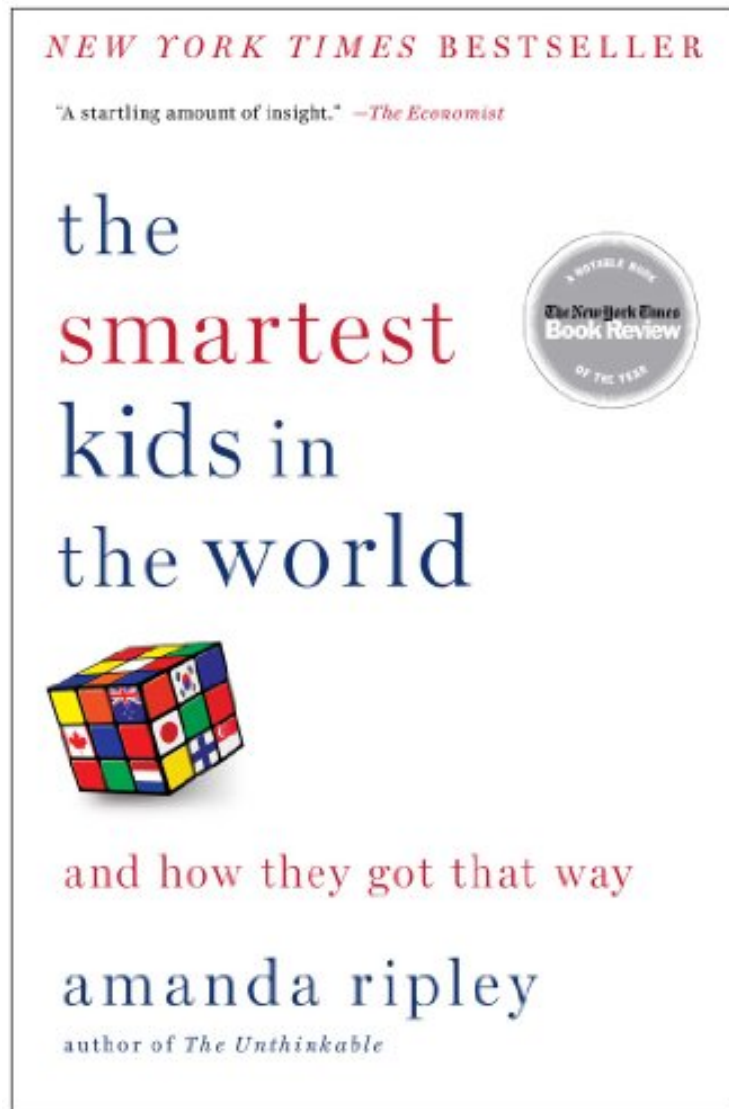


[Download] The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way (English Edition)

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Von Amanda Ripley

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Von Amanda Ripley : The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Brief Summary and ReviewVon A. D. Thibeault*A full executive summary of this book will be available at

