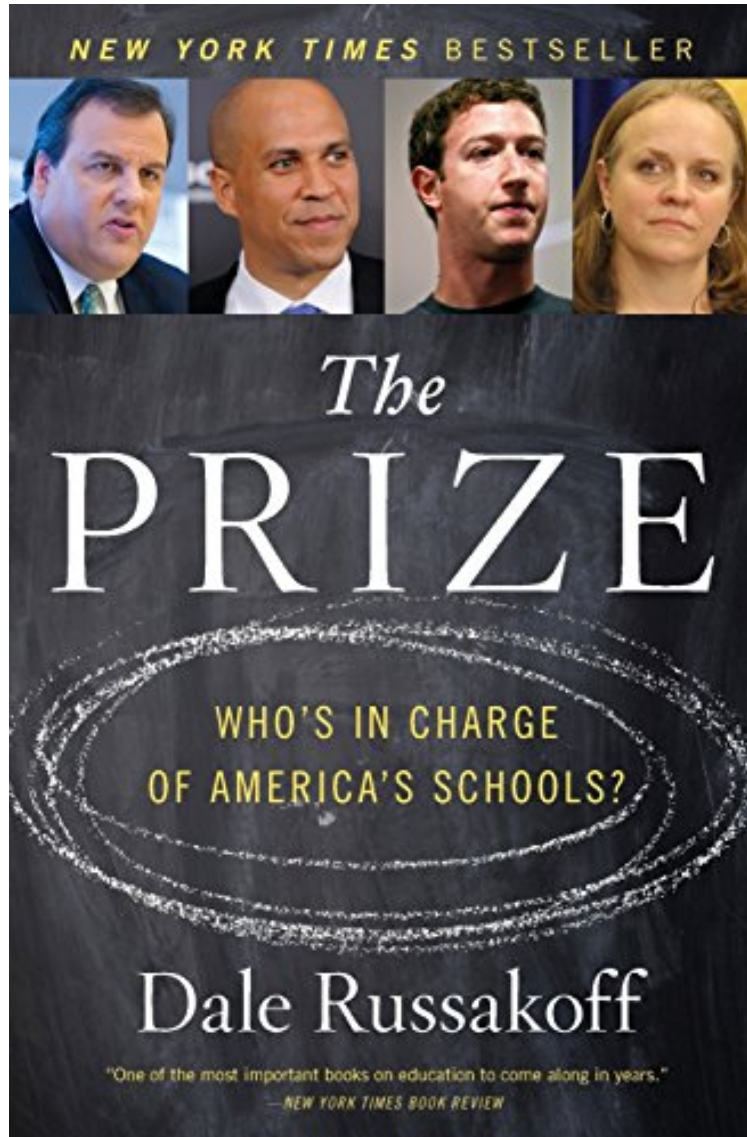


(Download free ebook) The Prize: Who's in Charge of America's Schools?

## The Prize: Who's in Charge of America's Schools?

*Dale Russakoff*

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**Dale Russakoff : The Prize: Who's in Charge of America's Schools?** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prize: Who's in Charge of America's Schools?:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Fixing NewarkBy Cynthia L. ChaseIf fixing urban education were easy there would be no problems in inner city schools. Unfortunately throwing money at the problem and instituting top-down change does not work. This long term study of Newark Public Schools over the last five or so years is an eye opening read. Required reading to fully understand what inner city poverty schools are up against and trying to

change.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good Intentions Without Accountability: How a Hollowed Out Govt Fails EducationBy Kindle CustomerBrilliantly researched and insightful reportage on how foundations are being held responsible for fixing education rather than the government. Russakoff's knowledge of effective instruction is a bit superficial: she sees teachers who love their students as enough, which unfortunately is not true. It was fascinating to consider that Cami Anderson's vision of effective instruction might likewise be narrow, not about loving kids, but about certain rigid protocols. The frustrating part is that I do believe Anderson and Zuckerberg wanted to do well. I believe that there are lots of folks out there who want to help children but do bad things in the name of helping children. Because there is no government oversight or clear expectations, public education is the Wild West with the casualties being young low SES children. It is a disheartening time. Time to vote and support the candidates with the least ties to lobbyists and the most intellectual integrity.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Prize: Who's in Charge of America's Schools? a review by Marylloyd ClaytorBy Kindle CustomerThis book gives an inside look at the education reform movement yet from an outside perspective. It gives the reader the jargon vocabulary of the education reform movement heard all over the United States. The author adopts the premise that Chris Christie, Corey Booker, and Mark Zuckerberg all are well intentioned men but their good will goes wrong. The author gives a reality check for the wealthy wading into communities with no background knowledge of the community. It also is a reality check for politicians utilizing education as a platform for their political ambitions without an understanding of the community they utilize for their platform. The teacher's union, local and national, and how the union approaches their work with the wealthy/political educational reformers with Newark as the stage is presented by the author. The unfortunate reality is the children of Newark were not being served during educational reform movement or in the aftermath of the educational reform movement. We as readers should consider the concept of "where are they now?". With the background the book presents the reader can determine what other reformers are doing now and what does that mean for education in the future. The reader can decide if the premise of the author of reformers as well intentioned men is correct or should the public further investigate motives and success of the educational reform movement In Newark and across the nation and the resulting deeper political, economic, and sociological results.Marylloyd ClaytorRCG Research Consulting Group

