

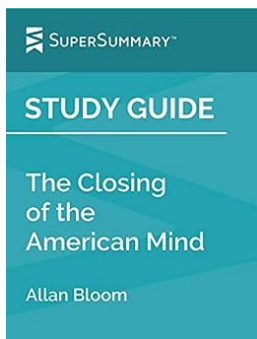
# **The Closing Of The American Mind By Allan Bloom Supersummary: A Profound Critique of Education and Culture**

When Allan Bloom's seminal work, "The Closing of the American Mind," hit the shelves in 1987, it immediately sparked intense debates, both within academic circles and the general public. The book continues to be widely read and discussed today, as its profound insights into the American educational system and cultural values remain as relevant as ever. In this supersummary, we delve into the key themes and arguments presented by Bloom in his groundbreaking work.

## **The American Mind in Crisis**

Bloom begins his exploration by stating that there is something deeply wrong with American education and culture. He argues that the collective American mind has been closing off, becoming increasingly narrow and superficial over the years. This intellectual decline, in his view, has led to a lack of critical thinking, an overemphasis on relativism, and a decline in the pursuit of excellence.

According to Bloom, the American mind has succumbed to a cultural relativism that no longer upholds the idea of objective truth. He contends that this relativism has eroded the ability of individuals to engage in meaningful debates and has resulted in a superficial understanding of complex ideas and values. Bloom posits that the acceptance of relativism has led to the erosion of the classical liberal arts education, which traditionally aimed to cultivate the minds of young individuals through exposure to great books and ideas.



## Study Guide: The Closing of the American Mind by Allan Bloom (SuperSummary)

by SuperSummary (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 211 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 80 pages

Lending : Enabled



### The Crisis of Higher Education

Bloom directs his critique toward higher education, arguing that universities have become breeding grounds for cultural relativism and intellectual conformity. He highlights the explosion of "values clarification" courses, where students are encouraged to explore their own subjective values rather than engage with great thinkers of the past and grapple with alternative perspectives.

Furthermore, Bloom criticizes the dominant ideology of multiculturalism, which he believes has led to the erosion of a common American identity. He argues that, rather than embracing the diverse backgrounds and experiences of individuals, the multiculturalist movement has generated a relativistic perspective that devalues Western civilization and tradition.

Bloom also tackles the issue of political correctness, which he sees as a symptom of the narrowing of the American mind. He argues that the fear of offending others has stifled free speech and genuine intellectual discourse on

American campuses, preventing the exploration of challenging ideas and alternative viewpoints.

## **The Impact on Students and Society**

Bloom contends that these systemic issues within American education and culture have significant consequences for individuals and society as a whole. He argues that young people are denied the opportunity to develop their critical thinking skills, which are essential for navigating the complexities of life. Instead, they are being shaped by popular culture, consumerism, and a constant barrage of information that lacks depth and intellectual rigour.

Moreover, Bloom suggests that the decline in intellectual and moral standards has resulted in a crisis of values. He laments the absence of a shared moral framework and argues that the focus on individualism and self-gratification has led to a fragmented and atomized society, devoid of a sense of social responsibility.

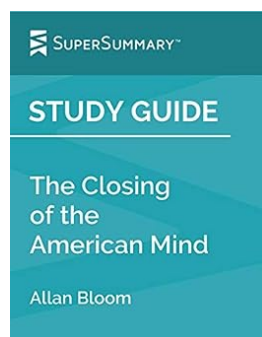
In Bloom's view, the closing of the American mind has severe implications for democracy itself. He argues that a democratic society requires an informed and engaged citizenry, capable of critically assessing societal issues and participating in public life. Without a robust intellectual foundation, democracy becomes vulnerable to manipulation and demagoguery.

## **A Call to Reclaim the American Mind**

In the final sections of his book, Bloom offers a glimmer of hope. He believes that it is possible to reverse the closing of the American mind through a renewed commitment to liberal education. He calls for a return to the great books and the classical tradition, advocating for a broadening of the curriculum, rather than an increasingly specialized and career-oriented approach to education.

Bloom argues for the power of great literature, philosophy, and art to awaken the intellectual curiosity and moral imagination of individuals. He suggests that by engaging with the timeless questions and enduring ideas found in these works, students can reconnect with the deeper aspects of human existence and develop a broader perspective.

Ultimately, Bloom's supersummary of "The Closing of the American Mind" serves as a powerful wake-up call to society. It challenges us to critically examine the prevailing educational and cultural trends, and to consider the long-term ramifications of a closed mind. As individuals and as a society, it is crucial for us to understand the importance of intellectual freedom, robust discourse, and the pursuit of excellence in order to reclaim the American mind.



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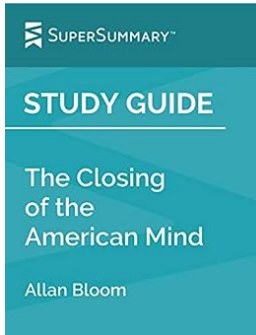
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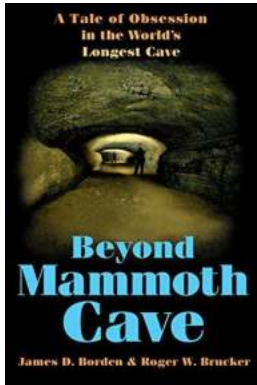
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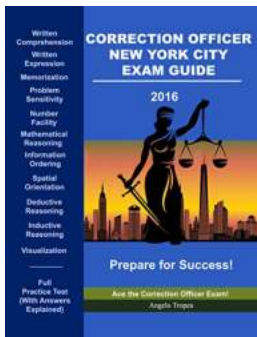
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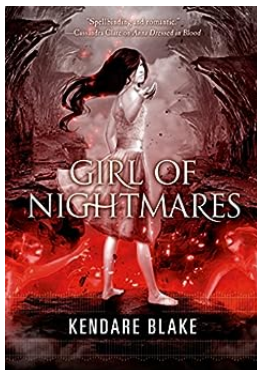
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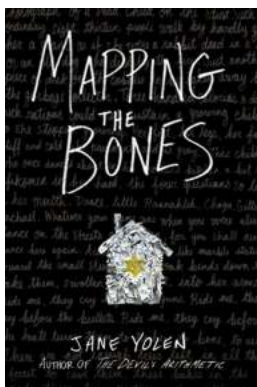
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