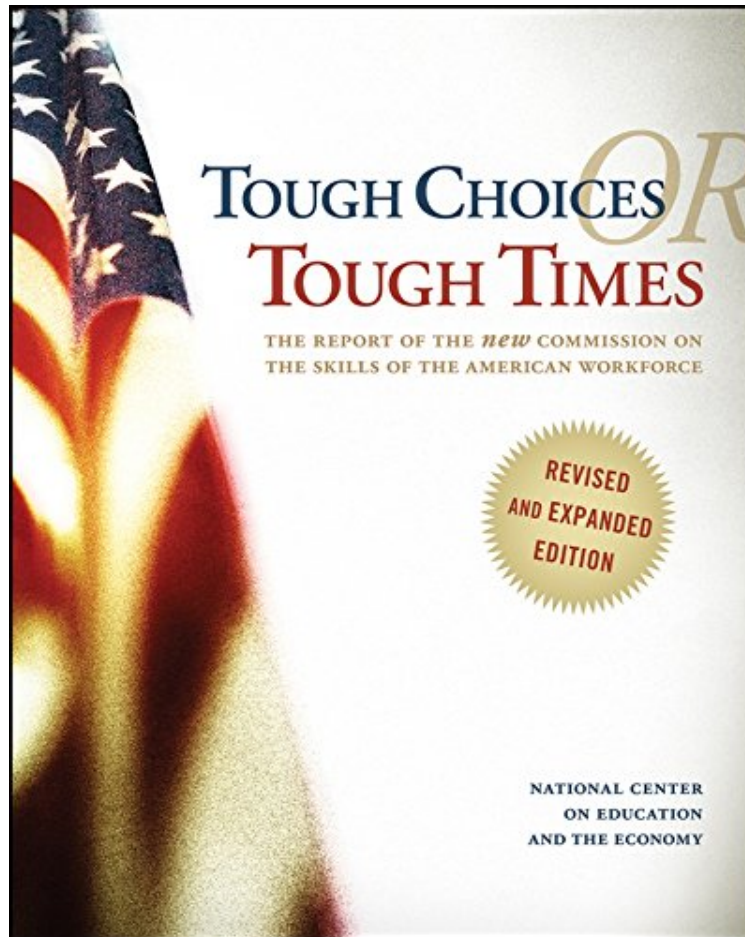


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Tough Choices or Tough Times: The Report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce

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National Center on Education and the Economy : Tough Choices or Tough Times: The Report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tough Choices or Tough Times: The Report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Education and national healthBy Bob ZaslavskyThe catastrophic decline in the quality of American public education has been diagnosed repeatedly since the 1950s in works such as James B. Conant's The American High School Today [The Conant Report] (1959), The Shopping Mall High School (1985), or E. D. Hirsch's Cultural Literacy (1987). Now, a new report in this tradition offers up perhaps the most scathing indictment of our system yet. The report, issued on December 14, 2006, by the National Center on Education and the Economy's New Commission of the Skills of the American Workforce, is titled Tough Choices or Tough

Times. The title suggests that if we do not make the difficult decisions that are required to resuscitate our schools, our future health as a nation is bleak. The report is a thorough, strong, and incisive analysis of the extent to which American dominance in education worldwide has eroded along with our dominance in economics and market competitiveness. Moreover, despite some minor weaknesses in the report caused by its attempt to predict the global future and its occasional political caution, it should launch a national dialogue on our public education system.[from my column in "The Sunday Paper" (Atlanta, GA)]--Dr. Robert Zaslavsky, author of "An Introductory Latin Course: A First Latin Grammar for Middle Schoolers, High Schoolers, College Students, Homeschoolers, and Self-Learners" and other works.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Creativity and InnovationBy Donna HoffmanThis report, the result of the second Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce in thirty years, represents "the canary in the mine." It is a warning to law makers, educators, students, parents and business people that we must overhaul the American educational system. Emphasis on creativity and innovation needs to be added to student learning and assessment as well as high levels of critical thinking. Instead of pushing toward analysis, teachers need to devise ways in which students can synthesize their learning; for example, thematically combining the content of a World Civ class with scientific breakthroughs. Creativity and innovation is the only way in which we can claim U.S. superiority in the fast approaching future. Countries like India and Japan are already ahead of us. We need to catch up quickly or lose our standing in the world marketplace.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Poorly written and poorly researched.By Gayla JacksonThe report was critical of the educational system because students are graduating with an eight grade reading and writing level but the report was barely written on an eighth grade writing level; it was full of run on and incomplete sentences. Some of the statements that were made were racially offensive as well.

Tough Choices or Tough Times, the report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, shows how the dynamics of the global economy will lead to a steady decline in the American standard of living if this country does not undertake the first thorough overhaul of its education system in a century. This new revised and expanded version of Tough Choices or Tough Times includes: An updated Introduction A summary of the Commission's proposals Commentaries on the proposals by Denis Doyle, Lawrence Mishel, Michael Petrilli, Diane Ravitch, and Richard Rothstein, with responses from members of the Commission. Tough Choices or Tough Times provides a well-researched analysis of the issues and a compelling set of proposals for changing our system of education.

"hellip;the honest hard-hitting report spares no one." (Coast Views, 10/2007) "Anyone who hopes to hold a job in the next several decades should readmdash;if not memorizemdash;this extraordinary report." mdash;Norman R. Augustine, Retired Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation, and Chairman, The National Academies Committee on Prospering in the Global Economy of the 21st Century "This penetrating, scary analysis and astute, far-reaching recommendations amount to A Nation at Risk for the next generation, a brave, clear call for top-to-bottom reforms in U.S. education . . . Tough Choices sketches a bold and efficient new vehicle for equipping 21st century Americans with the skills and knowledge they will needmdash;and that the nation needs." mdash;Chester E. Finn Jr., Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and President, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation "Bold, inventive, analytic, and piercing, the report's recommendations stand to make a huge difference in how America thinks about and enacts its educational enterprise for allmdash;including its youngestmdash;students." mdash;Sharon Lynn Kagan, Virginia Leonard Marx Professor of Early Childhood and Family Policy, Teachers College, Columbia University, and Codirector, The National Center for Children and Families "Tough Choices or Tough Times is must reading . . . The Commission advances thought-provoking recommendations that should stimulate debate and then galvanize every sector of society . . . to muster the will and the wherewithal to ensure that America's workforce is the best educated and prepared in the world." mdash;Hugh Price, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, and Former President, National Urban League "[O]ur students are falling further behind and the people of this nation do not seem to be alarmed. This report lays out the kind of drastic change to the system that is crucial if we are to remain a viable economic and political leader in the world." mdash;David P. Driscoll, Commissioner of Education, MassachusettsFrom the Back Cover"Anyone who hopes to hold a job in the next several decades should readmdash;if not memorizemdash;this extraordinary report." mdash;Norman R. Augustine, Retired Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin Corporation, and Chairman, The National Academies Committee on Prospering in the Global Economy of the 21st Century "This penetrating, scary analysis and astute, far-reaching recommendations amount to A Nation at Risk for the next generation, a brave, clear call for top-to-bottom reforms in U.S. education . . . Tough Choices sketches a bold and efficient new vehicle for equipping 21st century Americans with the skills and knowledge they will needmdash;and that the nation needs." mdash;Chester E. Finn Jr., Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and President, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation "Bold, inventive, analytic, and piercing, the report's recommendations stand to make a huge difference in how America thinks about and enacts its educational enterprise for allmdash;including its youngestmdash;students." mdash;Sharon Lynn Kagan, Virginia Leonard Marx Professor of

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