

ZMATH 2009d.00045

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Mathematical power as political power – the politics of mathematics education.

Clarkson, Philip (ed.) et al., Critical issues in mathematics education. Major contributions of Alan Bishop. New York, NY: Springer (ISBN 978-0-387-09672-8/hbk). 167-188 (2008).

Summary: In reflecting on Alan Bishop's key article, 'Mathematical power to the people (see chapter 11, p. 151–165) the authors start with Bishop's contributions to this critical issue for mathematics education, canvassing many more of his published works than just the key article of this section, but going on to examine the issue from a number of perspectives. Contrasting their own countries' perspectives, delving back through history, deconstructing what was to begin with an important rallying call of "Mathematics for all" but has since been shown to be quite hollow, and finishing back in the classroom with teachers, the authors in a few pages paint a picture that is quite pessimistic but at the same time challenging to our community.

Classification: A40

Keywords: mathematics and society; mathematics and politics