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Why the American Superpower has Mediocre Educational Rankings

Madeline R. Hays Virginia Commonwealth University, haysmr@vcu.edu

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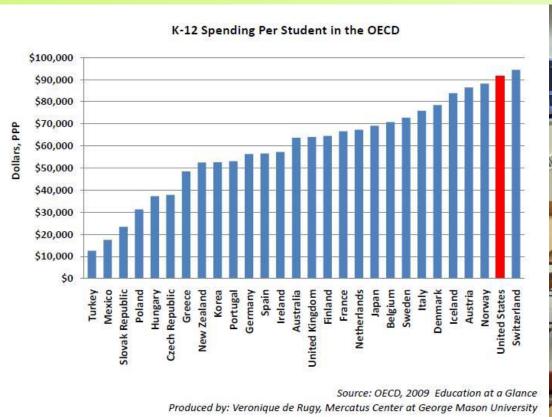
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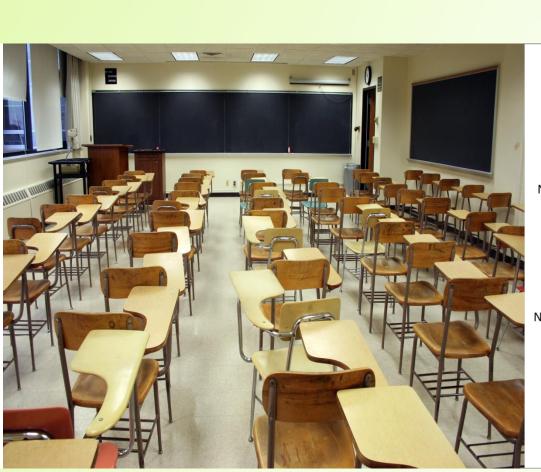
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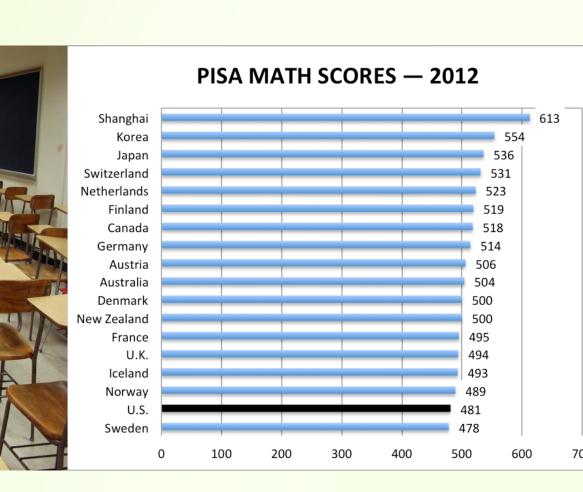


Why Our American Superpower Has Mediocre Schooling









Introduction

Why do we care about education?

Education holds implications for future economic growth of both an individual and a country. It also is a key factor in gaining opportunity to improve social class and increase political participation.

What's wrong with US education?

Even though the United States is one of the few superpowers of the world, we hold a very average spot on international assessments such as TIMSS, PISA, and TALIS compared to other first-world nations and leading industrial nations.

Wait...weren't we writing a lot of reforms for that?

The amount of educational reforms passing has been accelerating since the 1980's, and although there have been some positive results (mainly in primary schools), these improvements have been modest at best.

Oh no! What are we to do?