“One of the most important books on education to come along in years.” — New York Times Book Review A New York Times Notable Book · A Best Book of the Year, the Washington Post, the Atlantic, The New Yorker, and Publishers Weekly · A Best History Book of 2015, Amazon · Finalist for the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize · Finalist for the Bernstein Award · Winner of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Authors Award? “Impeccably researched . . . Russakoff pulls readers in with richly drawn real-world characters.” — Atlantic “Stunning . . . Russakoff’s narrative is rich with details and anecdotes that showcase the quality of her writing and bring Newark to life.” — Chicago Tribune When Mark Zuckerberg announced his \$100 million pledge to transform the Newark schools and create an education model that could be applied to any city in the nation, it looked like a huge win for New Jersey politicians Cory Booker and Chris Christie. But their plan met the opposition of Newark’s key education players, who were fiercely protective of their billion-dollar-a-year system — a prize that, for generations, had enriched seemingly everyone, except Newark’s students. With deeply drawn portraits of everyone from the philanthropists throwing millions at a haphazard plan, to the teachers fighting to reach students damaged by extreme poverty and violence, *The Prize* is a riveting account of the complexities and challenges that face all of America’s failing schools. “Russakoff provides insights that should prove useful both to contemporary school reformers and to citizens hoping to understand their efforts.” — Washington Post “A moving and thought-provoking book . . . Invaluable.” — New York Times

A New York Times Bestseller “A brilliantly reported behind-the-scenes account of one city’s attempt to right its failing public schools. . . .Russakoff maintains a clear-eyed distance, her observations penetratingly honest and incisive to what she sees and what she hears. I suspect some may have regretted letting Russakoff in. We couldn’t have asked for a better guide. . . . *THE PRIZE* is paradoxically a sobering yet exhilarating tale. For alongside the stories of those calling the shots, Russakoff tells the stories of those most profoundly affected by their decisions: teachers, students and their parents. . . . I repeatedly found myself writing in the margins, ‘Wow,’ either because of the heroic efforts by teachers and staffers or because of the obstacles facing their students. . . . *THE PRIZE* may well be one of the most important books on education to come along in years.”—Alex Kotlowitz, New York Times Book “A stunning account of efforts by wealthy outsiders and ambitious politicians to fix Newark's failing public schools. Veteran journalist Dale Russakoff's narrative is rich with details and anecdotes that showcase the quality of her writing and bring Newark to life for people who have never lived or visited there....The story likely will unnerve educators, reformers, taxpayers, politicians, parents and students anywhere.”—Chicago Tribune “if you read Russakoff’s account and find your beliefs vindicated, you’re not trying hard enough.”—The Seventy Four “Washington Post reporter Russakoff’s fascinating study of the struggle to reform the Newark school system reveals the inner workings of a wide range of systemic and grassroots problems (charter schools, testing, accountability, private donors) plaguing education

reform today... Russakoff's eagle-eyed view of the current state of the public education system in Newark and the United States is one of the finest education surveys in recent memory."—Publishers Weekly, STARRED "This is of one the most disturbing and powerful books I've read in years. The point of this story is not that the well intentioned Mark Zuckerberg and his wife gave \$100 million to help those less fortunate. The point is they gave it to the wrong people. This deeply researched story left me cheering for teachers, crying for schoolchildren, and raging at politicians. With *The Prize*, Dale Russakoff demonstrates why she is one of the great nonfiction voices of our time." —James McBride, author of *The Color of Water* and *The Good Lord Bird* "Dale Russakoff managed to get amazing access to the inside story of Mark Zuckerberg's giant gift to Newark's schools. And she shows how it all fell apart, derailed and compromised by arrogant reformers, ambitious politicians, and short-sighted special interests. An essential history of the modern education-reform movement, both infuriating and inspiring." —Paul Tough, author of *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character* "Dale Russakoff, one of America's great journalists, illuminates one of the country's great problems—the failure of inner city schools—with on-the-ground reporting that extends from the governor's office and fancy philanthropies down (or up) to the small miracles performed every day by dedicated Newark classroom teachers. Defenders of charter schools and district schools will find not the usual talking points and platitudes, but hard truths contained in Russakoff's brilliant blend of skeptical and compassionate reportage." —Jonathan Alter, author of *The Center Holds: Obama and His Enemies* "With *The Prize* Dale Russakoff has brilliantly rendered the hopes, complexities, pitfalls, and flaws of the efforts to reform American education. This is not simply the compelling story of a single conflict-ridden school system, it is a metaphor for the failing institutions that have betrayed an entire generation of American children."—Jelani Cobb, author of *To the Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip-Hop Aesthetic* "The *Prize* is a riveting cautionary tale. Despite the best intentions of philanthropists and politicians, big money and big data will not save urban education, as long as reform efforts are undemocratic and overlook the realities of poor children's lives. With her deep ties to Newark, only Dale Russakoff could have told this poignant story. The *Prize* is essential reading for anyone who cares about how to give hope to America's most vulnerable kids."—Dana Goldstein, author of *The Teacher Wars*