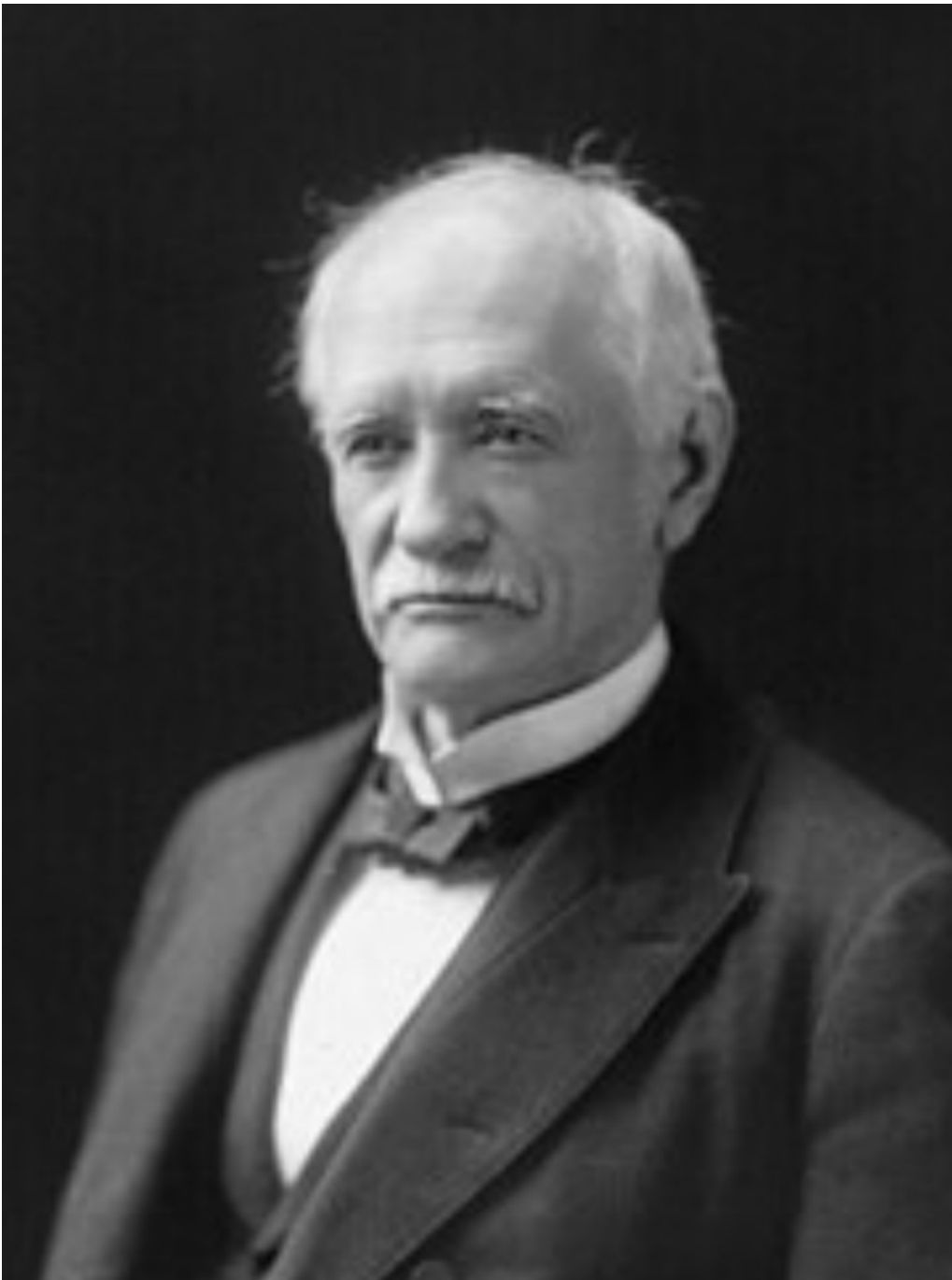




Many thanks to Keith A Mayes for *The Unteachables*, heavily excerpted, confirming what Black and Brown people have known and what white people will hopefully be motivated to help change.

