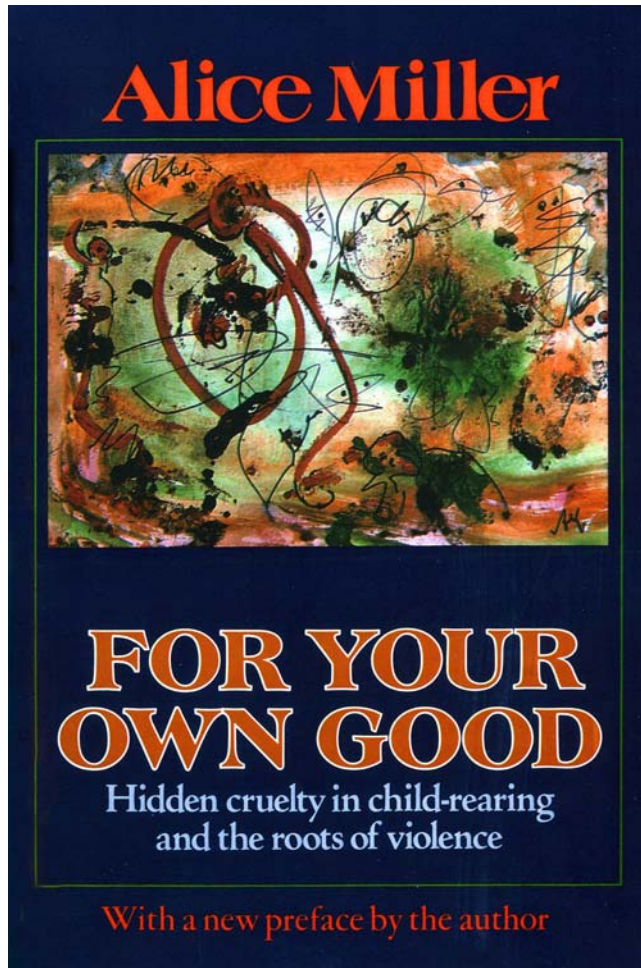


## Book of The Century



**Alice Miller (1980/2002). *For Your Own Good*. Farrar\* Straus \* Giroux (2002). New York.**

The pioneering and groundbreaking study that exposed the roots of violence in the "poisonous pedagogy" of child-rearing practices. Life long experiences that shape culture and society and which drives the psychopathology of violence are illuminated

### Additional Commentary

"On the other hand, the general public is still far from realizing that our earliest experiences unfailingly affect society as a whole; that psychoses, drug addiction, and criminality are encoded expression of these experiences. This fact is usually either disputed or accepted only on a strictly intellectual level. Since the intellect fails to influence the area of the emotions, the practical world (of politics, law or psychiatry) continues to be dominated by medieval concepts characterized by the outward projection of evil." (Preface to the Original Edition, p..xxii).

"Since the end of World War II, I have been haunted by the question of what could make a person conceive the plan of gassing million of human beings to death and of how it would then be possible for million of others to acclaim him and assist in carrying out this plan. The solution to this enigma, which I found only a short while ago, is what I have tried to present in this book...what could motivate a person to misuse power in such a way as to cause, completely without scruples and with the use of beguiling ideologies, the destruction of humanity, an act that is altogether conceivable today? (Preface to the American Edition, p. xv).

"Since then we have become more and more aware of what happened to us in our own childhoods, and we have begun to learn about the lifelong consequences of the first years of life. As the sociologist Lucien Lombardo wrote in his introduction to a chapter of my recent book, *The Truth Will Set You Free*, "a childhood is not the shortest age in our life but rather the longest because it stays with us until our death" (Preface to the 2002 Editions: The Hidden Truth, p.vii).

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The statement by Alice Miller: "Since the intellect fails to influence the area of the emotions", provides the key to understanding the roots of violence against humanity, which she so ably describes. The engine of violence against humanity comes from the emotional, social, sexual (subcortical-limbic) brain and not

from the neocortical, rational, cognitive intellectual brain. It is the failure of physical affection in the maternal-infant/child relationship and in the human sexual relationship that makes the psychopathology of human depression and violence possible. How pain and pleasure are encoded in these two cultural brains determines what kind of individual and society we create--the NeuroDissociative or NeuroIntegrative Brain. Table I illustrates these relationships. It would be a rare event to find any rapist, drug addict or murderer who has been breastfed for 2.5 years or longer--jwp.

## TWO CULTURAL BRAINS

### LIMBIC-SUBCORTICAL EMOTIONAL BRAIN

		<u>PAIN</u>	<u>PLEASURE</u>
<b>N E O C O R T I C A L</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Theistic Religions</b>	
	<b>A</b>	<b>Disembodied Divine Love</b>	
	<b>I</b>	<b>Patrilineal/Patrilocal</b>	
	<b>N</b>		
		<i>Gender Inequality</i>	
		<i>Sexual Purity</i>	
		<i>Addictive Synthetic Drugs</i>	
		<i>Authoritarian Relationships</i>	
		<i>Pain Is A Moral Good</i>	
		<i>Depression-Violence-War</i>	
	<b>NeuroDissociative Brain</b>		
<b>B R A I N</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>Earth Religions</b>
	<b>L</b>		<b>Embodied Human Love</b>
	<b>E</b>		<b>Matrilineal/Matrilocal</b>
	<b>A</b>		
	<b>S</b>		<i>Gender Equality</i>
	<b>U</b>		<i>Sexual Liberty</i>
	<b>R</b>		<i>Natural Botanical Drugs</i>
	<b>E</b>		<i>Egalitarian Relationships</i>
			<i>Pleasure Is A Moral Good</i>
			<i>Joy-Happiness-Peace</i>
		<b>NeuroIntegrative Brain</b>	

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James W. Prescott, Ph.D. Presented at: Society for the Scientific Study of Sex: "Sex and the Brain"  
Midcontinent & Eastern Regions June 13-16, 2002 Big Rapids, MI and Society For Cross Cultural  
Research 32nd Annual Meeting Feb 19-23, 2003 Charleston, SC.; 2005:  
<http://www.violence.de/archive.shtml>