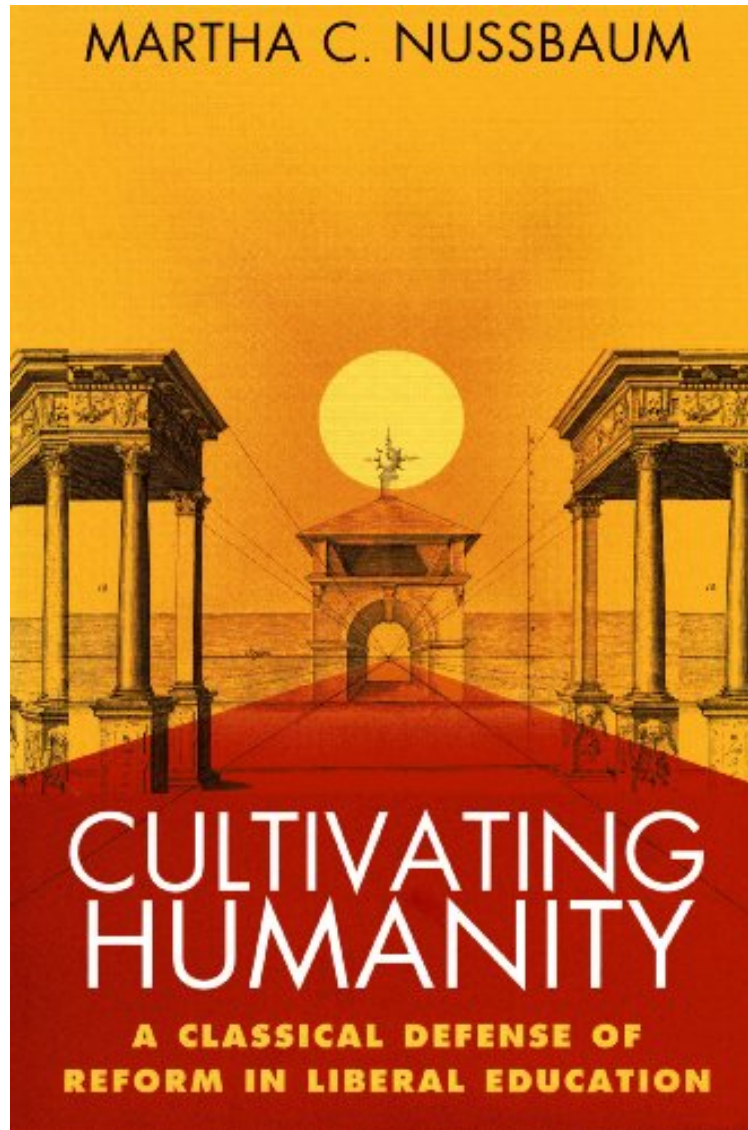


[Download] Cultivating Humanity: Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education

# Cultivating Humanity: Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education

Von Martha C. Nussbaum

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Von Martha C. Nussbaum : Cultivating Humanity: Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cultivating Humanity: Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. How to Become a Citizen of the WorldVon Antonio ArchI have had the privelige of studying and discussing Matha

Nussbaum's work for the past several years at the Thomas More Institute in Montreal, a wonderful little think-tank dedicated to education and learning by the Socratic Questioning method; after learning a lifetime's worth from this one small volume, I wish that the title of my review could be the sub-title of this book. Questioning this book has answered many a question on many levels allowing colleagues and I to piece together answers to life's most important questions on education, world citizenship and what it really means to be cosmopolitan. This book has been especially important as reading and discussing it has answered any question or doubt that I might have had about the liberal arts education - experience. Through discussion this text has been brought to life and my choice of education thus makes more sense to me today than it did when the experience was begun several years ago. I wish that there could be a way for every educator, legislator, parent and student to be exposed to this book and the philosophy behind it; anyone who picks it up, regardless of background, will find it enriching if not enlightening. One cannot read this work without wanting to strive towards becoming a true citizen of the world.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Flaws in the Details  
Von Ein Kunde  
No one can doubt the good intentions and noble sentiments of Nussbaum. But I have gone through this book very carefully, looking up her references (and noting the lack of references in critical places), and I have found its arguments to be on very shaky ground. Just take the example of her use of Plato. She says he was an elitist but that Socrates was a democrat. But she gives no quotes or citations to show that Socrates was a democrat. She admires him in the Republic for being open to other "cultures," but that she doesn't note that the philosopher-king alone philosophizes in the city of that dialogue. (She says there's a difference between Plato and Socrates and that the Republic presents the views of Socrates--though she never explains how she can tell the difference or how she knows the Republic presents Socrates' views.) She distorts Plato by claiming he shows Socrates saying philosophy is for everyone. She misunderstands Socrates' assertion in the Apology that no one in the jury will believe him if he says the best way to live is to philosophize. (N. insists Socrates thinks philosophy is for everyone, while he plainly says no ordinary Athenian values philosophy or--even after his long life--can be convinced by him of its value.) Many such flaws in her discussion of other philosophers can be found. But even more striking is that she herself is very closed-minded she deals with her opponents. She tends to be very unfair in characterizing their positions. I think it's critical that someone who insists the world needs more openness should demonstrate openness. Nussbaum doesn't.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What a way to make the world a better place to live  
Von Ein Kunde  
This is a must read to those who oppose and fancy a "liberal" education. Nussbaum has done a remarkable job explaining how learning about other cultures and lifestyles can truly enrich a person's life. A book like this opens people's minds to new and critical ways of looking at the world and at yourself. The only way to make this world a better place to live is through education and understanding. Nussbaum's book provides valuable information on why to question what we have learned as "normal" history. The history of African Americans, Native Americans, Women, Asians, and homosexuals have been suppressed for centuries by those in power. If we are to understand each other as individuals and human beings, we must learn of about one another. Nussbaum's book is one right step in that direction.

