inevitably shrinks.

~Henry Giroux

Within neoliberal narratives, the message is clear: Buy/ sell/ or be punished.

~Henry Giroux

Young children are being arrested and subjected to court appearances

for behaviors that can only be termed as trivial.

~Henry Giroux

Very little appears to escape the infantilizing and moral vacuity of the market.

~Henry Giroux

The architecture of war and violence is now matched by a barrage of goods parading as fashion.

~Henry Giroux

Violence now becomes the only tool by which we can actually mediate social problems that should be dealt with in very different ways.

~Henry Giroux

Increasingly, poor minority and white youth are being funneled directly from schools into prison.

~Henry Giroux

There is a need for subjects who find intense pleasure in commodification of violence and a culture of cruelty.

~Henry Giroux

Instead of schools being a pipeline to opportunity, schools are feeding our prisons.

~Henry Giroux

In some cities such as Washington, DC, that 75 percent of young black men can expect to serve time in prison.

~Henry Giroux

Young black men in America have an identity ascribed to them that is a direct legacy of slavery.

~Henry Giroux

Young black men are considered dangerous, expendable, threatening and part of a culture of criminality.

~Henry Giroux

Students, in particular, now find themselves in a world in which heightened expectations have been replaced by dashed hopes.

~Henry Giroux

The promises of higher education and previously enviable credentials have turned into the swindle of fulfillment.

~Henry Giroux

Everyone is now a potential terrorist.

~Henry Giroux

As the welfare state is hollowed out, a culture of compassion is replaced by a culture of violence, cruelty and disposability.

~Henry Giroux

The domestic war against "terrorists" [code for young protesters] provides new opportunities for major defense contractors and corporations who are becoming more a part of our domestic lives.

~Henry Giroux

The market-driven spectacle of war demands a culture of conformity, quiet intellectuals and a largely passive republic of consumers.

~Henry Giroux

Historical and public memory is not merely on the side of domination.

~Henry Giroux

Young people refuse to be defined exclusively as consumers rather than as workers, and they reject the notion that the only interests that matter are monetary.

~Henry Giroux

Today, there is a new focus on public values, the need for broad-based movements for solidarity, and alternative conceptions of politics, democracy and justice.

~Henry Giroux

History remains an open horizon that cannot be dismissed through appeals to the end of history or end of ideology.

~Henry Giroux

War provides jobs, profits, political payoffs, research funds, and forms of political and economic power that reach into every aspect of society.

~Henry Giroux

As modern society is formed against the backdrop of a permanent war zone, a carceral state and hyper-militarism, the social stature of the military and soldiers has risen.

~Henry Giroux

The war on terror, rebranded under Obama as the "Overseas Contingency Operation," has morphed into war on democracy.

~Henry Giroux

Any collective struggle that matters has to embrace education as the center of politics and the source of an embryonic vision of the good life outside of the imperatives of predatory capitalism.

~Henry Giroux

Once ignorance is weaponized, violence seems to be a tragic inevitability.

~Henry Giroux

We need to remember that education can be both a basis for critical

thought and a site for repression, which destroys thinking and leads to violence.

~Henry Giroux

Violence comes in many forms and can be particularly disturbing when confronted in an educational setting if handled dismissively or in ways that blame victims.

~Henry Giroux

This is a moment in our history - that we can thank neoliberalism for - that has really destroyed what Hannah Arendt called "the virtue of thoughtfulness."

~Henry Giroux

Even the notion that, you know, [Bill] Clinton was the black president strikes me as the greatest irony of all times.

~Henry Giroux

Neoliberal ideology is enormously powerful.

~Henry Giroux

Individual struggles merge into larger social movements.

~Henry Giroux

Education must become central to any viable notion of politics willing to imagine a life and future outside of casino capitalism.

~Henry Giroux

Social solidarities are torn apart, furthering the retreat into orbits of the private that undermine those spaces that nurture non-commodified knowledge, values, critical exchange and civic literacy.

~Henry Giroux

At the same time, you see in those studies, you see the emergence of

various movements among black youth that are really challenging the ideology of neoliberalism since the 1980s.

~Henry Giroux

I mean, we're not talking about simply racism, we're talking about white supremacy.

~Henry Giroux

I think that what people have failed to talk about is white supremacy.

~Henry Giroux

I also think that one of the things we often fail to realize is that that kind of violence is now legitimated in multiple public spheres.

~Henry Giroux

The degree to which fear now becomes an organizing principle of society is enormous compared to what it was like in the past.

~Henry Giroux

I think people now live in an age in which the only thing - they don't think about getting ahead. They think about surviving.

~Henry Giroux

Certainly I think the state is more than willing to not only attempt to change the consciousness of people, but to employ violence in ways that make people quite fearful.

~Henry Giroux

I think the very idea of the social contract is in disarray.

~Henry Giroux

FDR was enormously influenced by this, and afraid. I mean, his intervention was to save capitalism. It wasn't to basically appease the workers. And I think that today you don't have those movements.

~Henry Giroux

You had workers' movements. You had left organizations, the Communist Party, that were mobilizing in profoundly powerful ways to basically address the great injustices of capitalism.

~Henry Giroux

Under a neoliberal regime, the language of authority, power and command is divorced from ethics, social responsibility, critical analysis and social costs.

~Henry Giroux

I mean, think of Flint. I mean, think of the lead poisoning of thousands of poor and black children across the United States.

~Henry Giroux

We need to educate students to be critical agents, to learn how to take risks, engage in thoughtful dialogue, and taking on the crucial issue what it means to be socially responsible.

~Henry Giroux

We need to get rid of the growing army of temporary workers now filling the ranks of academy. This is scandalous; it weakens both the power of the faculty and exploits these workers.

~Henry Giroux

Young people live in a society in which every institution becomes an "inspection regime" - recording, watching, gathering information and storing data.

~Henry Giroux

We need to take on the new media, and in terms of power and public pedagogy, we need to organize a whole range of people outside of the academy.

~Henry Giroux

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