The History of Special Education.

**By Jane Barrash, Executive Director
Continuum Center**



1890

Sen. John T Morgan of Alabama:

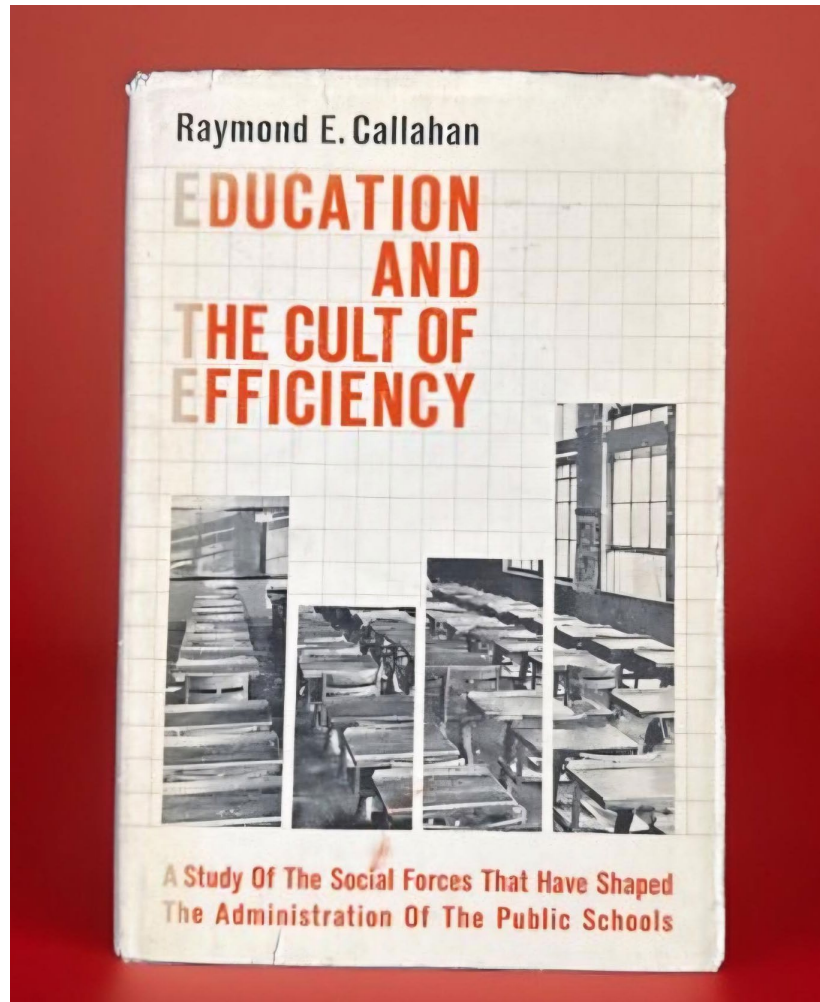
Social and political questions connected to the African race in the US, all "relate to and depend on the essential difference between the negro and the white man as they have been arranged by the hands of the creator..."

"...including the faculty of governing forecast enterprise and the wide field of achieving in the arts and sciences are accurately measured by the contrast of the civilization of the United States, with the barbarism of Central Africa."

Early 1900s

Obsession with efficient classrooms like smooth-running machines, created a strong argument for weeding out the students who gummed up the public school system and slowed down things for the conforming rest. **Keith A. Mayes, The Unteachables**





Raymond Callahan, Education and the Cult of efficiency.
University of Chicago Press 1962.

Ableism: A system of discrimination that excludes and oppresses people who have mental emotional and physical disabilities.

