

THE RISE OF WOMEN: THE GROWING GENDER GAP IN EDUCATION AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR AMERICAN SCHOOLS

Thomas A. DiPrete
and Claudia Buchmann
(New York: Russell Sage Foundation,
2013), 277 pages.

The Rise of Women: The Growing Gender Gap in Education and What It Means for American Schools examines the current gender gap in college graduation rates in the United States. Contemporary women outperform men in school and are more likely to earn college degrees. This gender gap exists across ethnicities and exists in many other industrialized nations. In the book, the authors examine potential causes of the current male shortfall in educational attainment. They look at existing arguments for this gap and analyze current research, searching for the truth within these arguments and possible causal variables.

The authors explain how women's natural social and behavioral advantages, better academic performance, and attachment to school at all ages has given women an edge in terms of educational attainment. To bridge the gap, policymakers must increase graduation rates for male students who have higher education aspirations and potential for completing college, but who are unable to achieve these goals due to financial constraints and lack of other support systems.

The authors argue that an effective route to increasing the educational at-

tainment of men is to support a masculine culture that incorporates the skills that have given women a natural advantage. Increasing social and behavioral skills and attachment to school would prepare boys for the challenges they will face in college. While this recommendation seems to follow logically from the authors' analysis, it would have been interesting to see a study on whether this recommendation can be realistically implemented, given the impact of intersecting factors like family, race, class, and ethnicity on academic performance. However, this may be outside the scope of what the authors aimed to present.

The historical background presented in this book is well-explained and relatively easy to understand. However, the wealth of empirical and statistical evidence presented makes the book more appropriate for an audience with a background in statistics and social science research. Overall, the authors present strong arguments and evidence for reducing the gender gap and promoting male educational attainment, so that all students who have the potential to earn a college degree have the opportunity to do so.

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND GENDER

Nicole Detraz
(Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2012), 224 pages.

In International Security and Gender,

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