

Rethinking Education for An Era of Crisis



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Educators like me face a huge challenge. We know that the world is in crisis. Most days, we try to blend it out. We suppress this knowledge, just like everyone else does. Because we are humans, after all. But no matter how much we try to deflect from it or ignore it, we still feel it. It is in our human nature.

Yet we walk into our classrooms every day and try to prepare our students for what is to come. We know that we have an obligation to lead the way for all those young souls in front of us. But in reality, we feel just as powerless as they do. Not only do we know that the world is in crisis, but we also know that we do not possess the tools to prepare our youngsters for a future which sometimes seems increasingly dark and hopeless.

How do you prepare a young person for a world that is changing at a rapid pace towards a future that seems increasingly opaque and desperate?
How do you even know what knowledge or skills are needed for such a future?

We don't. Nobody does. At least not yet. There is only one way we can solve this dilemma. We need to think deeply. We need to dig through the mud, and we need to find bold ideas. To do that, we must commit to three things.

1. We must acknowledge that the crisis is real.

More than that, we must acknowledge that we are facing multiple crises at once, which are all intertwined.

- **Geopolitical Instability:** We are closer to a high-intensity global conflict that carries existential risks for our species than at almost any point during the Cold War.
- **Ecological Collapse:** Human-induced climate change is disrupting ecosystems, destabilising weather patterns, and threatening our basic foundations for survival.
- **Unchecked Capitalism:** Unchecked market forces continue to commodify human relationships and undermine the essential social fabric of our communities.
- **Accelerating Technology:** Technological shifts are outpacing our biological and social evolution, threatening to destabilise everything from labour markets to monetary systems and democratic institutions.

2. 2. Conduct a rigorous, root-cause analysis

We must dare to look past superficial symptoms and understand where these crises originate. Only then can we grasp the full scale of their potential consequences without flinching or retreating into cynicism. We may not like what we find, but we must keep looking nonetheless. Just like a doctor can only find a cure, if he knows the correct diagnosis, we too must be uncompromising in our search for the truth.

3. Develop bold, human-centred strategies for 21st-century pedagogy

We need modern curricula and teaching methods grounded in a realistic understanding of human learning, paired with an unapologetically humanistic outlook. Therefore We cannot simply default to 20th-century economic models of schooling. And we also cannot rely on old methods just because they are convenient. What worked before may not work any longer, and we must accept this.

A Starting Point for the Path Ahead

I have been writing about these systemic breakdowns and pedagogical solutions for several years here on abenesch.info. To offer a concrete starting point, I have compiled six core essays into a single, structured volume called *Rethinking Education for an Era of Crisis*.

The pieces contained inside this volume are by no means an exhaustive answer, but they represent a necessary beginning.

1. [What Are the Forces That Shape Our Education System?](#)
An examination of how economic pressures, standardised testing, and institutional incentives have distorted the core purpose of schooling.
2. [Relevance is Key for Successful Teaching](#)
Applying John Dewey's dialectic of theory and practice to ground learning in real-world context rather than abstract test preparation.
3. [Theme-Based Learning Is A Necessity In The 21st Century](#)
A concrete approach to bring relevance into the classroom and inspire a deeper understanding and inquiry of the world and the society.
4. [We Need to Start Teaching Philosophy in Schools](#)
Why ethical reflection, critical inquiry, and foundational values are essential tools for navigating an uncertain world.
5. [Our World Is in Crisis. Let Us Teach Our Children to Grow Food](#)
A practical case study in ecological literacy, community resilience, and building real-world self-sufficiency outside market logic.
6. [The Hidden Skill Gap Nobody Wants to Talk About](#)
Why young adults struggle in modern workplaces due to missing executive habits—and how we can explicitly teach reliability, focus, and self-advocacy.

Whether you are a classroom teacher, a school leader, or a parent navigating these shifting landscapes, I invite you to read with a critical yet curious mind.

Let's dive in.

Get the Complete eBook

Rethinking Education for an Era of Crisis collects all six foundational essays into a single, beautifully formatted volume (complete with introductory notes and reader guides). You can get it through any of the methods outlined below.

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