newbooksinbrief dot com, on or before Tuesday, September 10, 2013. The main argument: In the recent past the K-12 public education system in the United States has been lackluster at best (some might say deplorable). Not that the various levels of government have not put in a great deal of effort (and money) to try and fix the problem; indeed, numerous attempts at education reform have been tried over the past 20 years or so, and the US currently spends more on public education per student than any other nation. Still, all of these good intentions (and boatloads of money) have achieved relatively little in terms of results. When compared with other developed nations, for example, American high school students currently rank 12th in reading, 17th in science, and a paltry 26th in math. These numbers would be concerning even at the best of times, but with the nation currently struggling through a seemingly endless economic slow-down, and with the global economy becoming increasingly competitive (and modern jobs requiring more and more advanced cognitive skills all the time), these numbers are very troubling indeed. All is not lost, though. Other nations have shown that they are able to achieve far better academic results using far less money, and thus we may deem it high time that we investigate just what the leading nations are doing different that has allowed them to be so successful. It is this very project that journalist Amanda Ripley sets for herself in her new book *The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way*. Ripley focuses her attention on the education systems of 3 countries in particular: South Korea, Finland and Poland. South Korea and Finland are chosen due to their being on top of the world when it comes to academic results, while Poland is chosen since it has recently been able to improve academic outcomes greatly despite the fact that the country faces many of the same challenges as the US including especially a high rate of child poverty. When it comes to the authors approach in the book, it is very much that of the investigative journalist: Ripley relies heavily on interviews with specific players in the education systems of the various countries at play (including students, teachers, principals, and politicians); and her main sources are 3 American exchange students (Eric, Kim and Tom) who spend a year immersed in the education systems of the respective countries. When it comes to South Korea, we find that this countrys edge in education has to do mainly with the very intense motivation and hard work on the part of the students. This is a culture where it is no exaggeration to say that most students spend every waking minute on school work: students spend all day at school, eat dinner at school, and then proceed from there to private tutoring schools (called hagwons), where they study right up until bed-time (and often beyond it). The reason for this intense focus on education is that there is very fierce competition to be accepted into one of the few best universities in the country, and only those who score in the top 2% on a single test at the end of high school are allowed in (a set of circumstances that most Koreans actually resent, but which they nonetheless feel compelled to play along with). In Finland we find that academic outcomes are on par with those in South Korea, but that the students here have achieved these results without the same level of acute devotion displayed in South Korea. Indeed, Finlands edge in education appears to derive not so much from excessive studying, but from its very high quality of teachers which begins with Finlands exceptional teachers colleges. Specifically, the countrys few accredited teachers colleges are very selective in terms of who they accept, and the teacher education programs in Finland are themselves very lengthy and rigorous. In Poland we find that the countrys improvements in academic outcomes as of late may be attributed to a host of recent reforms. These include the ratcheting up of the countrys education standards and targets; the delaying of the streaming of students (i.e., separating students into academic and vocational classes); and the awarding of more funds to vocational schools and schools that under-perform in terms of academic outcomes (together with the simultaneous awarding of more autonomy to teachers in schools that excel in terms of academic outcomes). Beyond their peculiarities, we find that there is one thing that all 3 countries have in common (which is also shared by all nations that perform well when it comes to academics); and that is that they all maintain very high educational expectations and standards, and these standards are consistently tested in a way that holds real consequences for the students and their future prospects. The good thing about Ripleys approach is that it gives us an insiders look into the education systems of the various countries discussed. This approach is particularly good at unearthing specific insights with regards to effective educational practices. However, the approach does have its drawbacks compared with one that is more scientific in nature, and broader in scope. Ideally, it would have been nice to see Ripley combine the two approaches in her book. Still, Ripley has done very well with the approach that she has chosen, and there are many important insights here. A full executive summary of the book will be available at newbooksinbrief dot com, on or before Tuesday, September 10; a podcast discussion of the book will be available shortly thereafter.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Analysen statt Meinungen Von Peer Sylvester Die Autorin begleitet drei Auslandsstudenten auf ihren Weg in fremde Bildungssysteme: Nach Sdkorea, Finnland (die PISA-Gewinner) und Polen (strkste Verbesserung). Sie analysiert, was in den Bildungssystemen besser luft als in den USA (deren PISA-Rating stagniert) und wo eventuelle Nachteile liegen. Die unheimliche Strke des Buches ist, dass es einerseits gut zu lesen ist, andererseits eben tatschlich Grnde sucht und findet, die ber "Ich mag Gruppenunterricht" hinausgehen. Gerade im Bildungsbereich werden viel zu viele Bcher geschrieben, die eine Meinung verbreiten, die berhaupt nicht durch Erkenntnisse gesttzt werden (und auch die Politik geht ja eher in diese Richtung). Das ist hier anders! Und es beschreibt oft auch die Kehrseite der Medaille - Die Autorin hat festgestellt, dass kein Land mit seinem Bildungssystem wirklich zufrieden ist. Was man natrlich bedenken muss, ist dass dieses Buch USA-zentriert ist. Die Schulsysteme werden mit dem Amerikanischen System verglichen. Das macht aber

nichts; Ich finde es sogar ganz erfrischend, denn Deutschland ordnet sich irgendwo zwischen den USA und Finnland ein und so kann man einerseits erleichtert feststellen, dass vieles hierzulande tatsächlich besser läuft als in den USA, aber eben bestimmte Amerikanische Trends auch hier erkennbar sind und bestimmte Erkenntnisse aus der PISA-Spitzengruppe hierzulande schlicht ignoriert werden. Um ein Beispiel zu geben: Es wird immer auf die große Autonomie der Schulen in Finnland hingewiesen. Nicht erklärt wird aber, dass die nicht zuletzt daher kommt, dass die Lehrerausbildung dort sehr viel schwieriger ist - etwa vergleichbar mit einer Ausbildung zum Mediziner. Entsprechend viel Vertrauen kann die dortige Regierung in ihre Lehrer setzen. Eigentlich der einzige Kritikpunkt ist neben der Fokussierung auf die USA, dass gegen Ende sich ein bisschen viele Wiederholungen einschleichen. Aber das ist zu verkraftet. Wer an echten Erkenntnissen interessiert ist (statt an Stammtischparolen la Lehrerhasserbuch), dem sei dieses Buch wirklich ins Herz gelegt! 10 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Important insights Von Marlies Boullay-Kreuzen The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got That Way. An interesting insight in the critical factors for successful education. Should be read by all involved in teacher training and education.

Kurzbeschreibung How do other countries create smarter kids? What is it like to be a child in the world's new education superpowers? The Smartest Kids in the World gets well beneath the glossy surfaces of these foreign cultures and manages to make our own culture look newly strange.... The question is whether the startling perspective provided by this masterly book can also generate the will to make changes (The New York Times Book). In a handful of nations, virtually all children are learning to make complex arguments and solve problems they've never seen before. They are learning to think, in other words, and to thrive in the modern economy. Inspired to find answers for our own children, author and Time magazine journalist Amanda Ripley follows three Americans embedded in these countries for one year. Kim, fifteen, raises \$10,000 so she can move from Oklahoma to Finland; Eric, eighteen, trades his high-achieving Minnesota suburb for a booming city in South Korea; and Tom, seventeen, leaves a historic Pennsylvania village for Poland. Through these young informants, Ripley meets battle-scarred reformers, sleep-deprived zombie students, and a teacher who earns \$4 million a year. Their stories, along with groundbreaking research into learning in other cultures, reveal a pattern of startling transformation: none of these countries had many smart kids a few decades ago. Things had changed. Teaching had become more rigorous; parents had focused on things that mattered; and children had bought into the promise of education. Pressestimmen [Ripley] gets well beneath the glossy surfaces of these foreign cultures and manages to make our own culture look newly strange The question is whether the startling perspective provided by this masterly book can also generate the will to make changes. (New York Times Book) Compelling . . . What is Poland doing right? And what is America doing wrong? Amanda Ripley, an American journalist, seeks to answer such questions in The Smartest Kids in the World, her fine new book about the schools that are working around the globe. Ms. Ripley packs a startling amount of insight in this slim book. (The Economist) [T]he most illuminating reporting I have ever seen on the differences between schools in America and abroad. (Jay Mathews, education columnist, The Washington Post) [The Smartest Kids in the World is] a riveting new book. Ripley's policy recommendations are sensible and strong. The American school reform debate has been desperately in need of such no-nonsense advice, which firmly puts matters of intellect back at the center of education where they belong. (The Daily Beast) The Smartest Kids in the World should be on the back-to-school reading list of every parent, educator and policymaker interested in understanding why students in other countries outperform U.S. students on international tests. (US News World Report) Gripping. Ripley's characters are fascinating, her writing style is accessible, and her observations are fresh. If you're interested in how to improve public schools, read Ripley's book today. (The Huffington Post) In riveting prose... this timely and inspiring book offers many insights into how to improve America's mediocre school system. (Publishers Weekly, starred review) "If you care about education, you must read this book. By recounting what three intrepid kids learned from the rest of the world, it shows what we can learn about how to fix our schools. Ripley's delightful storytelling has produced insights that are both useful and inspiring." (Walter Isaacson, author of Steve Jobs and Benjamin Franklin) This book gives me hope that we can create education systems of equity and rigor if we heed the lessons from top performing countries and focus more on preparing teachers than on punishing them." (Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers) This is a no-nonsense, no-excuses book about how we can improve outcomes for all kids, from the poorest to the wealthiest. It avoids platitudes and ideology and relies instead on the experiences of students. (Joel Klein, CEO, Amplify, and former chancellor, New York Department of Education) Amanda Ripley observes with rare objectivity and depth. She finds a real and complex world over there schools with flaws of their own but also real and tangible lessons about how to do better by our kids. The Smartest Kids in the World gave me more insights, as a parent and as an educator, than just about anything else I've read in a while. (Doug Lemov, author of Teach Like a Champion) Such an important book! Amanda Ripley lights the path to engaging our next generation to meet a different bar. She makes an enormous contribution to the national and global discussion about what must be done to give all our children the education they need to invent the future. (Wendy Kopp, founder and chair, Teach For America, and CEO, Teach For All) "The

