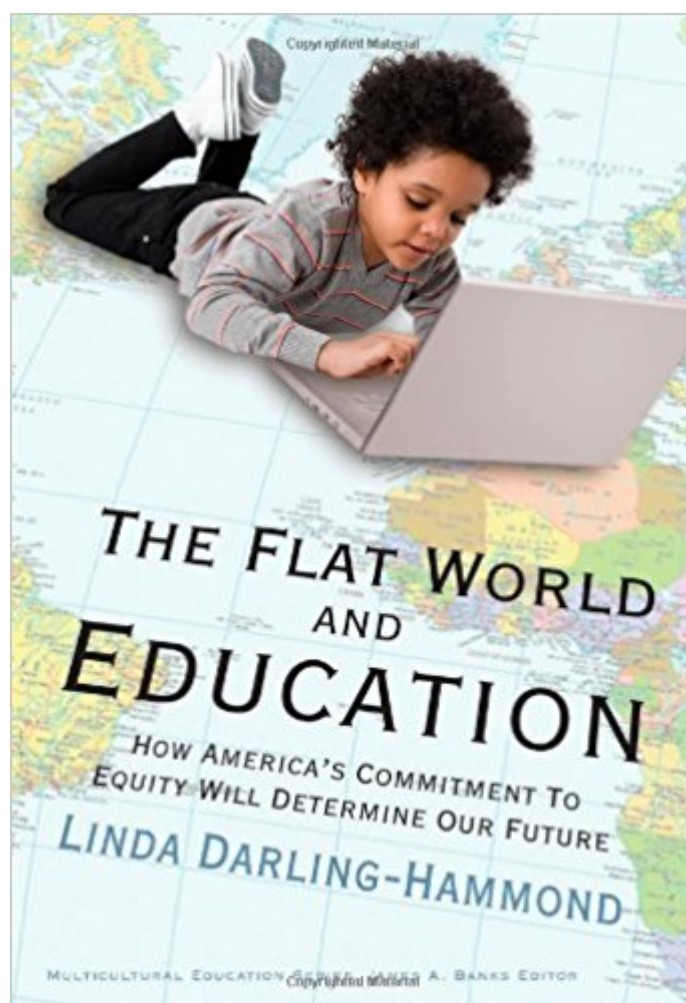


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# The Flat World And Education: How America's Commitment To Equity Will Determine Our Future (Multicultural Education)



## Synopsis

The Flat World and Education offers an eye-opening wake-up call concerning America's future and vividly illustrates what the United States needs to do to build a system of high-achieving and equitable schools that ensures every child the right to learn. "We are so fortunate that Linda Darling-Hammond has provided this road map for educational excellence for all children in today's flat world. She thoughtfully emphasizes the basic strengths that we need in these changing times and then outlines what our schools must do to respond to 21st-century learning needs. Linda is one of the education researchers whom I most respect. 'All children' must mean all children and this book shows us how to do it."-Richard W. Riley, Former U. S. Secretary of Education "When Linda Darling-Hammond speaks, America's teachers listen! I listened and learned from her as we together led the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and created the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. Excellent schools are the key to America's economic future, and superb teaching is the key to great schools. This book makes clear as a bell how to organize schools for successful teaching and what state and national policies are required to support it."-James B. Hunt,

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Examining in detail issues like equality of spending, testing in K-12 education, and teacher preparation, Stanford education professor Darling-Hammond (The Right to Learn) makes a

clear, organized argument that, "like manufacturing industries that have struggled and gone under in recent decades, modern schools were designed at the turn of the last century," and are in desperate need of transformation. Using a straightforward style to examine complex issues, Darling-Hammond reveals the successful educational strategies around the world that are toppling the old educational guard, including a high degree of personalization that allows stronger, closer relationships among students, faculty, staff, and parents. Darling-Hammond doesn't shy away from difficult questions at the heart of seemingly-intractable academic issues; for example, "How is it that scores have been driven upward on the state tests required by No Child Left Behind, yet they have dropped on... international measures?" Scholarly and factual, well-researched and packed with astounding examples of the current climate of American education, this text should prove highly informative for educators, educational administrators, and involved parents throughout the U.S.

Contains a valuable lode of practical and research-based advice about how to improve our schools.

--Washington Post There are few who are as strong as Darling-Hammond in using and analyzing statistical data and scholarship...and in fighting for educational equity; when she talks about leaving no child behind, she truly means it. This book is a must for graduate education students, educators, [and] policy makers...Essential. --CHOICE Magazine Darling-Hammond identifies the policies and

the practices that could turn the tide from educational mediocrity to educational excellence for all if we only had the will. --The School Administrator There are few who are as strong as

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Administrator

To truly appreciate this book, you are going to need to set aside some time to digest each chapter. The whimsical illustration on the cover of the young child laying on a map of the world with a computer doesn't do justice to the depth of research contained throughout this book. It is impossible to read this book without seeing just how far America has gone afoul in public education over the last 40 years. You will experience sobering moments as you read what we have done to the last generation of children in this country. The hopeful news is that Linda lays out a pretty clear roadmap for moving forward and discusses several countries and states that have improved their outcomes

through deliberate attention to equity. Since it is true that the grass gets greener where you water it, an equity focus over time will not only increase outcomes for the students who are the most behind, it will increase outcomes for all students. There is a lot of talk and confusion about equity in education circles today. This book focuses on the true definition of equity which is the ability to meet the needs of individual students and provide the support each child needs to be successful. You can design a public education system that does exactly that. Linda not only explains it, but shows examples of where it has been done successfully. Achievement gaps are not inherent. They can be addressed, and a focus on equity is how that happens. Read it and weep. I did. I hope we can learn from this masterpiece here in Oregon.

I purchased this book for a class and I am so glad that I had the chance to read it. It is a captivating read that is absolutely eye-opening in its examination of the current American education system, the future of our nation's education system, and how we stack up against other nations.

Darling-Hammond, a Stanford professor and an education advocate is very aware of the realities of testing, funding inequality, and teacher preparation and how each influences our current system. The school to prison-pipeline, charter schools, and innovative teacher preparation programs are all taken into consideration as Darling-Hammond examines the current system. With strong data, dynamic cases, and eloquent voice, Darling-Hammond makes a clear case of what has gone wrong in education as it is currently employed, and makes compelling suggestions about what can be done to return America to its former glory as a strong educationally-minded nation.

The book is heavy and not something that can be read in a short time frame. Her resources, studies, and data she gives very clearly points to the fact that American education is not a priority and is grossly underfunded. What I like most about this book is that she gives the problems (with extensive research) and still is able to provide numerous solutions. It's a book every educator, policy maker, or anyone else who is passionate about justice and equity, should read!

I had to buy this book for a master's class. It's a pretty dry book, as most of them are. I have read some great education books, this wasn't one of them.

Outstanding, timely work. Referenced in the second edition of *The Clinical Practice of Educational Therapy: Learning and Functioning with Diversity*, coedited by Ficksman and Adelizzi.

This book provide a real world picture of the US educational system (include many areas for improvement) delivered in a tone that compels you to action. Uses a lot of good research to support assertions.

When you read this you will get very angry... You may get angry because you are part of the problem, or you may get angry because you want to fix the problem. Either way its is a book worth reading, especially if care about the future of education and the rights for all of our students to have a great education.

Darling-Hammond created a jewel with this work. I am using it with doctoral students at Texas Wesleyan University. The course is Global Issues in Pedagogy and Education Policy. She has framed the argument in an engaging format. The over-arching focus on the impact of teacher quality on the opportunity gap is well-researched and reported. Great work!

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