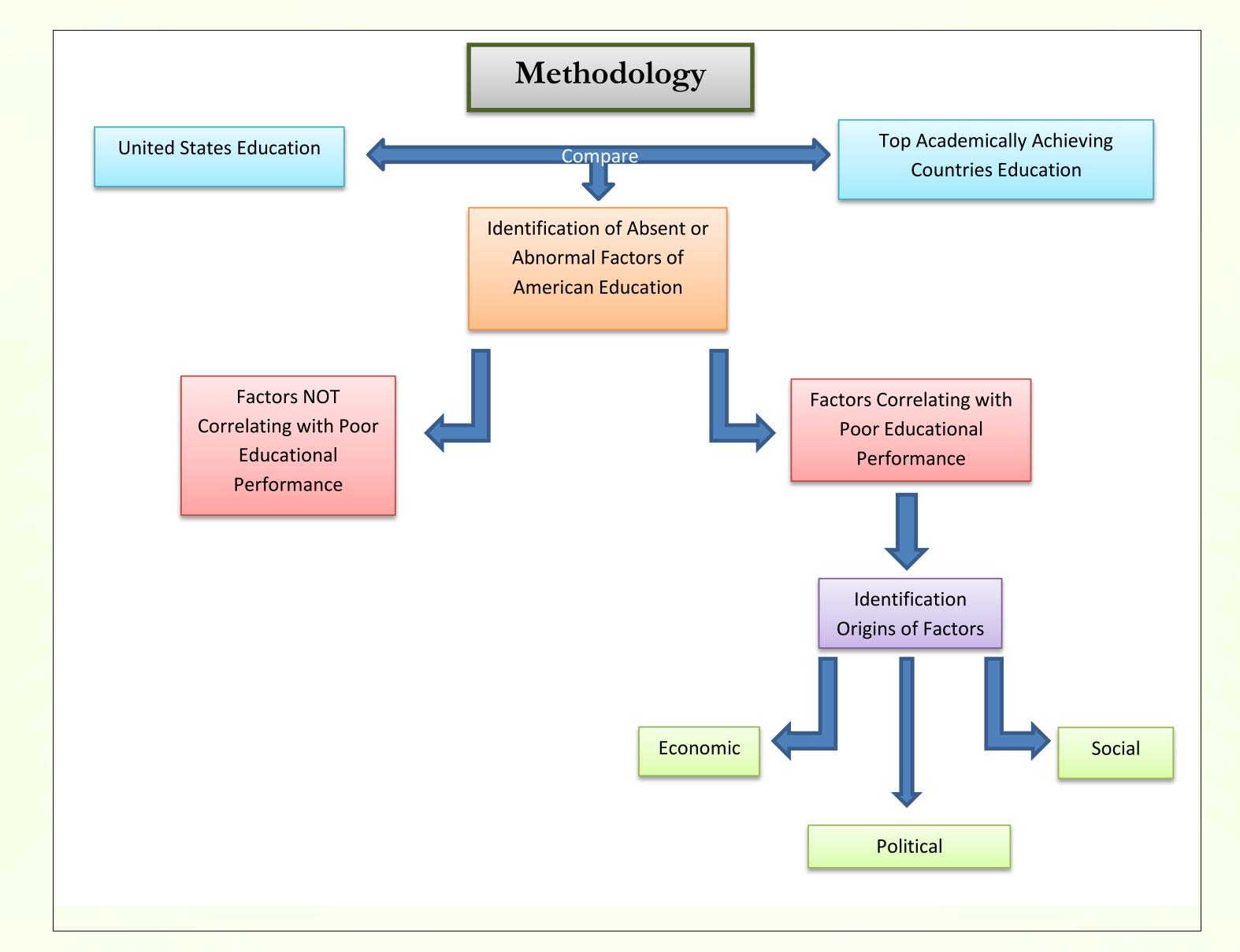
By identifying the reasons for the declining nature of US education, we can possibly find insight into improving our current academic state. Knowing the obstacles in education and the roots of these obstacles makes the road to higher educational quality much more clear.

The Big Question

Why has there been a decline in education quality in the United States compared to other first-world nations and leading industrial nations since World War II?



Madeline Hays



Factors:

I.Curriculum variation results from decentralized governmental process.

a. Multiple standards=Repetition

b.Check-off List vs. Logical Progression of Topics II.Misled reforms result from negotiation until ideas are ineffective.

a. High-stake assessments without offering effective aid to struggling schools.

b. Vague and/or ineffective procedures

III.Inefficient educational spending experiment.

- a.Complicated assessments
- b. High administrative salaries
- c.Experiments in privatization.

Roots:

I.The decentralized decision-making has roots to the Cold War

a.Less Social Education=Looking Less Communist II.Reforms made their major debut following the publication of *A Nation at Risk* in 1983

a.Resulted in Standards Movement to improve educational quality.

III.Privatization is rooted in the Civil Rights Movement

Conclusion:

- While the reasons for United States' educational mediocrity are multi-dimensional, it can be broken down into a few large categories.
- By observing other cultures academic systems and understanding the history of our own, we can objectively examine education and improve upon current systems.
- Further research is necessary to turn these reasons for average performance into a plan for improvement.



