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in an age of unprecedented corporate and political control over life inside of educational institutions this book provides a needed intervention to investigate how the economic and political elite use traditional artifacts in k 16 schools to perpetuate their interests at the expense of minoritized social groups the contributors provide a comprehensive examination of how textbooks the most dominant cultural force in which corporations and political leaders impact the schooling curricula shape students thoughts and behavior perpetuate power in dominant groups and trivialize social groups who are oppressed on the structural axes of race class gender sexuality and dis ability several contributors also generate critical insight in how power shapes the production of textbooks and evaluate whether textbooks still perpetuate dominant western narratives that normalize and privilege patriotism militarism consumerism white supremacy heterosexism rugged individualism technology and a positivistic conception of the world finally the book highlights several textbooks that challenge readers to rethink their stereotypical views of the other to reflect upon the constitutive forces causing oppression in schools and in the wider society and to reflect upon how to challenge corporate and political dominance over knowledge production

educational reforms and standards have been a topic of public debate for decades with the latest go round being the state common core curriculum standards but

time and again those reforms have failed and each set of standards no matter how new and different has had little impact on improving student achievement why the textbooks textbooks sell based on design and superficial features not because they are based on the latest research on how children learn and how well they promote student achievement in tyranny of the textbook beverlee jobrack retired from educational publishing sheds light on why this happens she gives an engaging and fascinating look behind the scenes of how k 12 textbooks are developed written adopted and sold and perhaps most importantly she clearly spells out how the system can change so that reforms and standards have a shot at finally being effective did you know reform efforts have focused on writing and rewriting standards and tests but these rarely have any effect on the core curriculum that is published school districts and states don t use effectiveness as a criterion for evaluating and purchasing textbooks publishers don t offer textbooks with better content or the latest teaching methods because teachers don t want textbooks that require them to change their practices teachers report that they don t rely on a textbook in their class but research shows that they do three companies publish 75 percent of the k 12 educational materials those three companies are producing similar programs with the same instructional strategies none of which require teachers to change their practices significantly publishers write textbooks for california and texas all of the other markets have to make do with books only superficially adjusted for their states

a people s curriculum for the earth is a collection of articles role plays simulations stories poems and graphics to help breathe life into teaching about the environmental crisis the book features some of the best articles from rethinking schools magazine alongside classroom friendly readings on climate change energy water food and pollution as well as on people who are working to make things better a people s curriculum for the earth has the breadth and depth of rethinking globalization teaching for justice in an unjust world one of the most popular books we ve published at a time when it s becoming increasingly obvious that life on earth is at risk here is a resource that helps students see what s wrong and imagine solutions praise for a people s curriculum for the earth to really confront the climate crisis we need to think differently build differently and teach differently a people s curriculum for the earth is an educator s toolkit for our times naomi klein author of the shock doctrine and this changes everything capitalism vs the climate this volume is a marvelous example of justice in all facets of our lives civil social educational economic and yes environmental bravo to the rethinking schools team for pulling this collection together and making us think more holistically about what we mean when we talk about justice gloria ladson billings kellner family chair in urban education university of wisconsin madison bigelow and swinehart have created a critical resource for today s young people about humanity s responsibility for the earth this book can engender the shift in perspective so needed at this point on the clock of the universe gregory smith professor of education lewis clark college co author with david sobel of place and community based education in schools

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