Ableism's power lies not only in deciding who is disabled but also determining those disabled groups' traits. **Keith Mayes**



1910

"...the extent to which the intellectual and moral differences found in human beings are consequences of their original nature and determined by the ancestry, from which they spring, is a matter of fundamental importance for education."

Edward Thorndike. *The Contributions of Psychology to Education*

Thorndike was a proponent of scientific measurement, the scientific method, and the focus on measuring intelligence. From the start educational psychology focused on mental capacity measurement and the differentiation of people.

"Cornering the market on brain research, psychologists would build a body of neurophysiological knowledge linking "damaged" and compromised, central nervous systems to difficulties children experience with reading language development and mental aptitude." **Keith Mayes**

"Feeble minded" now had the backing of science that could be empirically demonstrated with mental and achievement tests." **Keith Mayes**



Why not address the underlying need for nervous system and emotional self-awareness and self-regulation?

Wouldn't that make sense?

Compulsory education quickly came under fire. Children of color and students from poor white families were not welcomed into public schools with open arms, especially those defined as feeble minded.

Keith Mayes



1930

Critics believed compulsory education attempted the unthinkable for a try to "teach everything to everyone", sending "all children to school. Regardless of their mental limitations."

Edgar A. Doll, Mental Hygiene Aspects of Special Education,
Journal of Psycho-Asthenics June 29 to June 1930



Van Sickle in 1907 publication

1930's con't

In the interest of protecting "normal" children, it was decided for trying to separation.

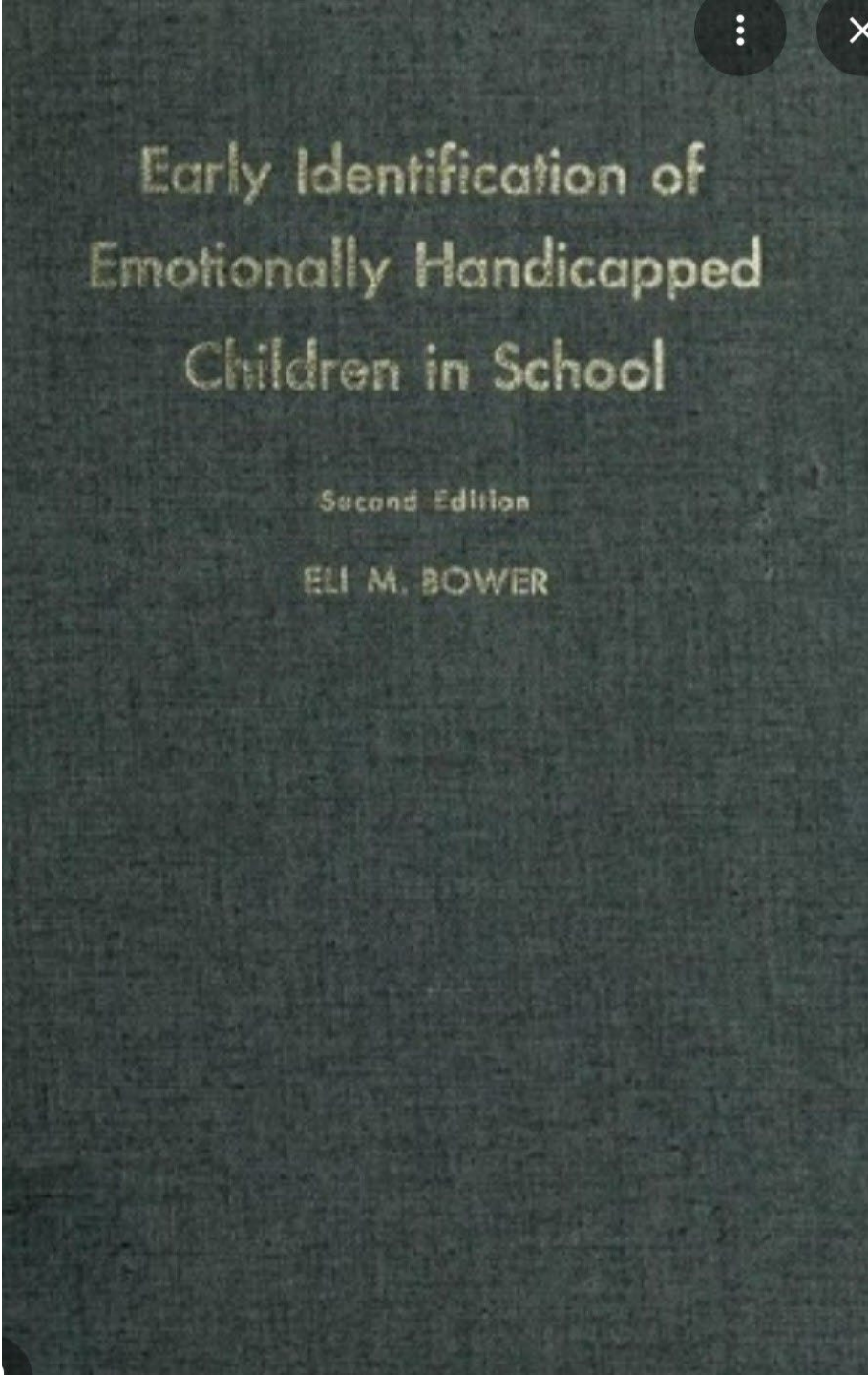
"The creation and enforcement of the compulsory attendance laws leaves no other course open."

