

# Childhood *without* Oppression

( view this presentation at: [bit.ly/alt-ed-symposium](https://bit.ly/alt-ed-symposium) )

# “Tradition” -versus- “Convention”

## The History of Human Society

For 1.8 million years, we lived as egalitarian hunter-gatherer societies.

99.4%

0.6%

For 10,000 years we have lived as an agricultural society.

Studies about the ways in which children learn from six different hunter-gatherer cultures (three in Africa, one in Malaysia, one in the Philippines, and one in New Guinea) showed the following similarities:

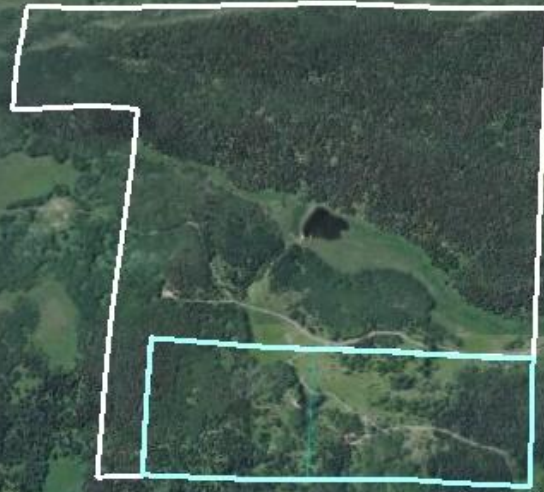
- Hunter-gatherer children must learn an enormous amount to become successful adults.
- The children learn all this without being taught.
- The children are afforded enormous amounts of time to play and explore.
- Children observe adults' activities and incorporate those activities into their play.

### Reference:

Children Educate Themselves III: The Wisdom of Hunter-Gatherers, by Peter Gray Ph.D.  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/freedom-learn/200808/children-educate-themselves-ii-i-the-wisdom-hunter-gatherers>



**“The first man who, having fenced in a piece of land,  
said ‘This is mine,’ and found people naïve enough to  
believe him, that man was the true founder of civil  
society.”**



— Jean-Jacques Rousseau,  
*Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*



# Discrimination, Fear, Otherness



# Governance Means Control Over Others



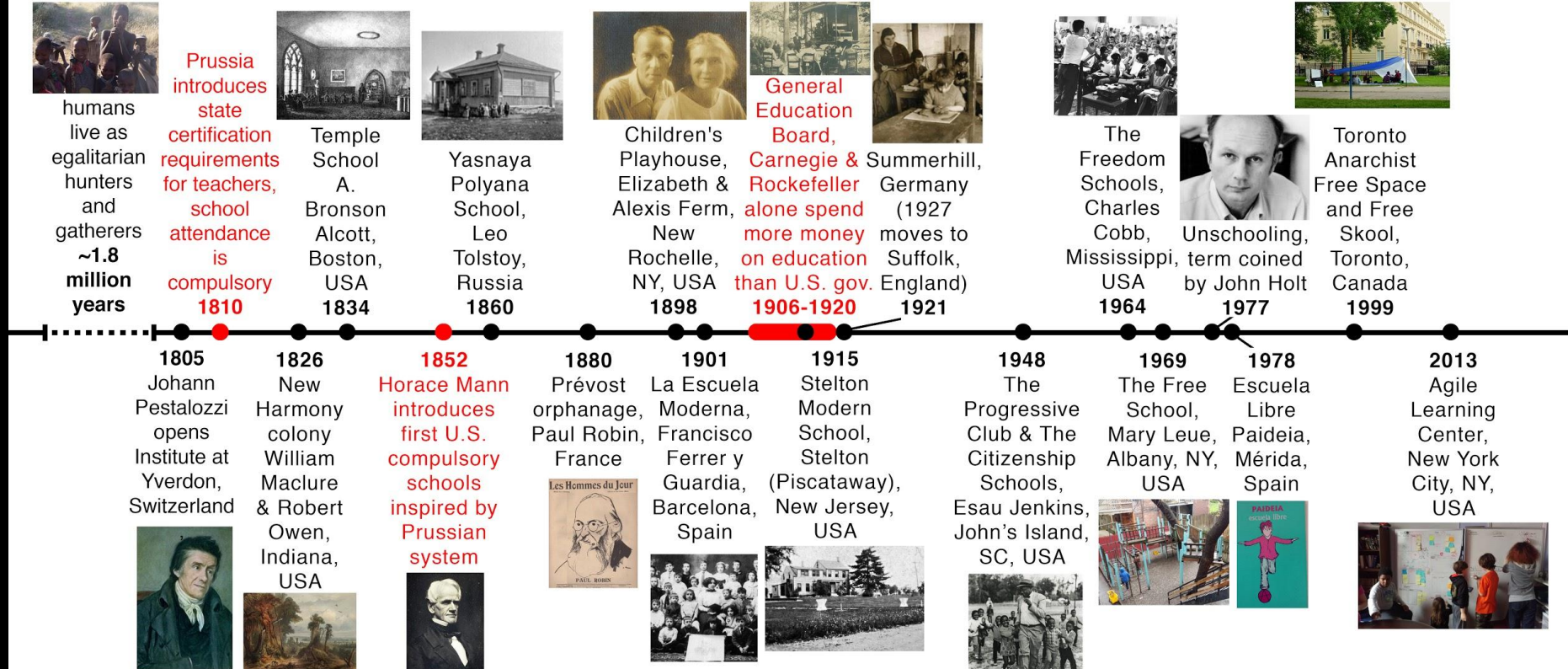
## Some Institutions

- schools
- prisons
- psychiatric wards
- corporations
- factories
- nursing homes

“The violence we do to children...”



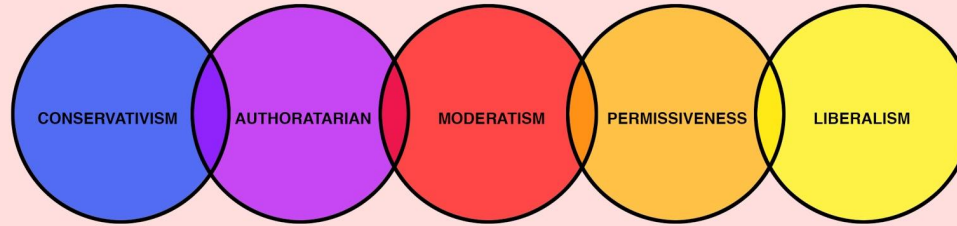
# A Brief Timeline of Anarchistic and Self-Directed Education



# “EDUCATION IS A POLITICAL ACT”

(a broad generalization of political and educational models)

