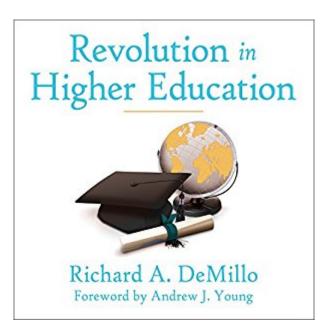
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Revolution In Higher Education: How A Small Band Of Innovators Will Make College Accessible And Affordable





Synopsis

Colleges and universities have become increasingly costly and - except for a handful of highly selective, elite institutions - unresponsive to 21st century needs. But for the past few years, technology-fueled innovation has begun to transform higher education, introducing new ways to disseminate knowledge and better ways to learn - all at lower cost. In this impassioned account, Richard DeMillo tells the behind-the-scenes story of these pioneering efforts and offers a road map for transforming higher education. Building on his earlier book, Abelard to Apple, DeMillo argues that the current system of higher education is clearly unsustainable. Colleges and universities are in financial crises. Tuition continues to rise inexorably. Graduates of reputable schools often fail to learn basic skills, and many cannot find suitable jobs. Meanwhile, student loan default rates have soared, while the elite Ivy and near-Ivy schools seem remote and irrelevant. Where are the revolutionaries who can save higher education? DeMillo's heroes are a small band of innovators who are bringing the revolution in technology to colleges and universities. DeMillo chronicles, among other things, the invention of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) by professors at Stanford and MIT; Salman Khan's Khan Academy; the use of technology by struggling historically black colleges and universities to make learning more accessible; and the latest research on learning and the brain. He describes the revolution's goals and the entrenched hierarchical system it aims to overthrow, and he reframes the nature of the contract between society and its universities. The new institutions of a transformed higher education promise to demonstrate not only that education has value, but also that it has values: virtues for the common good.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first chapter appears to have been written entirely by an advertising agent and refers to people like Salman Khan as the "heroes and martyrs of education". The author seems to worship "the innovators". The evidence produced seems fairly flaky, and the generally ecstatic tone doesn't inspire a lot of confidence - I constantly felt the urge to check the footnotes to see if the author's points could be supported. In fairness, the book gets better over time, and the author makes some good points, but the writing style is so atrocious that the book is unreadable.

Dr. DeMillo's book provides a invaluable overview of the strengths, failures and future challenges faced by universities across the nation and around the world. His thoughtful analysis of factors such as tuition increases is useful even to a non-specialized audience, those desiring a well-researched and balanced account of costs incurred by colleges in 2015. Instead of a clinical report of metrics, though, Dr. DeMillo offers a hopeful view of programs and initiatives that encourage new approaches to teaching and skill acquisition in 21st Century life. Details about specific MOOCs and flipped classes are especially compelling.

Thank you.

Very good

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