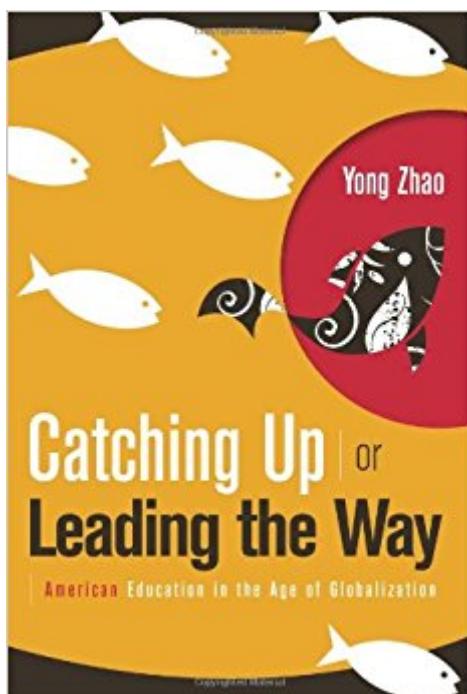


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Catching Up Or Leading The Way: American Education In The Age Of Globalization



Synopsis

At a time when globalization and technology are dramatically altering the world we live in, is education reform in the United States headed down the right path? Are schools emphasizing the knowledge and skills that students need in a global society--or are they actually undermining their strengths by overemphasizing high-stakes testing and standardization? Are education systems in China and other countries really as superior as some people claim. These and other questions are at the heart of author Yong Zhao's thoughtful and informative book. Born and raised in China and now a distinguished professor at Michigan State University, Zhao bases many of his observations on firsthand experience as a student in China and as a parent of children attending school in the United States. His unique perspective leads him to conclude that American education is at a crossroads and we need to change course to maintain leadership in a rapidly changing world. To make his case, Zhao explains what's right with American education; why much of the criticism of schools in the United States has been misleading and misinformed; why China and other nations in Asia are actually reforming their systems to be more like their American counterparts; how globalization and the death of distance are affecting jobs and everyday life; and how the virtual world is transforming the economic and social landscape in ways far more profound than many people realize. Educators, policymakers, parents, and others interested in preparing students to be productive global citizens will gain a clear understanding of what kinds of knowledge and skills constitute digital competence and global competence, and what schools can--and must--do to meet the challenges and opportunities brought about by globalization and technology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I think it's good cause it came on time/very quick and new.

With the new reformers spending millions of dollars to show how behind the US is in comparison to other industrialized and emerging countries, this book shows that, despite the obvious need for improvement, the US will continue to be at the leading edge of innovation in the 21st century. The engine that powers this innovation is that individual talents are celebrated and American students are encouraged to develop their unique talents to the fullest. He cautions us that the US is moving toward narrowing the curriculum and valuing only reading and math to the detriment of students being exposed to the other curriculum areas. The Arts, science, social studies have been given scant attention as more time is dedicated to the reading and math instruction. American children are not getting a balanced education and finding it difficult to develop their unique talents and passions. Americans strengths lie in its diversity and society's admiration of the rebellious attitude to carve our own path and not accept the line that "we do something a particular way because that is the way it has always been done".

This book is not a neutral based view point. Global Education Citizenship (GEC) view point. Sad, considering I was hoping for a view point of what creative thinking can do for the country. Music Education benefits humans in a way that cannot be contained in what will benefit mankind in "power" or "economically" based education. It cannot be reduced to economics.

This book is pretty good for readers who are interested in China's and America's education. Also, the price is low.

I have heard Yong Zhao speak and his book fills in the gaps and gives great ammunition for anyone arguing for a sensible return to a strong liberal arts curriculum while still holding to high international standards. The baby and the bathwater comes to mind when we look at educational policy and the needs for the 21st century learning models. Buy a copy for your local superintendent or school board member as a gift. Our US system is better than we think (and are led to believe by the media- both left and right) but could always be better. Don't pass on this book if you care about kids.

This is one of the most eye opening books regarding American education. If you are concerned about the failures (or perceived failures) of our education system then this is a must read. Also, if you think the threat is coming from China, then think again. Zhou lays it all out with great data and you may want to not put it down once you start reading.

Reading this book really opens my eyes, it gives me a new view about how to be international competitive. Yes, I totally agree with that innovation is much more important than nice test score. Everyone who cares about our children's future should read this book, this book gives you the answer of what a good education is.

Zhao presents the essence of his book in the preface:" what China wants is what America is eager to throw away - an education that respects individual talents, supports divergent thinking, tolerates deviation, and encourages creativity ... In the meantime, the U.S. has been trying hard to implement what China has been trying to be rid of ..." This book is not only a penetrating analysis of the current situation, but presents a very sensible analysis of globalization and how we need to prepare.

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