## Fear Based Models



Military Schools

Prepatory Schools

Charter Schools

Public Schools

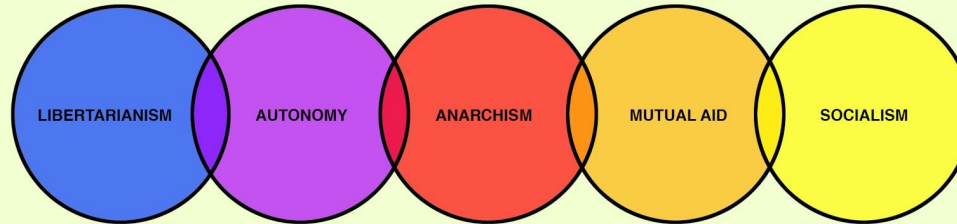
Montessori Schools

Waldorf Schools

Progressive Schools

Democratic Schools

## Trust Based Models



Sudbury Schools

“Self-Governed” Unschoolers

Liberated Learners

Agile Learning Centers

Free Skools

Modern Schools

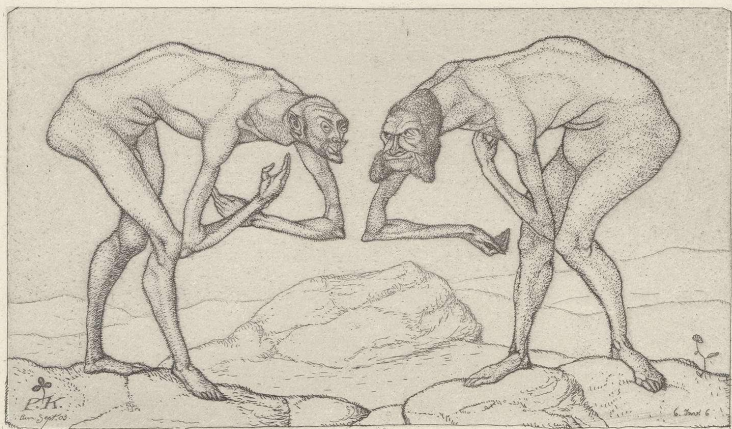
“Decolonizing” Unschoolers

Summerhill

Free Schools

“Communal” Unschoolers





**"Two Men Meet, Each Believing the Other to Be of Higher Rank," Paul Klee**



**A basic traffic intersection**

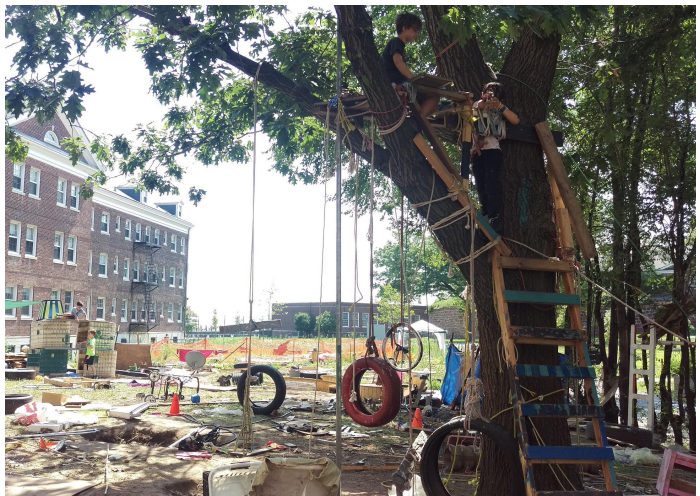


**A British roundabout**



**A Hanoi traffic intersection**





play:groundNYC junk playground



Media awareness: make zines & newspapers



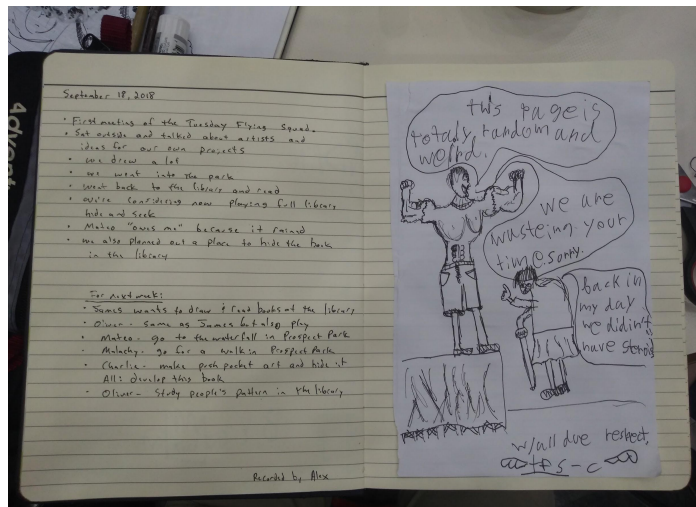
## Ramble the City

"A city that is really concerned with the needs of its young will make the whole environment accessible to them, because, whether invited to or not, they are going to use the whole environment."

-Colin Ward, *The Child in the City*



Tuesday Flying Squad





Alexander Khost

[escuela-moderna@riseup.net](mailto:escuela-moderna@riseup.net)  
[voiceofthechildren.nyc](http://voiceofthechildren.nyc)

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