Smartest Kids in the World is a must read for anyone concerned about the state of American public education. By drawing on experiences, successes, and failures in education systems in the highest-performing countries across the globe, Amanda Ripley lays out a course for what we must do to dramatically improve our nation's schools. (Michelle Rhee, Founder and CEO of StudentsFirst)Ripleys stirring investigation debunks many tenets of current education reform. (BookPage)In lively, accessible prose.Ripleys book looks at the data from a new perspective. Those stunned parents and teachers in New York State and elsewhere would do well to read this book first if they are inclined to blame their childrens/students poor results on a new test. (OECD Education Today Blog)[Ripley] is a compelling storyteller who deftly plaits humorous anecdotes and hard data to whip you in the face with her findings. (Kristen Levithan Brain, Child Magazine)Ripleys evaluation of education in a changing world is revealing and thought-provoking. (Rocky Mountain Telegram)A good read . . . If you want to understand what goes on in other countries education systems, read [The Smartest Kids in the World]. (Coshocton Tribune)KurzbeschreibungHow do other countries create smarter kids? What is it like to be a child in the worlds new education superpowers? The Smartest Kids in the World gets well beneath the glossy surfaces of these foreign cultures and manages to make our own culture look newly strange....The question is whether the startling perspective provided by this masterly book can also generate the will to make changes (The New York Times Book).In a handful of nations, virtually all children are learning to make complex arguments and solve problems theyve never seen before. They are learning to think, in other words, and to thrive in the modern economy. Inspired to find answers for our own children, author and Time magazine journalist Amanda Ripley follows three Americans embedded in these countries for one year. Kim, fifteen, raises \$10,000 so she can move from Oklahoma to Finland; Eric, eighteen, trades his high-achieving Minnesota suburb for a booming city in South Korea; and Tom, seventeen, leaves a historic Pennsylvania village for Poland. Through these young informants, Ripley meets battle-scarred reformers, sleep-deprived zombie students, and a teacher who earns \$4 million a year. Their stories, along with groundbreaking research into learning in other cultures, reveal a pattern of startling transformation: none of these countries had many smart kids a few decades ago. Things had changed. Teaching had become more rigorous; parents had focused on things that mattered; and children had bought into the promise of education.