



Children of Big Brother: What It Means to Go Back to School in the American Police State

It's not easy being a child in the American police state.

Danger lurks around every corner and comes at you from every direction, especially when Big Brother is involved.

Out on the streets, you've got the menace posed by [police officers who shoot first and ask questions later](#). In your neighborhoods, you've got to worry about the Nanny State and its network of busybodies turning parents in for allowing their children to [walk to school](#) alone, [walk to the park](#) alone, [play at the beach](#) alone, or even [play in their own yard](#) alone.

The tentacles of the police state even intrude on the sanctity of one's home, with the government believing it knows better than you—the parent—what is best for your child. This criminalization of parenthood has run the gamut in recent years from parents being arrested for attempting to walk their kids home from school to [parents being fined and threatened with jail time for their kids' bad behavior](#) or tardiness at school.

This doesn't even touch on what happens to your kids when they're at school—especially the public schools—where parents have little to no control over what their kids are taught, how they are taught, how and why they are disciplined, and the extent to which they are being indoctrinated into marching in lockstep with the government's authoritarian playbook.

The message is chillingly clear: your children are not your own but are, in fact, wards of the state who have been temporarily entrusted to your care. Should you fail to carry out your duties to the government's satisfaction, the children in your care will be re-assigned elsewhere.

This is what it means to go back to school in America today: where parents have to worry about [school resource officers who taser teenagers](#) and [handcuff kindergartners](#), school officials who have [criminalized childhood behavior](#), school lockdowns and [terror drills](#) that teach your children to fear and comply, and a police state mindset that has transformed the schools into [quasi-prisons](#).

Instead of being taught the three R's of education (reading, writing and arithmetic), young people are being drilled in the three I's of life in the American police state: indoctrination, intimidation and intolerance.



John Whitehead



Written by [John and Nisha Whitehead](#) on September 5, 2024

Indeed, while young people today are learning first-hand what it means to be at the epicenter of [politically charged culture wars](#), test scores indicate that [students are *not* learning how to succeed in social studies, math and reading](#). Rather, government officials are churning out compliant drones who know little to nothing about their history or their freedoms.

What does it mean for the future of freedom at large when these young people, trained to be mindless automatons, are someday running the government?

Under the direction of government officials focused on making the schools more authoritarian (sold to parents as a bid to make the schools safer), young people in America are now first in line to be searched, surveilled, spied on, threatened, tied up, locked down, treated like criminals for non-criminal behavior, tasered and in some cases shot.

This is how you groom young people to march in lockstep with a police state.

America's young people have become casualties of a post-9/11 mindset that has transformed the country into a locked-down, militarized, crisis-fueled mockery of a representative government.

Roped into the government's profit-driven campaign to keep the nation "safe" from drugs, disease, and weapons, America's schools have transformed themselves into quasi-prisons, complete with surveillance cameras, metal detectors, police patrols, zero tolerance policies, lockdowns, drug-sniffing dogs, strip searches and active shooter drills.

Students are not only punished for minor transgressions such as playing cops and robbers on the playground, bringing LEGOs to school, or having a food fight, but the punishments have become far more severe, shifting from detention and visits to the principal's office into misdemeanor tickets, juvenile court, handcuffs, tasers and even prison terms.

Having police in the schools only adds to the danger.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, school resource officers have become de facto wardens in elementary, middle and high schools, doling out their own brand of justice to the so-called "criminals" in their midst with the help of [tasers, pepper spray, batons and brute force](#).

Not even the younger, elementary school-aged kids are being spared these "hardening" tactics.

Paradoxically, by the time you add in the lockdowns and active shooter drills, instead of making the schools safer, school officials have succeeded in creating an environment in which children are so traumatized that they suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, nightmares, anxiety, and mistrust of adults in authority, as well as feelings of anger, depression, humiliation, despair and delusion.

The fallout has been what you'd expect, with the nation's young people treated like hardened criminals: handcuffed, arrested, tasered, tackled and taught the painful lesson that the Constitution (especially the Fourth Amendment) doesn't mean much in the American police state.

Likewise, the harm caused by attitudes and policies that treat America's young people as government property is not merely a short-term deprivation of individual rights. It is also a long-term effort to brainwash our young people into believing that civil liberties are luxuries that can and will be discarded at the whim and caprice of government officials if they deem doing so is for the so-called "greater good" (in other words, that which perpetuates the aims and goals of the police state).

So, what's the answer, not only for the here-and-now but for the future of this country, when these same young people are someday in charge?



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How do you convince someone who has been routinely handcuffed, shackled, tied down, locked up, and immobilized by government officials—all before he reaches the age of adulthood—that he has any rights at all, let alone the right to challenge wrongdoing, resist oppression and defend himself against injustice?

Most of all, how do you persuade a fellow American that the government works for him when, for most of his young life, he has been incarcerated in an institution that teaches young people to be obedient and compliant citizens who don't talk back, don't question and don't challenge authority?

As I make clear in my book [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) and in its fictional counterpart [The Erik Blair Diaries](#), if we want to raise up a generation of freedom fighters who will actually operate with justice, fairness, accountability and equality towards each other and their government, we must start by running the schools like freedom forums.

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