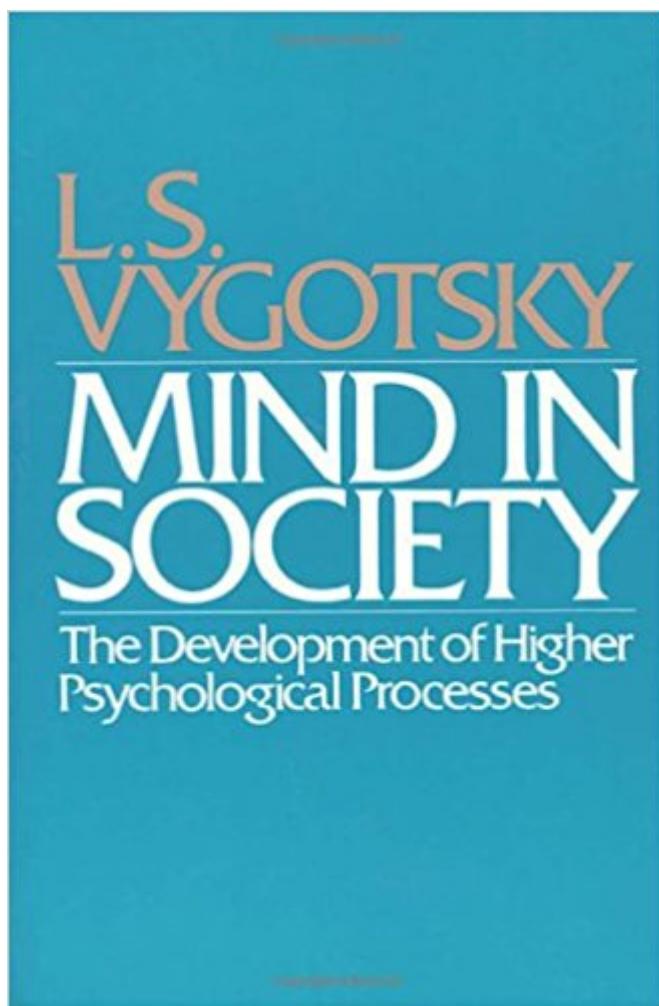


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Mind In Society: The Development Of Higher Psychological Processes



Synopsis

The great Russian psychologist L. S. Vygotsky has long been recognized as a pioneer in developmental psychology. But somewhat ironically, his theory of development has never been well understood in the West. *Mind in Society* should correct much of this misunderstanding. Carefully edited by a group of outstanding Vygotsky scholars, the book presents a unique selection of Vygotsky's important essays, most of which have previously been unavailable in English. The Vygotsky who emerges from these pages can no longer be glibly included among the neobehaviorists. In these essays he outlines a dialectical-materialist theory of cognitive development that anticipates much recent work in American social science. The mind, Vygotsky argues, cannot be understood in isolation from the surrounding society. Man is the only animal who uses tools to alter his own inner world as well as the world around him. From the handkerchief knotted as a simple mnemonic device to the complexities of symbolic language, society provides the individual with technology that can be used to shape the private processes of mind. In *Mind in Society* Vygotsky applies this theoretical framework to the development of perception, attention, memory, language, and play, and he examines its implications for education. The result is a remarkably interesting book that is bound to renew Vygotsky's relevance to modern psychological thought.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Now, at long last, we have a representative selection of [Vygotsky's] theoretical essays, in a new

collection prepared by Michael Cole and his co-workers, under the ingenious title *Mind in Society* [It pieces together selections from four of Vygotsky's writings: chiefly, an unpublished monograph on 'Tool and Symbol in Children's Development' dating from 1930, and a chapter on 'The History of the Development of Higher Psychological Functions' issued previously in Russian in 1960. However, it has two solid virtues. It was prepared with the active collaboration of A. R. Luria, so it can certainly claim to be authoritative. And it provides the sense we have long needed of Vygotsky's over-all theoretical enterprise, of which his studies on thought and language are one, but only one, aspect] [The book] puts [his] ideas into a broader theoretical context, and permits us at last to sort out for ourselves how Vygotsky's work relates to that of his contemporaries and successors in the West. Most particularly, it clarifies the central role that Vygotsky allots to language and symbolic thought in shaping the structure of adult mental life.

(Stephen Toulmin *New York Review of Books*) This selection of Vygotsky's important writings (most were previously unavailable in English) offers the Western reader a new appreciation of the seminal contributions of one of Russia's most influential psychologists. (*Psychology Today*) Vygotsky was a genius. After more than a half a century in science I am unable to name another person who even approaches his incredible analytic ability and foresight. All of my work has been no more than the working out of the psychological theory which he constructed. (A. R. Luria) This little book is an intellectual excitement; it abounds with all manner of ideas, insights, and novel formulations. (Kevin Connolly *Nature*) This is a landmark book, compulsory reading for students of developmental and adult cognition [Mind in Society should stimulate an awakened interest in Vygotsky as a contemporary force rather than a figure of historical interest. (Ann L. Brown *Contemporary Psychology*)]

Vygotsky was a genius. After more than a half a century in science I am unable to name another person who even approaches his incredible analytic ability and foresight. All of my work has been no more than the working out of the psychological theory which he constructed. (A. R. Luria) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Vygotsky was a genius! If you work with children or simply want to better understand human development I highly recommend this book. He blazed the trail with his theories, many of which are standard practice for early educators.

This book is very interesting and was somehow a mind opener for me. The book gives a good

overview of the different approaches to the learning process which were available and discussed at the time. He explains the child's development not as simply a Newtonian deterministic process, but as mental and psychological processes in motion and change where the outcome often became different than what had been predicted. It is amazing that Vygotsky could come up with these new and visionary ideas in Stalin's Soviet!

While the book is full of theory that might discourage someone from reading it, it has an absolutely fantastic practical implication worth the effort! The second half of this book, "Educational Implications" discusses the Zone of Proximal Development. Learning about this "Zone" plus the discussion regarding how children learn to read and write, tells those of us who really want to help children learn, ways to set-up an environment and activities to do it!! Don't let the theory scare you away, this is a MUST READ!

Seminal publication from Vygotsky. The text is a must for anyone involved in education.

If you need this book, this is a great way to order it. You can scan for concepts and quotes very easily. A good resource for education majors.

There is always a need to do quick understanding of leaner learning ability. So this is a required book together with others.

While the book is full of theory that might discourage someone from reading it, it has an absolutely fantastic practical implication worth the effort! The second half of this book, "Educational Implications" discusses the Zone of Proximal Development. Learning about this "Zone" plus the discussion regarding how children learn to read and write, tells those of us who really want to help children learn, ways to set-up an environment and activities to do it!! Don't let the theory scare you away, this is a MUST READ!

Vygotsky's views on psychological development are very interesting and although his language can be a little dry it's very engaging.

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