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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910783371803321 |
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| Titolo | Schooled to order : a social history of public schooling in the United States // David Nasaw |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | New York : , : Oxford University Press, , 1979 |
| ISBN | 0-19-755995-6 1-4237-2911-0 1-280-43912-2 0-19-802023-6 1-60129-572-3 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (316 pages) |
| Collana | Oxford scholarship online |
| Disciplina | 371/.01/0973 |
| Soggetti | Public schools - United States - History Educational sociology - United States - History |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Previously issued in print: 1979. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliography: p. 275-293 and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Introduction; I: The Common Schools 1835-1855; 1 The New World and the Old; 2 The Ultimate Reform: The Common Schools; 3 The Campaign for the Common Schools: The Enthusiasts, the Indifferent, and the Opposition; 4 The Irish and the Common Schools; 5 The Legacy of Reformthe Ideology and the Institution; II: The High Schools 1895-1915; 6 The "Youth" Problem; 7 The War Against the Wards; 8 Reforming the High Schools; 9 New Studies for New Students; 10 Reaction, Resistance, and the Final Compromise; III: Higher Education 1945-1970; 11 Between the World Wars: To School or to Work? |
| Sommario/riassunto | Argues that as public schools became integral to the maintenance of American lifestyles, they increasingly reflected the primary tensions between democratic rhetoric and the reality of a class-divided system. |