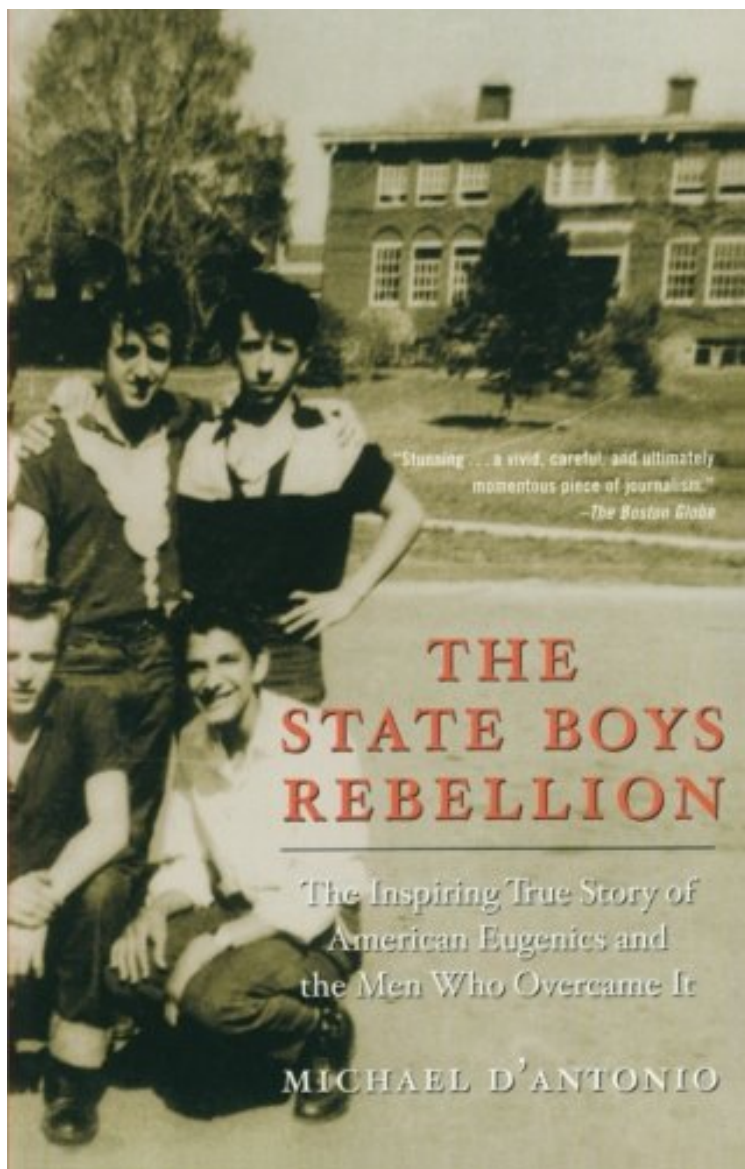


(Ebook pdf) The State Boys Rebellion

The State Boys Rebellion

Michael D'Antonio

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Michael D'Antonio : The State Boys Rebellion before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The State Boys Rebellion:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Powerful Story Told With Dignity and Documented Research By Charli Mills An insightful read that includes how and why State Schools were developed and led to this story. During my own family research I discovered a relative who had been institutionalized and sterilized during the height of eugenics. Up until that discovery, I didn't really know what eugenics was about. This book uses the stories of the State

Boys in MA to better explain such programs and why they were grossly unjust. Yet, D'Antonio does not write a finger-pointing or sensationalized book. Instead, he gives dignity to the stories of the State Boys and lets the remarkably compassionate and intelligent voice of Fred Boyer come through the book. If you are interested in the American history of institutions, ideas on what it means to be feeble-minded or the evolution of treatment. "The State Boys Rebellion" is a good read. My Kindle version had some superficial formatting typos, but they are easy to overlook (such as missing apostrophes for possessive nouns). A few places were redundant, but neither of these criticisms deter from the power of the story or the quality of the research upon which it is built. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Historical book written like a novel By Jennifer I had to read this book for a history class and I have to say it offered a nice break from the usual dense books that I have had to read in the past for classes. The book is written through the eyes of Freddy, a man who spent the majority of his youth living in Fernald, a state home, because he was classified as feebleminded. However, most of these boys would be deemed normal today, or at worst would be diagnosed with a learning disability. These children came from broken homes and had no parents who could advocate for them. State Boys Rebellion focuses on the children who were classified as feebleminded and did not belong in the school. State Boys Rebellion does a remarkable job providing the history of the Eugenics movement and life inside of a state home. For most of these men, Fernald had an everlasting impact on their lives, as they were not properly educated nor were they properly nurtured. I felt that the personal account of Freddy allowed me to be a bit more sympathetic than I normally am with history books. What I found most interesting was the idea of Cold War testing being done on the children there. It left me wanting to dig deeper into Cold War testing and how many other people were victims of this. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unbelievable, but true! By Robin MA lifelong resident of the Boston area, I had always heard stories about this institution. When this book was highly recommended by a college student, I decided to read it. The atrocities that these brave people had to endure since childhood were difficult to read about, but what kept me reading was the strength of spirit and humanity of so many of these "boys". This is a sad part of American history, not just at Fernald, but throughout our country. I finished the book feeling as if I know some of the people, and they are to be admired.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist tells the amazing story of how a group of imprisoned boys won their freedom, found justice, and survived one of the darkest and least-known episodes of American history. In the early twentieth century, United States health officials used IQ tests to single out "feebleminded" children and force them into institutions where they were denied education, sterilized, drugged, and abused. Under programs that ran into the 1970s, more than 250,000 children were separated from their families, although many of them were merely unwanted orphans, truants, or delinquents. The State Boys Rebellion conveys the shocking truth about America's eugenic era through the experiences of a group of boys held at the Fernald State School in Massachusetts starting in the late 1940s. In the tradition of Erin Brockovich, it recounts the boys' dramatic struggle to demand their rights and secure their freedom. It also covers their horrifying discovery many years later that they had been fed radioactive oatmeal in Cold War experiments -- and the subsequent legal battle that ultimately won them a multimillion-dollar settlement. Meticulously researched through school archives, previously sealed papers, and interviews with the surviving State Boys, this deft exposé is a powerful reminder of the terrifying consequences of unchecked power as well as an inspiring testament to the strength of the human spirit.

