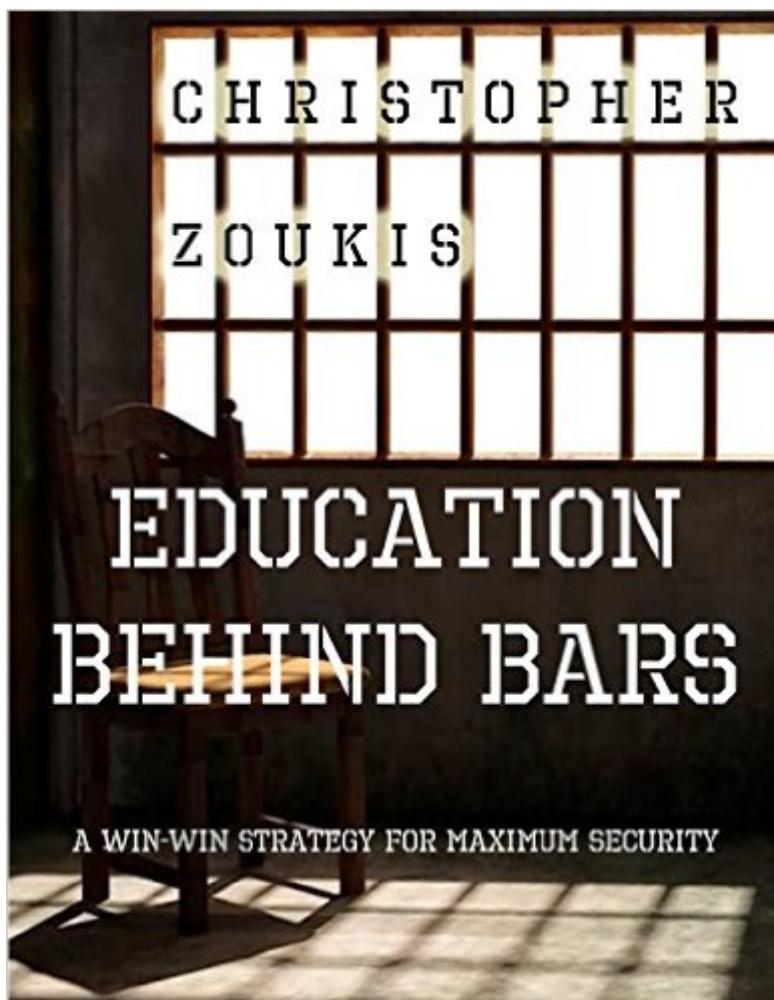


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# Education Behind Bars: A Win-WIn Strategy For Maximum Security



## **Synopsis**

There is a simple and inexpensive solution to many of our country's most pressing problems: Prison Education. Educating our prisoners has proven to be the most effective and the least costly answer to reducing recidivism – and if we can reduce recidivism by even a modest 10% we can reduce our national and states' budgets by \$60 billion to \$70 billion every year! We can reduce crime significantly and make our communities safer. And we can transform wasted individuals who know no other way to survive except crime into productive, tax-paying citizens who support their families and get them off welfare, citizens who live as consumers, further supporting the national economy. People who have been educated almost always see to it that their children are educated, so it would mean a continuing decrease in crime and expenditures for new prison facilities year after year. It works! It's been studied. It's been proven. And, sadly, it's been ignored. Today, prison education is almost non-existent. In the face of overwhelming evidence, policy makers and the general public still do not support post-secondary higher education in prisons. Year after year, even basic correctional educational programs are further reduced. Computers are not allowed. The results? Prisoner unrest and violence. Then we need even more money for additional security. This book was written to explain the enormity of its impact, not just on prisoners, but on our entire society and our nation's prosperity and safety, in the hope that greater understanding will result in wise legislative action for our common good. Prison education is a concept whose time has come. It is time to stop studying the issue and stop discoursing. It is time to start the ball rolling and do something about it.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

On the subjects of prison, education, and rehabilitation, in his monumental Education Behind Bars: A Win-Win Strategy for Maximum Security, author Christopher Zoukis has much to say. And he says it very well. In today's world, especially in the U.S., society appears more interested in simply building more prisons, filling them with prisoners, and then throwing away the key than in attempting to reduce crime and recidivism. That is, until recently. Now that many states are staring down the long dark tunnel of financial ruin, they are seeking ways to save money rather than spend it. But the big question is this: if we're not going to spend billions on building more prisons, and even more billions housing the prisoners in the old prisons, what are we going to do? Christopher Zoukis has an answer. He has written the guidebook of all guidebooks to reducing crime and recidivism. As already noted, the book is called Education Behind Bars. And it grew out of Zoukis' preoccupation with finding the answer to a very simple question: "What is the best way for me to educate myself while I'm in prison?" In the course of answering that question, Christopher Zoukis researched all the available information on correspondence courses geared toward and available to inmates. The problem was there wasn't much information available. And what was available was outdated. Not one to be dissuaded by mere obstacles, Zoukis began writing letters to trade schools, colleges, and universities - thousands of them. As the replies came in, he realized he had more information than anyone else on the subject. So he did what any enterprising person would do. He performed more intensive research, writing down what he learned.

Many of us have finally awakened to the collateral consequences resulting from the implosion of the credit-fueled housing bubble inflicted upon us by the runaway greed of Wall Street and "too big to fail" banks. We have only to look to Greece to see what will happen to us in the mid-term future. Meanwhile, here at home, we choose to waste hundreds of billions of dollars on our criminal justice system by employing philosophical overreaching as opposed to common sense. In this case, philosophical overreaching means that we choose to use the most expensive form of punishment -- prisons -- as our first choice. Thus, in aggregate, the federal and state governments spend well over two trillion dollars a year on corrections. To make things worse, we choose not to help these incarcerated men and women recycle themselves into productive, tax-paying citizens by giving them an education. Most notably, prisoners are the largest group of illiterates in this country. More importantly, economic globalization means that America has moved away from a muscle-powered

economy to a brain-powered economy. Ergo, these men and women are unemployable. Therefore, upon release, these people return to their criminal ways and, correspondingly, revolve the door of "justice" yet again. In Georgia alone, according to my thesis research and derived from the Dept. of Corrections, fully 65% of ex-prisoners are returned to prison post-release. However -- and notably -- we can reverse recidivism cheaply. Currently, we spend an average of \$78.95 per prisoner per day; giving them an education cost less than \$250.000 a year or a dollar per day. What is the outcome of educating a prisoner?

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