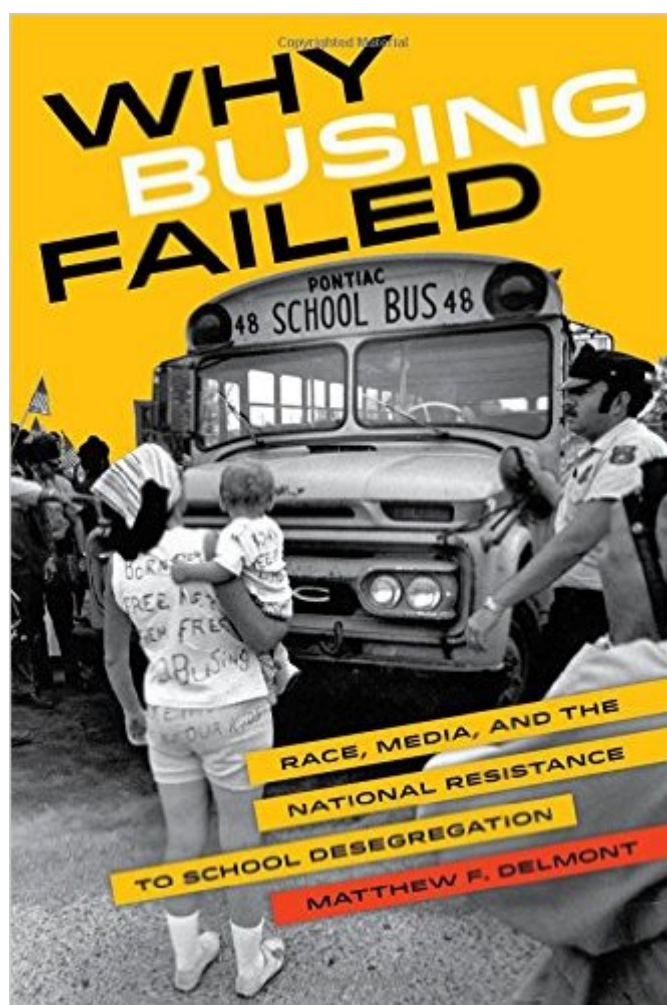


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# Why Busing Failed: Race, Media, And The National Resistance To School Desegregation (American Crossroads)



## Synopsis

In the decades after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision, busing to achieve school desegregation became one of the nation's most controversial civil rights issues. *Why Busing Failed* is the first book to examine the pitched battles over busing on a national scale, focusing on cities such as Boston, Chicago, New York, and Pontiac, Michigan. This groundbreaking book shows how school officials, politicians, the courts, and the media gave precedence to the desires of white parents who opposed school desegregation over the civil rights of black students. This broad and incisive history of busing features a cast of characters that includes national political figures such as then-president Richard Nixon, Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley, and antibusing advocate Louise Day Hicks, as well as some lesser-known activists on both sides of the issue—Boston civil rights leaders Ruth Batson and Ellen Jackson, who opposed segregated schools, and Pontiac housewife and antibusing activist Irene McCabe, black conservative Clay Smothers, and Florida governor Claude Kirk, all supporters of school segregation. *Why Busing Failed* shows how antibusing parents and politicians ultimately succeeded in preventing full public school desegregation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Aside from the comments of the editorial reviews listed, I believe this book is more properly seen as an indictment of the majority of Americans who are still believers in good talk but little action. I was fairly active in the Palo Alto area during the run-up to a court ordered busing applying to much of

what is now known as Silicon Valley. Talk about kicking and screaming. Most people I encountered then, as now, see a need for more successful integration to finally drag the whole misleading and mythical concept of "race" into the bright light of reason. While the average (and perhaps well-educated) person, at least in Silicon Valley, professes the need for "progress" in dealing with the detritus of a failing educational system, they certainly don't want to affect their child's shot at Harvard, Yale, or Stanford. So in sum, instead of putting the onus on the "media", geographic concerns, and our weak political leadership, why not concentrate on Joe the Plumber, Bill the highly paid and egocentric engineer, on Delores the steady climber to higher places in the world of work, and Helen the no longer average housewife. I do agree that "busing" is just code for "race". The author makes good use of the statistics on the number of students bussed anyway. Not a fan of Bill Clinton since he and the successive Presidents in our country, failed miserably to even chat about these issues, but he got one thing correctly when he coined the simple phrase for another issue "It's the RIGHT thing to do". Maybe the few who actually buy this book can engage the youth of this country to this worthy cause and forget, for the moment, about the best way to make a lot of money and retire early. We dinosaurs are all a bit tired of this battle.

This is a well written and informative book on U. S. school desegregation outside the deep South. The book details of the reaction & manipulations of politicians, the media, and parents groups to the challenges of court ordered desegregation, desegregation that was ordered because the courts found that the school had been purposely segregated. Books like *The Race Beat*, *Warmth of Other Suns*, *An Idea Whose Time Has Come* tell the story of change toward equal rights for all races . This book tells of the resistance to that change in the North & West.

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