From Publishers Weekly The 1971 Stanford Prison Experiment shockingly demonstrated that the world's most powerful narcotic might well be unlimited power over the powerless. Emancipation movements the world over have also taught us that even the most abjectly powerless will, given enough time, fight for their freedom and dignity. These two precepts are at the heart of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist D'Antonio's startling account of the wholesale incarceration of the mentally retarded during the middle decades of the last century. The bastard child of progressivism and eugenics, the institutionalization by the 1930s of needy children with below-average IQs was a well-established part of the legal system. The effect of this was to consign many children to overcrowded and underfunded medical prisons where physical, emotional and sexual abuse was rampant--and quite literally without end. D'Antonio wisely chooses one institution, the Walter E. Fernald School for the Feebleminded, in Massachusetts, where a group of boys, utterly (and correctly) convinced of their lack of abnormal status, after nearly two decades of confinement, in 1957 instigated a violent uprising in Ward 22, the prisonlike facility where misbehaving inmates were periodically sent. Thanks to their indomitable conviction that their institutionalization was unjust and the growing awareness on the part of certain sympathetic outsiders over several decades, these young men were finally able to help put an end to this ghastly system. D'Antonio (Atomic Harvest, etc.) deftly combines detailed archival research and extensive personal interviews to paint a richly nuanced picture of a horrifying and shamefully underexposed part of our country's recent history. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine DreamWorks Pictures recently purchased the film rights to State Boys Rebellion, the retelling of one of America's most shameful episodes in history. Fernald was no anomaly. Similar institutions, fostering more than 250,000 mostly normal (if unprivileged) children, survived through the 1970s. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist

D'Antonio, author of acclaimed books including *Atomic Harvest*, recounts this heartbreaking story through archival research and interviews with former State Boys and Fernald administrators. D'Antonio generally strikes a fair balance between the State Boys stories and the larger context that produced the moron as a public danger—the Progressive-era reforms that posited subnormal children as subspecies and the gross misuse of intelligence and radiation testing during the Cold War. Most troubling of all, D'Antonio writes, is that it all began with a grand desire to do good. As he shows in simple, effective prose, this good had vast consequences, ranging from the inhumane treatment of the individual to Nazi ideology. *State Boys* is, *The Washington Post* notes, a crusading book and powerful cautionary tale. At heart, it's also something more: a courageous tale of children asserting their humanity and changing their fate through small acts of resistance. Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From *Booklist*—An entire era in the history of American mental institutions is excoriated in D'Antonio's intent account of several men, now in their sixties, whose childhoods were spent in the Walter E. Fernald School for the Feeble-minded in Massachusetts. In 1949, a very lonely eight-year-old ward of the state was sent to the school and remained there until 1960. D'Antonio's story of Frederick Boyce's life, taken up to the 1990s when his and others' benighted maltreatment at Fernald became a matter of media, legal, and governmental interest, is a sad lament, eulogistic in a way, of the effects this upbringing had on boys such as Boyce. Disorganized family backgrounds may have swept them into Fernald, but they were kept there by a rigid regime that categorized children by IQ scores. The inevitable defiance—from repeated escapes to vandalism of an entire building—supplies the movement to D'Antonio's depiction of Fernald, but his crystallization of the despair there is what will most strongly affect readers. Great credit is due D'Antonio for his high-quality reportage on Boyce and Fernald. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved