

Diane Ravitch's
The Troubled Crusade

Change in U.S. schools from 1945-1980

Caryn Berman

Ravitch states that...

- There is a crusade against ignorance
- Education will provide the basis for social improvement
- American schools reflect the bias of the larger society
- The politics of schooling in America have changed

Changes in American culture affect U.S. schooling

- 1945- Hearings on federal aid to schools
 - Rural districts in the worst financial states
 - Institutionalized by racially separate schools
 - Overall-very few people attended colleges/universities
- Schools part of a vicious cycle
 - Exclusion from education = economic exclusion
- 1949-Sen Taft proposes federal aid
 - majority agrees there should be no federal control of education

- 1965 – schools are competing for funding like any other public agency
- New school politics rotated around a state-federal axis
 - Good superintendents must have had good political relations
- 1980- School administrators had to stay alert to Congressional activities

The Teacher

- 1940s- little union participation, low pay, highly educated compared to most adults, thought of as moral examples
- Growth of higher education
 - Pulled teachers to the university level, no longer more educated than their students' parents
 - Rise of 1960s antiauthority
 - New spread of teachers' unions

Yes, school success 😊

- Battle of segregation
 - Began and fought in the schools
 - Goal of equity pursued
 - Important because schools are the place where children learn to interact with people outside their families
 - More modern buildings, better enrollment, materials, course selections and departments

President Truman's Commission of Higher Education – a success by 1980

After 1972...

- Rise in college attendance due to massive federal programs
- Higher level of college participation reflected rising levels of educational attainment
- An ability to meet the new demand for higher edu and protect the pre-eminence of scholarship as well
- Religious tensions eased

Though, at the same time...

- 1980s

Poor being pushed to urban centers

- Fall of urban schools
- Decline in SAT scores and writing skills
- Bigger school districts = impersonality, more exposure to varied setting, more formalization

Schultz, F. (2000). *SOURCES: Notable selections in education*. New York: McGraw-Hill Dushkin.