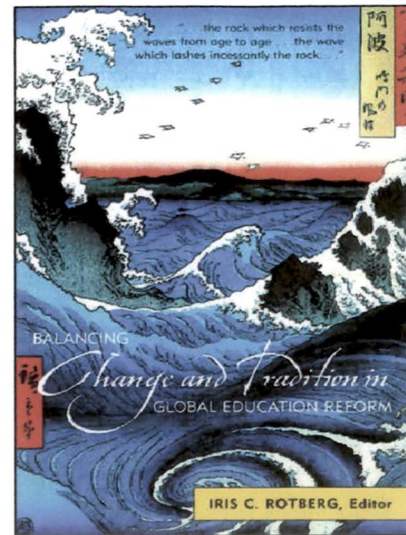


BALANCING CHANGE AND TRADITION IN GLOBAL EDUCATION REFORM

Edited by IRIS C. ROTBERG

Editor Iris C. Rotberg brings together, in one accessible source, current education reforms in 16 countries, written and analyzed by "insiders." These reforms are described in the context of broader societal and global change, as well as in the context of each country's value system, political structure, and economic status. In some countries, reforms are a response to major political or economic change. In others, they are motivated by large increases in immigration and, in turn, increased diversity of the student population. Countries are also responding to changes in the global economy and a concern that their education systems might be preparing students for jobs that no longer exist. Irrespective of the reasons for educational reform, however, there is a consistency in the issues that countries address. All countries face decisions about resource allocation, equality of educational opportunity, access to higher education, student testing and tracking, teacher accountability, school choice, the learning environment, and the balance between central and local control. Their decisions, in turn, have a significant impact on students' educational experience and on the distribution of educational opportunities across different population groups. The book's contributors describe the difficult choices each country must make, the tradeoffs and consequences associated with their choices, and the role that values and political structures play in facilitating, or constraining, reform.



Contributors were selected because of their "first-hand" experience in the countries they describe. This book is intended for a wide range of readers—both those in the field of education and a broader audience interested in national and international school reform efforts.

"...the chapters are...lucid, accessible, and insightful, and the concluding chapter is a thoughtful synthesis of the themes that weave throughout the book....Rotberg gets the editing business right; as a result, education policy makers, scholars, and practitioners interested in comparative education reform will find the book's sum is greater than the individual parts. ... I recommend the book because the individual case studies are informative. Reading Balancing Change and Tradition in Global Education Reform is like being on an interesting, sixteen stop, world study tour. I also recommend the book because Rotberg carefully and thoughtfully pieced together the concluding chapter. Readers who read the book from beginning to end will still be processing the sixteen stories and the wide-ranging content as they begin the final chapter. By identifying the themes that weave throughout the chapters, Rotberg helps the reader make sense of this worldwide intellectual journey. ... Rotberg does more than identify the themes; she illuminates them by constantly referencing the most essential points made by the individual contributors. What results is a theme, example, example, theme, example, example rhythm that provides readers with a thoughtful, manageable, and memorable conceptual framework that should enable them to draw upon the work in their own professional activities."

—Ron Byrnes, TEACHERS COLLEGE RECORD

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Iris C. Rotberg, editor, is Research Professor of Education Policy at the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

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