



Blue Collar Intellectuals: When the Enlightened and the Everyman Elevated America

Daniel J. Flynn

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Stupid is the new smart—but it wasn't always so

Popular culture has divorced itself from the life of the mind. Who has time for great books or deep thought when there is Jersey Shore to watch, a txt 2 respond 2, and World of Warcraft to play?

At the same time, those who pursue the life of the mind have insulated themselves from popular culture. Speaking in insider jargon and writing unread books, intellectuals have locked themselves away in a ghetto of their own creation. It wasn't always so. *Blue Collar Intellectuals* vividly captures a time in the twentieth century when the everyman aspired to high culture and when intellectuals descended from the ivory tower to speak to the everyman. Author Daniel J. Flynn profiles thinkers from working-class backgrounds who played a prominent role in American life by addressing their intellectual work to a mass audience. *Blue Collar Intellectuals* tells the fascinating story of: the unschooled hobo who migrated from skid row anonymity to White House chats with the president and prime-time TV specials. ***Blue Collar Intellectuals* tells the fascinating story of:**

- The scandalous teacher-student romance that spawned a half-century labor of love in writing the history of the world.
- The Ivy League Ph.D. who held neither a high school nor college degree, and fittingly launched a renaissance in reading the great books outside of formal schools.
- The scholarship student who experienced the free market firsthand waiting tables and peddling socks, and who became one of capitalism's most influential exponents.
- The impoverished outcast who became the poet of the pulps, elevating millions of readers along with heretofore marginal genres.

Guiding us through a world now vanished, Flynn causes us to look anew at our own digital age and its nostrums: Video gaming is just a new form of literacy, Reality shows . . . Challenge our emotional intelligence, and Who cares if Johnny can't read? The value of books is overstated. *Blue Collar Intellectuals* shows us how much everyone intellectual and everyman alike has suffered from mass culture's crowding out of higher things and the elite's failure to engage the masses.

Praise for *Blue Collar Intellectuals*

“This book is not only an exciting story; it also corrects a terrible cultural mistake—the mistake of treating high culture, Great Books, and other canon-making visions of tradition as exploitative and spurious. Previous generations of intellectuals believed that our great cultural inheritance belonged to everyone, rich and poor, black and white and brown. Daniel Flynn’s profiles revive that belief, and they mark a vital alternative to the complacent relativism of contemporary cultural stewards.”

—**Mark Bauerlein**, best-selling author of *The Dumbest Generation*

“**Flynn’s case histories of a wonderful—and uniquely American—tradition** of bringing learning to the masses offers us a morality tale in these times of spiraling tuition, esoteric publication, and an insular academia mostly cut off from wider society. The **fascinating portraits** here remind us how not so long ago an interest in making knowledge known beyond the campus was not antithetical to learning but the very essence of the true intellectual.”

—**Victor Davis Hanson**, coauthor of *Who Killed Homer?* and *The Bonfire of the Humanities*

“Back in the middle decades of the twentieth century, millions of Americans supped at the table of high culture, learning history, philosophy, and economics from intellectual entrepreneurs like Will and Ariel Durant, Mortimer Adler, and Eric Hoffer. **Daniel Flynn tells their story in *Blue Collar***

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From reader reviews:

James Crow:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled Blue Collar Intellectuals: When the Enlightened and the Everyman Elevated America? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have some other opinion?

Carla Spiegel:

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students because they're still students or this for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book Blue Collar Intellectuals: When the Enlightened and the Everyman Elevated America. All type of book are you able to see on many options. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Matthew Schwartz:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Blue Collar Intellectuals: When the Enlightened and the Everyman Elevated America, you are able to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Mary Bradford:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got college students? We believe that that concern was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, All people has different hobby. And you also know that little person such as reading or as reading become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and also book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your own teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update concerning something by book. Numerous books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them are these claims Blue Collar Intellectuals: When the Enlightened and the Everyman Elevated America.

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