Is Education a Privilege or a Right?
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The Shame of the Nation, Education 101, Professor Luperon

Background
- Kozol visited nearly 60 public schools in preparation for writing the book.
- It describes how, in the United States, black and Hispanic students tend to be concentrated in schools where they make up almost the entire student body.
- In the book, Kozol attacks the disparity in expenditures on education between central cities.

Content
Excluding Beauty:
"It isn’t a question of what students want. It is what the school may have available."

"I saw a rat," another child wrote. "It was a big fat rat. I saw the fat rat dead.... There were nine rats in the classroom."

"Of the 21 children in his kindergarten classroom, four were white. That was three more than I’d ever seen in kindergarten classes in the Bronx; but 99 percent of children in the school were poor...."

Biography
Jonathan Kozol, born September 5, 1936, is an American writer, educator, and activist who is best known for his books on public education in the United States. Kozol graduated from Noble and Greenough School in 1954 and Harvard University, summa cum laude, in 1958 with a degree in English Literature. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford. He did not, however, complete his Rhodes, deciding instead to go to Paris to learn to write fiction.

Critics
Government should be responsible for the conditions in which students go to school.
How can parents make a difference in the education system?

Facts
Facts have proven that the majority of students that attend high-poverty schools are African-American students.

Kozol found that conditions had grown worse for inner-city children in the 50 years since the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in Brown v. Board of Education dismantled the previous policy of de jure segregated schools and its concept of "separate but equal". In many cities, wealthier white families continued to leave the city to settle in suburbs, with minorities comprising most of the families left in the public school system.

Conclusion
"Separate but equal?"

"Of the 21 children in his kindergarten classroom, four were white. That was three more than I’d ever seen in kindergarten classes in the Bronx; but 99 percent of children in the school were poor...."