



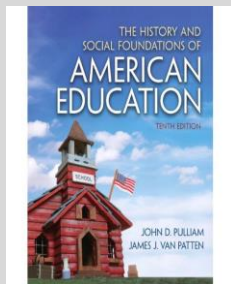
© *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Education*
ISSN: 2166-2681 Volume 1, Issue 1, 2012
<http://isejournal.org/>

Book Review

The history and social foundations of American education, by John D. Pulliam and James J. Van Patten, Tenth edition, Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson, 2013, US \$ 89.40 (paper), ISBN-13: 9780132626132.

Reviewed by

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The History and Social Foundations of American Education is a well written, easy to read textbook outlining educational developments that formed the foundation of modern American

schools, accompanied by helpful critical analysis and action activities listed at the conclusion of each chapter. A supporting bibliography cites current, classic, and historic references for reader follow-up.

The first half of the book provides numerous historical examples related to the development of American education, up to the conclusion of World War I, an excellent timeline account of global and local developments in the twentieth century that impacted education in America. The remaining chapters explore events that influenced education in the latter part of the last century.

Of specific notice is Chapter 8, which covers American education from 1960 to the

present, which provides an excellent overview with an account of technology developments and information access challenges teachers will face in the next few decades.

Chapter 9 covers school reform movements in education since the 1980s and provides a poignant historical account of the literature related to questions numerous publics are raising in regards to changes needed and the challenges of serving diverse students for effective, competitive American public schools in the twenty-first century. A leadership partner in cooperative venture between the business community, parents, the local school districts and the universities is discussed as a possible bridge effort to have schools remain globally competitive and innovative in the near future.

Chapter 10 highlights numerous court cases that have impacted education at the primary, secondary and college level. For the United States of America to retain its leadership standing in a rapidly changing world, a strong vibrant, innovative, creative and adaptive educational system - from

preschool through graduate studies - is a challenge as schools and colleges must be reformed, modified, and updated, and new ideas implemented with teacher-supportive technical support in the coming decades. The authors address that a future goal must be improved learner achievement with solid student performance both in and outside the classroom.

An emphasis on the evaluation of educational planning for meeting further challenges is a theme for this book. The authors maintain that the text should prove helpful in preparing students for teacher certification. The concluding chapter, which covers globalization and future trends, might benefit by a few twenty-first century comparative education references.

About the Reviewers:

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