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