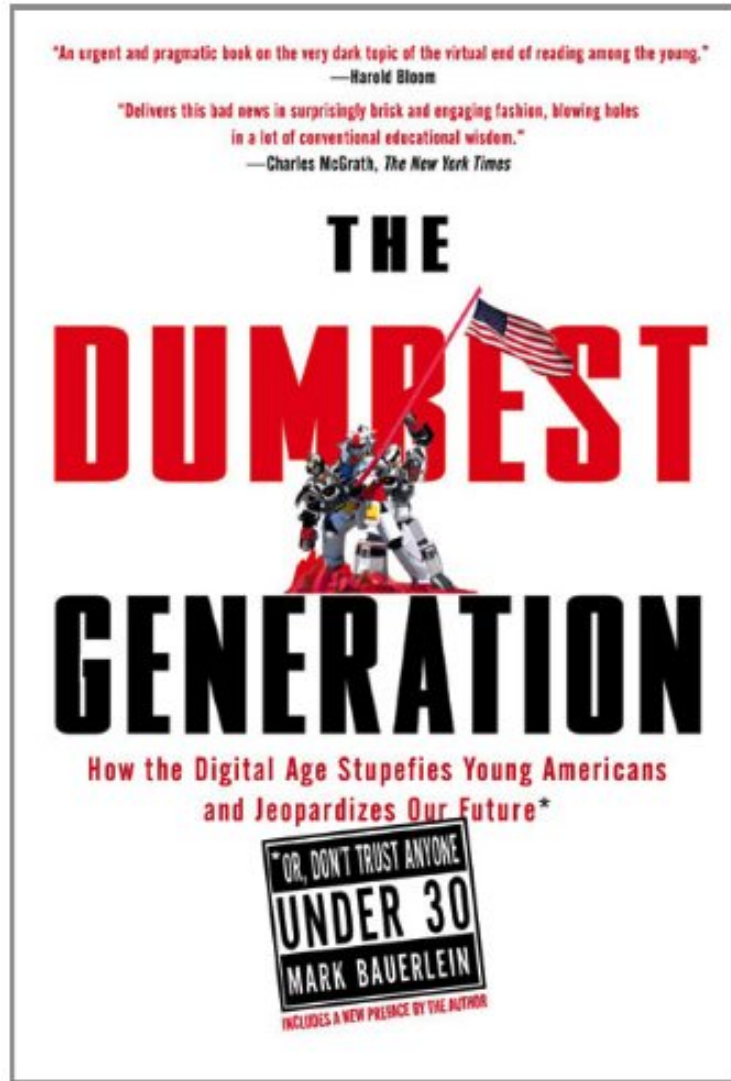


[Library ebook] The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future(Or, Don 't Trust Anyone Under 30)

# The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future(Or, Don 't Trust Anyone Under 30)

Mark Bauerlein

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Mark Bauerlein : **The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future(Or, Don 't Trust Anyone Under 30)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future(Or, Don 't Trust Anyone Under 30):**

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The Intelligence of our Young People By Home and Hearth I thought this would be another "What's wrong with young people..." type of book, but because I heard so many good things about it I thought I'd give it a try, and I'm very happy I did. This is a very thoughtful book about how the digital age is affecting the intelligence of our youth. It is only about intelligence, not morals, religion, politics, etc... A very good read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Having recently resumed my occupation as an instructor in a ... By Stockmaker Having recently resumed my occupation as an instructor in a trade school, I deal daily with the generation described by Mr. Bauerlein. Reading his book has helped me in my approach to our students. Anyone who interacts with the under-30 population will very likely find that reading this book will assist them. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, good for anyone By kimberly j mercurio I chose to read this book for a college English class, and I was very happy with my choice. This book is a very interesting and compelling read for any member of society. Bauerlein argues that this generation is struggling to not use technology. His thesis is backed up by different anecdotes and statistics. For example, he recalls conversations with different teenagers in New York City, and one specifically is able to rattle off A Christmas Carol (the movie version) when he asked her about the classics, and then asked about Charles Dickens. She gave him a blank stare, until he continued his questioning with asking about Charles Dickens. The college student was then able to come up with a Christmas Carol and which movie version she preferred. The book flowed well, and the simplicity of the sentences helped to get the meaning across in a straight forward way. One of his most convincing arguments was one about how the teenage generation only learns what they choose to learn, not all the information that they should learn. This is different from most generations because the majority of generations cannot wait to learn more and just want to learn everything about a topic, whereas the teenage generation just wants to know the very basics, even if they are supposed to know more than that. Bauerlein brings in statistics that demonstrate how students are truly struggling- a large amount of college aged students are taking remedial classes because they are not ready for the next level. Another statistic that I found shocking was the amount of young children that know how to use technology. This book is good for anyone in general who is looking to learn more about technology and its effects. I learned many new things that I did not know and how many people struggle to answer simple questions. This book will change people's opinions because it will help them solidify their opinions about this generation and how much they struggle with basic information and how different the generation is from previous ones. Bauerlein says that the teenage generation will be remembered as "the fortunate ones who were unworthy of the privileges they received (236). I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn more about the way we use this generation uses their time and how much of it is truly spent on technology. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and I'm sure others will as well if they want to learn about the generation under thirtys battle with technology.

