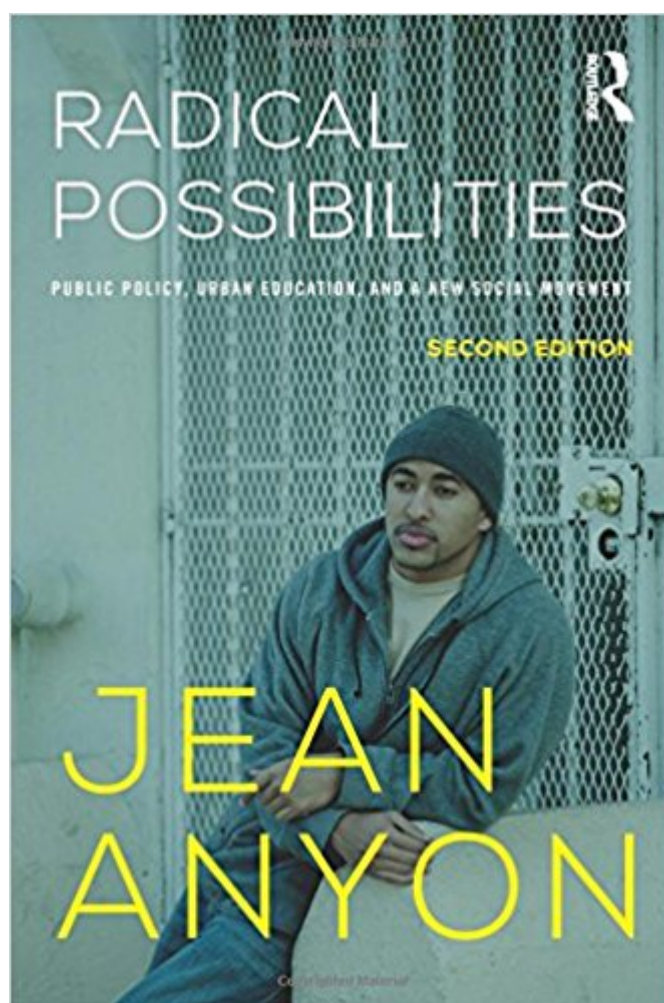


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# Radical Possibilities: Public Policy, Urban Education, And A New Social Movement (Critical Social Thought)



## Synopsis

The core argument of Jean Anyon's classic *Radical Possibilities* is deceptively simple: if we do not direct our attention to the ways in which federal and metropolitan policies maintain the poverty that plagues communities in American cities, urban school reform as currently conceived is doomed to fail. With every chapter thoroughly revised and updated, this edition picks up where the 2005 publication left off, including a completely new chapter detailing how three decades of political decisions leading up to the "Great Recession" produced an economic crisis of epic proportions. By tracing the root causes of the financial crisis, Anyon effectively demonstrates the concrete effects of economic decision-making on the education sector, revealing in particular the disastrous impacts of these policies on black and Latino communities. Going beyond lament, *Radical Possibilities* offers those interested in a better future for the millions of America's poor families a set of practical and theoretical insights. Expanding on her paradigm for combating educational injustice, Anyon discusses the Occupy Wall Street movement as a recent example of popular resistance in this new edition, set against a larger framework of civil rights history. A ringing call to action, *Radical Possibilities* reminds readers that throughout U.S. history, equitable public policies have typically been created as a result of the political pressure brought to bear by social movements. Ultimately, Anyon's revelations teach us that the current moment contains its own very real radical possibilities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A year after her death, this second edition of Anyon's *Radical Possibilities* continues to trouble the status quo of American education systems that reinforce hegemonically stratified social structures...Anyon's voice is radical, and needs to be heard in the ongoing debate over where the US is headed...Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduate, graduate, and research collections."- D. D. Bouchard, Crown College, in CHOICE, January 2015

“In this new edition of *Radical Possibilities*, Anyon makes it clear that the real obstacles to change in urban schools are not lazy teachers, unmotivated students or disengaged parents. Rather, the roots of the problems confronting urban schools lie in an economic system that perpetuates gross inequality and protects the powerful at the expense of the poor. She also reminds us that the system can and has been challenged through collective agency and organized resistance. It is a message of pragmatic optimism that will inform, empower and inspire readers.”

• Pedro Noguera, Professor of Education, New York University

“This is a hopeful book for cynical times, a call to action rather than reaction, a call for change that helps the 99% rather than enriches the 1%. Jean Anyon asks us to envision a more equitable future so we can start to create it.”

• William G. Tierney, University Professor and Wilbur-Kieffer Professor, University of Southern California

“For over three decades, Jean Anyon has been one of the English speaking world's most powerful intellectuals on the subject of education, and this revised edition solidifies her legacy. The volume is a *must read*™ for anyone who works to understand and challenge the seemingly intractable relationship between race, class, schooling, and social and economic inequalities in the 21st century.”

• Lois Weis, State University of New York Distinguished Professor, University at Buffalo

Jean Anyon is professor of social and educational policy in the Doctoral Program in Urban Education at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is the author of the best-selling and critically acclaimed *Ghetto Schooling: A Political Economy of Urban School Reform*.

Great book lots of info, did not realize how much this book is cited in urban education. I happen to be reading this book in a class at the same time the author passed. We were referencing her website, I remember going to the site and receiving the bad news. Lots of info, good perspective on things

A great read! Very informative! A must read for everyone who cares about the educational injustice and racism that is perpetuated in our country through policies and agendas that are meant to protect

the white rich men!

Jean Anyon provides insights with remarkable clarity and logic. Other writers and experts on urban education postulate the same theories and findings, but Anyon presents them with quantitative findings thereby making compelling arguments.

Radical Possibilities is a well written description of several of the current crises in our nation, focusing on public education. Prof. Anyon excels at placing the public school crisis in its appropriate and complex economic context. I recommend the book to the well informed, well read reader. The book is well written and clearly organized. The later chapters offer a hope for change including an emphasis on working with Community Based organizations. I teach in a graduate program in Multi lingual Multicultural Education at Calif. State University-Sacramento. We have the good fortune of working with hundreds of teachers, over two thirds Latino and/or Asian. We used this book for the first time this year in a course on Advocacy and Change in Education. The Anyon book served well along with my own book, Choosing Democracy: a Practical guide to Multicultural Education (2004) We live in a very changing time from the era of the active Civil Rights movement. Teachers, and other educational workers, need to understand the complex interactions between social science analysis of the communities and school reform and/or school renewal. The Anyon book does this very well. She introduces important economics data in an understandable manner. In most settings readers will need assistance and further explanations of the basic economic concepts and relationships. Duane Campbell[...]

This text truly helped me understand how community vulnerability and poor policy connects to poorly performing schools.

If you work in the public sector in any way there would be great benefit in reading this... It reads like an essay, but has the weight of research in every line. Absolutely fantastic book for anyone who believes society can be evolved.

Inspiring! Must read if you are an education major or teacher!

Good book in good condition

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