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Balancing Change And Tradition in Global Education Reform by Iris C.

Rotbera

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**** In the nick of time, March 3, 2005

"Balancing Change and Tradition in Global Education Reform" couldn't have come at a more propitious moment. Demands for American schools to reinvent themselves are invariably accompanied by references to international test scores that show our students performing poorly compared with their peers from other countries. The collection of essays in this book edited by Iris C. Rotberg shows the dangers of generalizing about educational quality based on the headlines in the evening news.

What Rotberg's careful selection of authors underscores is that each country has its own set of values, choices and societal pressures. While it's tempting to try to transfer a particular model of education to the U.S., or -- by extension -- to any other country, it will not likely be successful. That's because an education system reflects the totality of a country's unique culture and history.

It's too bad that Bill Gates didn't read Rotberg's book before addressing the recent National Governors Association. If he had, he'd want to revise his remarks.



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