This shocking, surprisingly entertaining romp into the intellectual nether regions of today's underthirty set reveals the disturbing and, ultimately, incontrovertible truth: cyberculture is turning us into a society of know-nothings. The Dumbest Generation is a dire report on the intellectual life of young adults and a timely warning of its impact on American democracy and culture. For decades, concern has been brewing about the dumbed-down popular culture available to young people and the impact it has on their futures. But at the dawn of the digital age, many thought they saw an answer: the internet, email, blogs, and interactive and hyper-realistic video games promised to yield a generation of sharper, more aware, and intellectually sophisticated children. The terms information superhighway and knowledge economy entered the lexicon, and we assumed that teens would use their knowledge and understanding of technology to set themselves apart as the vanguards of this new digital era. That was the promise. But the enlightenment didn't happen. The technology that was supposed to make young adults more aware, diversify their tastes, and improve their verbal skills has had the opposite effect. According to recent reports from the National Endowment for the Arts, most young people in the United States do not read literature, visit museums, or vote. They cannot explain basic scientific methods, recount basic American history, name their local political representatives, or locate Iraq or Israel on a map. The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future is a startling examination of the intellectual life of young adults and a timely warning of its impact on American culture and democracy. Over the last few decades, how we view adolescence itself has changed, growing from a pitstop on the road to adulthood to its own space in society, wholly separate from adult life. This change in adolescent culture has gone hand in hand with an insidious infantilization of our culture at large; as adolescents continue to disengage from the adult world, they have built their own, acquiring more spending money, steering classrooms and culture towards their own needs and interests, and now using the technology once promoted as the greatest hope for their futures to indulge in diversions, from MySpace to multiplayer video games, 24/7. Can a nation continue to enjoy political and economic predominance if its citizens refuse to grow up? Drawing upon exhaustive research, personal anecdotes, and historical and social analysis, The Dumbest Generation presents a portrait of the young American mind at this critical juncture, and lays out a compelling vision of how we might address its deficiencies. The Dumbest Generation pulls no punches as it reveals the true cost of the digital age and our last chance to fix it.

From Booklist Its an irony so commonplace its become almost trite: despite the information superhighway, despite a world of knowledge at their fingertips, the younger generation today is less informed, less literate, and more self-absorbed than any that has preceded it. But why? According to the author, an English professor at Emory University, there are plenty of reasons. The immediacy and intimacy of social-networking sites have focused young peoples Internet use on themselves and their friends. The material theyre studying in school (such as the Civil War or The Great Gatsby) seems boring because it isnt happening right this second and isnt about them. Theyre using the Internet not as a learning tool but as a communications tool: instant messaging, e-mail, chat, blogs. And the language of Internet communication, with its peculiar spelling, grammar, and punctuation, actually encourages illiteracy by making it socially acceptable. It wouldnt be going too far to call this book the Why Johnny Cant Read for the digital age. Some will disagree vehemently; others will nod sagely, muttering that they knew it all along. --David Pitt "If you're the parent of someone under 20 and read only one non-fiction book this fall, make it this one. Bauerlein's simple but jarring thesis is that technology and the digital culture it has created are not broadening the horizon of the younger generation; they are narrowing it to a self-absorbed social universe that blocks out virtually everything else."-Don Campbell, USA Today "An urgent and pragmatic book on the very dark topic of the virtual end of reading among the young."-Harold Bloom "Never have American students had it so easy, and never have they achieved less. . . . Mr. Bauerlein delivers this bad news in a surprisingly brisk and engaging fashion, blowing holes in a lot of conventional educational wisdom."-Charles McGrath, The New York Times "It wouldn't be going too far to call this book the Why Johnny Can't Read for the digital age."-Booklist "Throughout The Dumbest Generation, there are . . . keen insights into how the new digital world really is changing the way young people engage with information and the obstacles they face in integrating any of it meaningfully. These are insights that educators, parents, and other adults ignore at their peril."-Lee Drutman, Los Angeles Times About the Author Mark Bauerlein is a professor of English at Emory University and has worked as a director of Research and Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts, where he oversaw studies about culture and American life. He lives with his family in Atlanta.