Kurzbeschreibung  
How can higher education today create a community of critical thinkers and searchers for truth that transcends the boundaries of class, gender, and nation? Martha C. Nussbaum, philosopher and classicist, argues that contemporary curricular reform is already producing such citizens of the world in its advocacy of diverse forms of cross-cultural studies. Her vigorous defense of the new education is rooted in Seneca's ideal of the citizen who scrutinizes tradition critically and who respects the ability to reason wherever it is found in rich or poor, native or foreigner, female or male. Drawing on Socrates and the Stoics, Nussbaum establishes three core values of liberal education: critical self-examination, the ideal of the world citizen, and the development of the narrative imagination. Then, taking us into classrooms and campuses across the nation, including prominent research universities, small independent colleges, and religious institutions, she shows how these values are (and in some instances are not) being embodied in particular courses. She defends such burgeoning subject areas as gender, minority, and gay studies against charges of moral relativism and low standards, and underscores their dynamic and fundamental contribution to critical reasoning and world citizenship. For Nussbaum, liberal education is alive and well on American campuses in the late twentieth century. It is not only viable, promising, and constructive, but it is essential to a democratic society. Taking up the challenge of conservative critics of academe, she argues persuasively that sustained reform in the aim and content of liberal education is the most vital and invigorating force in higher education today.

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Multiculturalism is often attacked in higher education as either a bankrupt moral relativism or an anti-white-male power play. In *Cultivating Humanity*, philosopher Martha Nussbaum draws on some dead white males, namely Socrates, Seneca, and Cicero, to defend diversity studies in higher education. Nussbaum examines diversity programs in universities across America and finds that by coupling diversity studies with rigorous philosophical inquiry the programs are quite successful at accomplishing their mission: to turn out citizens well-grounded in their own culture and with the rational capacity and empathy to understand and explore differing points of view. For anyone who questions the necessity of a liberal education in a university curriculum, *Cultivating Humanity* is required reading. *Pressestimmen*  
One of the

strengths of "Cultivating Humanity is that it explores the conflict between authority and reason explicitly--even if it doesn't entirely resolve it. Nussbaum's untrammled confidence in both the universality of reason and the diversity of human life makes hers a challenging and novel book, one that strongly endorses multicultural study while distancing itself from nearly everything typically associated with it, including postmodernism, identity politics, and the critique of philosophical universalism...If her book is read as carefully and as sympathetically as it was written, it just might give humanism a good name in the academy again...For secular intellectuals who agree that the unexamined life is not worth living, it seems only human to hope that Nussbaum's vision of higher education will guide American universities in the twenty-first century.A judicious and empirically grounded defence of recent curricular innovations...Martha Nussbaum's book moves beyond the wars over PC and the curriculum, transcending the terms in which they were fought...Her report should end the tired brandishing of caricatures that has marked the academic culture wars. -- Dennis Wrong "Times Literary Supplement"Nussbaum is a culture warrior who earned her stripes defending universities from charges of caving in to the demands of politically correct multiculturalists. In this vigorous response to critics, Nussbaum adopts an unusual approach in her defense of the college-level multicultural curriculum. Instead of casting multicultural instruction as a type of payback for the sins of Western racism and sexism, she artfully argues how the Western philosophical tradition itself leads directly to a multicultural agenda...Nussbaum's arguments are convincing. She is careful to avoid the pitfalls of cultural relativism, and there is no debating the cosmopolitan effects of the educational process she supports. Her work is a welcome addition to the ongoing debate about culture and curriculum.multi-cultural liberal education which opens its students to alternative values and traditions.hand...[The] book is a formidable, perhaps definitive defense of diversity on American campuses.report should end the tired brandishing of caricatures that has marked the academic culture wars.educational process she supports. Her work is a welcome addition to the ongoing debate about culture and curriculum.undergraduate education and advocates continued change and reform as part of a commitment to the core values of liberal education.Stoic philosopher Seneca), Nussbaum emphasizes reason, careful argument, logical analysis, self-questioning, the pursuit of truth and objectivity, and critical inquiry.academy again...For secular intellectuals who agree that the unexamined life is not worth living, it seems only human to hope that Nussbaum's vision of higher education will guide American universities in the twenty-first century.Cultivating Humanity is the most potent salvo yet in the academic culture wars launched back in 1987 by Allan Bloom's Closing of the American Mind . Nussbaum reveals herself to be an expert practitioner of intellectual judo, taking the most powerful thrusts of the opposition and using them to stake out an eminently sensible defense of ongoing reform in higher education.One of the strengths of Cultivating Humanity is that it explores the conflict between authority and reason explicitly--even if it doesn't entirely resolve it. Nussbaum's untrammled confidence in both the universality of reason and the diversity of human life makes hers a challenging and novel book, one that strongly endorses multicultural study while distancing itself from nearly everything typically associated with it, including postmodernism, identity politics, and the critique of philosophical universalism...If her book is read as carefully and as sympathetically as it was written, it just might give humanism a good name in the academy again...For secular intellectuals who agree that the unexamined life is not worth living, it seems only human to hope that Nussbaum's vision of higher education will guide American universities in the twenty-first century.[A] judicious and empirically grounded defence of recent curricular innovations...Martha Nussbaum's book moves beyond the wars over PC and the curriculum, transcending the terms in which they were fought...[H]er report should end the tired brandishing of caricatures that has marked the academic culture wars.--Dennis Wrong "Times Literary Supplement "Nussbaum provides an accessible examination of recent curricular reforms. Her assessments are enriched by a detailed discussion of the development of specific courses at a wide range of "test case" colleges and universities. Extreme partisans in the "culture wars" will take little comfort in Nussbaum's dispassionate defense of Socratic education and citizenship. But general readers, those interested in thinking about the larger purpose of higher education and how this country's colleges and universities are both fulfilling and failing that mission, will find Nussbaum's assessment both reassuring and challenging. Perhaps most important, her articulation of the classical ideal of "cultivating humanity" will serve as a valuable guidepost for directing future reforms.--Timothy P. Duffy "Washington Post "Nussbaum's wide ranging discussion of liberal education and its evolution at the end of the century is both thoughtful and concrete. She supports the idea of liberal education, suggesting that it should be shaped by institutional realities at individual colleges and universities, and by broader intellectual trends in American and world society...Nussbaum does not have a specific program to promote. Rather, she reflects on the state of American undergraduate education and advocates continued change and reform as part of a commitment to the core values of liberal education.--P.G. Altbach "Choice "If Socrates had come back to help us think through the culture wars, he would have written Martha Nussbaum's brilliant, grounded book.--Vartan Gregorian, President Emeritus, Brown UniversityMartha Nussbaum has skillfully used her familiarity with the classics of Western philosophy, particularly the ideas of Socrates and Seneca, to demonstrate both the educational aptness and the imperative importance of the study of non-Western cultures, gender, and race in liberal education today. Her study provides an excellent refutation of the views of those who would mummify the great authors of the past instead of learning and teaching in their true and timeless spirit. This is a valuable guidebook for educating "citizens of the world."--Nannerl O. Keohane,

President, Duke University This is a vital, timely, and much needed contribution to the debate on the nature of undergraduate education. Few people are more qualified than Martha Nussbaum to write on this topic. Here she manages to combine a fine appreciation of what the past teaches us, and what we need to create for the future of liberal education.--Walter E. Massey, President, Morehouse College "Cultivating Humanity" is as important a book on the nature and needs of higher education as I have read in the past decade. Deeply grounded in classical thought, it demonstrates a remarkable openness to the ongoing experience of human history and culture. This is a book not only of luminous intelligence, but of compassion and love.--J. Robert Barth, S.J., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Boston College Martha Nussbaum defends a Socratic view of education, which places the examined life at its heart. Her vision also has elements rooted in Stoic cosmopolitanism and stresses the centrality of the ability to think what it might be like to be in the shoes of a person different from oneself. Because she is not only a fine philosopher but also a distinguished classicist, Nussbaum roots her argument in a serious defense of the deep continuing relevance of classics. This is a marvelous book, which should be read by all who care about the present and the future of the university.--K. Anthony Appiah, Professor of Afro-American Studies and Philosophy, Harvard University "Cultivating Humanity" is the most potent salvo yet in the academic culture wars launched back in 1987 by Allan Bloom's "Closing of the American Mind." Nussbaum reveals herself to be an expert practitioner of intellectual judo, taking the most powerful thrusts of the opposition and using them to stake out an eminently sensible defense of ongoing reform in higher education.--Scott Stossel "Boston Phoenix "One of the strengths of "Cultivating Humanity" is that it explores the conflict between authority and reason explicitly--even if it doesn't entirely resolve it. Nussbaum's untrammelled confidence in both the universality of reason and the diversity of human life makes hers a challenging and novel book, one that strongly endorses multicultural study while distancing itself from nearly everything typically associated with it, including postmodernism, identity politics, and the critique of philosophical universalism...If her book is read as carefully and as sympathetically as it was written, it just might give humanism a good name in the academy again...For secular intellectuals who agree that the unexamined life is not worth living, it seems only human to hope that Nussbaum's vision of higher education will guide American universities in the twenty-first century.--Michael BERubE "Lingua Franca "The best answer to attacks on multiculturalism can be found in Martha C. Nussbaum's Cultivating Humanity. The book is a passionate, closely argued and classical defense of multiculturalism: drawing on the ideas of Socrates, the Stoics and Seneca (from whom she derives her title), she steers a narrow course between cranky traditionalists and anti-Western radicals who would reject her Socratic method out of hand...[The] book is a formidable, perhaps definitive defense of diversity on American campuses.--James Shapiro "New York Times Book "Over the last decade or so, Nussbaum's work has gone off in a new...direction and one that once again draws on her remarkable feeling for the ancient world. She started reading the Stoics...Nussbaum discovered in Cicero, Seneca and Marcus Aurelius a much richer and more subtle moral and political theory than they are usually given credit for. More importantly, perhaps, they prompted her to start thinking about what the Stoics' ideals of global citizenship--their belief in the fundamental equality of all people--would look like in practice. The results can be seen in her insistence, in Cultivating Humanity, on the importance of a multi-cultural liberal education which opens its students to alternative values and traditions.--Ben Rogers "Independent on Sunday "Cultivating Humanity is the most potent salvo yet in the academic culture wars launched back in 1987 by Allan Bloom's Closing of the American Mind. Nussbaum reveals herself to be an expert practitioner of intellectual judo, taking the most powerful thrusts of the opposition and using them to stake out an eminently sensible defense of ongoing reform in higher education.--Scott Stossel "Boston Phoenix "Nussbaum has succeeded in saying something fresh, forceful, and interesting about curricular reform and the culture wars. Cultivating Humanity is persuasively argued, philosophically well-grounded, and firmly based on Nussbaum's own experiences as a visitor, lecturer, and teacher at a wide range of colleges and universities. She draws upon the best elements of current work in feminism and the study of race and ethnicity even as she calls attention to excesses and errors in new pedagogy and scholarship that need to be remedied...Throughout Cultivating Humanity (the title adapts a phrase from the Stoic philosopher Seneca), Nussbaum emphasizes reason, careful argument, logical analysis, self-questioning, the pursuit of truth and objectivity, and critical inquiry.--William E. Cain "Boston Sunday Globe "One of the strengths of Cultivating Humanity is that it explores the conflict between authority and reason explicitly--even if it doesn't entirely resolve it. Nussbaum's untrammelled confidence in both the universality of reason and the diversity of human life makes hers a challenging and novel book, one that strongly endorses multicultural study while distancing itself from nearly everything typically associated with it, including postmodernism, identity politics, and the critique of philosophical universalism...If her book is read as carefully and as sympathetically as it was written, it just might give humanism a good name in the academy again...For secular intellectuals who agree that the unexamined life is not worth living, it seems only human to hope that Nussbaum's vision of higher education will guide American universities in the twenty-first century.--Michael BERubE "Lingua Franca "Cultivating Humanity is as important a book on the nature and needs of higher education as I have read in the past decade. Deeply grounded in classical thought, it demonstrates a remarkable openness to the ongoing experience of human history and culture. 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