

Competition
“America’s most sacred cow”

“Well researched and sound, No Contest , (Alfie Kohn’s book on competition) exposes erroneous assumptions about the inevitability and value of competition. This book deserves our attention”

Carl Rogers

“Most people think that learning is encouraged through comparison, whereas the contrary is the fact. Comparison brings about frustration and merely encourages envy, which is called competition. Like other forms of persuasion, comparison prevents learning and breeds fear”

Krishnamurti Total Freedom

“Contrary to the views espoused by Freud, Lorenz, Ardrey and others, aggression is NOT essentially innate. Rather, it seems to be a learned form of social behavior, acquired in the same manner as other types of activity and influenced by many of the same social, situational, and environmental factors.”

Robert A. Baron Human Aggression
(from over 300 research studies)

“Cooperation is an essentially humanizing experience that predisposes participants to a benevolent view of others. It allows them to transcend egocentric and objectifying postures, encourages trust, sensitivity, open communication, and, ultimately, prosocial activity. But raising children in a competitive environment not only deprives them of these advantages, it is also positively destructive. In fact, one group of researchers has concluded that, competition may serve to suppress generosity to others to a greater extent than cooperation serves to enhance it.”

Alfie Kohn The Brighter Side of Human Nature

“David and Roger Johnson and their colleagues published an ambitious meta-analysis (that is, a review of other’s findings) in 1981. In what is surely the most conclusive survey of its kind, they reviewed 122 studies from 1924 to 1980, including every North American study they could find that considered achievement or performance data in competitive, cooperative, and/or individualistic structures. The remarkable results: 65 studies found that cooperation promotes higher achievement than competition, 8 showed the reverse, and 36 showed no statistically significant difference. Cooperation promoted higher achievement than independent work in 108 studies, while 6 found the reverse, and 42 found no difference. The superiority of cooperation held for ALL SUBJECT areas, and ALL AGE groups.”

David W. Johnson, et al

“The Effects of Cooperative, Competitive and Individualistic Goal Structures on Achievement”

“For two centuries our educational system has been based upon competitiveness . . . If you are a student who knows the correct answer and the teacher calls on one of the other kids, it is likely that you will sit there hoping and praying the kid will come up with the wrong answer so that you will have a chance to show the teacher how smart you are. . . .Indeed, children’s peers are their enemies – to be beaten.”

Elliot Aronson PhD, The Social Animal

“In so far as man is concerned, if competition, in its aggressive combative sense, ever had any adaptive value among men, which is to be GREATLY DOUBTED, it is quite clear that it has no adaptive value whatever in the modern world. Perhaps never before in the history of man has there been so high a premium upon the adaptive value of cooperative behavior.”

Ashly Montagu Darwin, Competition and Cooperation

“Sports is war minus the shooting”

George Orwell

“”The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Harrow and Eton”

Wellington

“The true mission of American sports is to prepare young people for war.”

Eisenhower

“Upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that, upon other fields, on other days, will bear the fruits of victory.”

Gen. Douglas MacArthur

“The high incidence of ulcer has often been related to the excessively competitive life in modern Western culture.”

Rollo May Ph.D

“Competitive pressures are a prominent contributor to the alarming rise in suicide rates among young people.”

Herbert Hendin M.D. Suicide in America

“The competitive mentality prevails in schools and destroys feelings of human fraternity and cooperation. It conceives of achievement not as derived from the love for productive and thoughtful work, but as springing from personal ambition and fear of rejection.”

Albert Einstein