



1776 American Empowered April 2021 Newsletter

Education and National Pride - why is China Beating US?

The United States used to be at the forefront of the education, technology, business and manufacturing. However, slowly and steadily, we have been giving up these positions to other countries. The World Population Review shows a study regarding education around the world involving almost 470,000 fifteen year olds. They administered the American SAT and ACT tests, which are standardized testing covering English, math and, reading and science.

When compiling all the scores, China ranked #1 when it comes to scoring the highest on math, reading and science scores. *The US came in 26th.* This is used to get a feeling of how the countries' literacy and educational levels were when countries were compared. What they found was that China scored consistently higher in all three of the main areas.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development did a study and found that Canada was listed as the most educated country with Japan coming in second. These countries have the highest percentages of students that attended some form of post-high school. Here is the listing on that subject

1. Canada
2. Japan
3. Israel
4. Korea
5. United Kingdom
6. United States
7. Finland
8. Norway
9. Luxembourg

US News & World Reports rated the United Kingdom as best overall educational systems with United States coming in second and Canada coming in third.

Oddly enough, although the US comes in second-best in the education system globally, our students score considerable lower than many other countries in math, science, reading and english.

The United States ranks very high when it comes to the pay rates of teachers with 10 years or more of experience. Only Canada and Germany spend more, according to Our World in Data in reporting statistics. It just does not seem like the US population is getting the most “bang for its buck” as the old expression goes. To top it off, we are being outpaced by China — a worry to be sure.



Our children are our assurance of a continuance as a free country. In global technological societies, competition runs not only at a faster pace, but also favors the most advanced and innovative. At this point, our children are attempting to compete on uneven playing fields...and we had better figure out why before China becomes the new technological giant that we once were.

So how do we fix this steady decline in our children's educational prowess? Firstly, as a parent,

grandparent or just interested citizen, you can't change the country on your own. Our school systems are run mostly on a local level, with mandates and guidance from your respective state government and local school boards (not to mention the influence of teacher's unions). So you have to start with one of your local school districts.

Since your taxes support the school (one way or another), you have the right to find out how your schools are competing on the state level. Get involved with your local school board and attend meetings. Check out the materials they are using to teach. We must work from the local level to accomplish this or we can not blame anyone but ourselves if our children are left in the dust—statistically.



Lastly, have the teacher's unions kept your schools closed? Are the students getting in person instruction or are they struggling with online classes and self teaching? When will your schools open? IF the Covid virus rears its ugly head again as the flu does every year, will your schools remain open or will your children be home again learning remotely from various medias and instructors.

We must care enough to take the time to answer these questions. If not us — who will do it?



**National Pride.
China vs USA**



Another arena that we must champion in our local schools is to teach the children to love our country. This concept is also being decimated in many of our

schools by the influences of radical anti-American groups who claim that the US should be hated, that authority is to be distrusted, and parents do not really have the right to interfere with their child's social environment.

The anti-American rhetoric slithers slowly into our kids' books, media, and cartoons. Social media, music, and programs in the schools are quietly indoctrinating our students, teaching them that our Constitution is slanted for the benefit of the wealthy and affluent.

But you don't hear that kind of training going on in China. As a matter of fact, in 1949, the Chinese Young Pioneers was formed under the watchful eye of the CPC (Communist Party of China). According to the Party rhetoric, the group is instrumental in uniting and guiding the generations of children in following the instructions of the "Party" and ensuring that they grow healthy. It is used to shape their children's values and political awareness and guides them in a commitment to Communism.

The documents stress that it is imperative that all the children participate in the program. All children in China of the age of 6 to 14 attend the Chinese Young Pioneers groups. All children in elementary school and during the first two years in middle school attend this class once per week to carry out Young Pioneer activities, core trainings materials that are truly "Xi thought" and become indoctrinated in the true Communistic way.

Why don't our schools have classes that teach our children from a young age how to love America, capitalism, and learn what it means to be free? It is a radical thought that maybe, just maybe, our country is truly the most marvelous in the world and our children don't even seem to know it. All countries claim to be the best, but our country is the one that has people breaking down our doors (border doors) and clamoring to get into it.

Our freedoms, guaranteed by the Constitution must be taught over and over to our kids, until they know it backward and forward. That way, when someone attempts to take one of these freedoms away—our

youth can cry with one voice — “*Stop, you have no right to do that!*”

Digital identity

What is a digital identity? A digital identity is a set of validated digital attributes or credentials that belong to the digital world. Very similar to a person’s identity in the real world. Usually a digital identity is regulated by some sort of a national ID scheme and serves to identify a person with a unique set of credentials.