Superintendent James Hixon Van Sickle

Late 1950s early 1960s

Eli M Bower advocated for the elimination of the word "disturbed" or "disturbance", instead, he posited the use of "emotionally handicapped".

The guidelines for identifying children with emotional handicaps in federal law PL94-142 were based on the conceptual model developed in his book, ***The Early Identification of Children With Educational Handicaps***

The image shows the front cover of a book. The title is 'Early Identification of Emotionally Handicapped Children in School' in a large, serif font. Below the title, it says 'Second Edition' and 'ELI M. BOWER'. The cover has a dark, textured background with the text in a light color. There are some UI elements in the top right corner, like a three-dot menu and a close button.

Early Identification of
Emotionally Handicapped
Children in School

Second Edition

ELI M. BOWER

Bower was not successful in replacing the word disturbance with handicap at the federal level, but he offered a definition of ED that stands today. **He created a racialized special education category based on some of the most nebulous understandings of behavior in children. Keith Mayes**

No attention paid to self-regulation strategies, no support to resolve underlying emotional insecurities and pain, or correct the systems that create/perpetuate the problems.



1960s and early 70s

Two Harvard psychiatrists, Frank Ervin and Vernon Mark, and neurosurgeon William Sweet proposed that violence, particularly in urban Black males involved in social protests and race riots, could be linked to brain dysfunction and suggested psychosurgery as a potential "treatment".

1974

Following intense public protest and congressional opposition, federal funding for their "violence unit" at Boston City Hospital was rescinded.

Clearly there was no interest in addressing root causes of unrest and alienation.

There is money 💰 to be made off misery and anger.

Research for natural, innate, social/systemic preventions/remedies needs to be funded.

Today's dystopic and expensive problems can't be solved with band-aids and superficial "treatments".

"Managing" symptoms perpetuates the problems created by systems, primarily education, designed to oppress and exploit Black, Brown, and poor people.





And there's no good reason to believe rational modes of thought and the STEM box (basically the 3 Rs) of compulsory education measured by IQ tests, are the most important aspects of intelligence.

Einstein said imagination is more important than knowledge, and intuition is most valuable. They are non-rational aspects of intelligence.

Nonrational is very different than *irrational*.

Now it's even been proposed to put difficult students physically in the box.

Quite the metaphor,....isn't it?

There is a way out.



New York school investigated over wooden 'timeout boxes' | Morning in