It may have certain attributes such as a unique identity number, Social Security number, name, place, date of birth, citizenship, or biometrics such as fingerprints or something of that nature.

Many countries are looking into utilizing digital ID for all of their people. The United Nations and the World Bank have both put forth initiatives aimed at providing everyone on the planet with a legal identity by 2030. ID 2020 summit that was held in New York City initiated discussions surrounding digital identity, Blockchain, crypto graphic technologies, and all of the benefits to the underprivileged. Over 400 experts got together to share what they thought would be the best way to handle a universal identity tool.

They want to identify and use proofing for all users such as employees, contractors and private individuals. Now they give many examples of benefits that are going to come from this: digital drivers license, smart borders, smart airports that utilize facial recognition, and many other streamlining projects. Many are being looked at here in the US.

According to the Thales Group, they are proposing to use digital identity and access management to give people cyber security compatibility. Simply stated — “**The NIST (National Institute of**

Standards and Technology) wants to ensure that the right people and things have the right access to the right resources at the right time.”

That is why in March of this year, voters in

Well if that doesn’t freak you out, I know what it would. What springs to mind is just who are the **right people** and what is the **right time**? Who will determine this in the future? Remember, all this may be set up for our benefit now, but can be used against us in the future. Their intentions are noble, but the control of so much information about someone, in a global data set is absolutely frightening.

Switzerland rejected a proposed government digital identity scheme which would have been set up for private citizens. The main issue was trust. A trusted digital identity is a key requirement in modern economies and the people did not feel that the infrastructure was set up with strong enough support.

The Swiss did not feel that at this very moment only weak security is all that is available. Too many hackers are making inroads into private data. Hackers from around the world are constantly trying to gain access to private data, not to mention foreign governments.

So what can we learn from this? Well firstly, a great deal of all the information that they propose to use at the ID 2020 summit, for a digital ID, is already being used by us whenever we sign into our medical portal, or our Amazon account, or give our credit card information to make a purchase. Very little of what the Swiss objected to in their proposed identity scheme is different than what is being done here on the Internet in the United States. We have already given up our most important digital identity information online in different places.

Digital IDs are being proposed all over the world and they want to make it global. They are now talking about having smart cities — cities that are able to respond uniquely to the digital identities that are presented to them. So what is a smart city? According to cisco.com, a smart city will use digital technology to connect, protect and enhance the lives of its citizens using IoT sensor technology, video cameras, social media and other inputs act as a nervous system, providing the city operator and citizens a constant feedback, so they can make informed decisions.

A smart city can collect and analyze data from IoT sensors and video cameras sensing the environment so the city operator can decide how and when to take action.

IoT sensors (A definition of IoT Courtesy of Oracle - The Internet of Things (IoT) describes the network of physical objects—“things”—that are embedded with sensors, software, and other technologies for the purpose of connecting and exchanging data with other devices and systems over the internet)

Examples they give of this are applications to monitor air quality and regulate omissions. People and tourists can acquire information at an interactive kiosk, or a mobile app can teach them where they're going and how to get there. It can analyze city data better to enhance the environment. It can lower energy consumption, cut costs and simplify maintenance and regulating lighting. Parking demand analyses will reduce parking space search time for citizens. Public Wi-Fi sensors. Protection against crime terrorism and civil unrest. Reduction in congestion and pollution through traffic management.

All of these sound wonderful, and nobody in their right mind would say, “Oh that sounds bad.” After all, it would enhance the city environment, and make city life much more manageable.

However, (and there is always one of those), there is a downside to all this technology. What happens if an enemy decides to set off an EMP? What happens if a hacker decides that he wants to change the route of traffic, and direct it down a different street? What happens if somebody wants to impersonate somebody else and has the technology to do it?

Yes we are entering a brave new world. And we will have to be very brave in order to step into it. We will not be able to stop all the digitizing that is going on, but maybe, just maybe, we will be able to get it set up correctly and safely. We also must make sure that all of this does not enhance the deterioration of our rights given to us by the Constitution.

The world is rushing to get ahead of itself, but it forgets that if it doesn't put in the proper safety procedures and equipment that is needed to safeguard this, they'll have made our lives a living hell.



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Join us next month for the slippery slope of Rights being lost