School Reform
in a Global Context

EDM9207
Faculty of Education, CUHK, 2006-07
Y.P. Chung (Introduction)
What is “Reform”?  

• Major change  
  – Development: continuous & evolving  
  – Reform: discontinuous & quantum leap  

• Systematic change  
  – Concert effort & consensus  
  – Leadership  

• Directional change  
  – Dis-satisfaction with existing situations  
  – “Visionary” & improvement
Common School Movement

• Horace Mann (1837 started in Massachusetts)
  – Basic skills & knowledge in a democratic society
  – Common experience & social cohesion
  – Education a responsibility of the state (mid-1980s)
    • Funding
    • Curriculum & Operation
    • Compulsory (Rights of Compulsion of the state)

• Britain
  – 1870 Government schools
  – 1880 Compulsory elementary education

• ➔Global Movement ?!
Curriculum Reform

• Lunching of Soviet Sputnik in mid-1950
• National Academy of Sciences – Education Committee
• Woods Hole Conference (1960)
  – Jerome Bruner (& Joseph Schwab)
  – 35 scientists, scholars, & educators from top U
  – “What shall we teach & to what end?”
  – The “structure” of a subject
  – Inquiry & discovery approach
• Curriculum reform of science subjects in 1960s to 1980s. e.g. BSCS
• ➔ Global Movement ?!
Global Context

• Globalization?
  – Traveling & means of transportation
  – Connections & Communications
    • Electronic means of communication
    • Telephone: wired & wireless
    • Radio & TV: wired & broadcast
    • IT & the Web
      – Language of international exchange

• Globalization: for better or for worse?
  – Trading, Technology-transfer, Exchange & Growth
  – Dominancy & Hegemony
    • Economic, social, political, cultural & ideological
School Reform – Global Trend?

• The role of the State in education
  – Efficiency, ideology & the fall of “central control”
  – Rise & fall of the Public School
  – State role re-visited

• Privatization in education
  – Privatization & “marketization”
  – Compromises & synthesis: State & Market in education
School Reform – Making Globalization Work?

• Language of international exchange
• Abilities & skills
  – Overcoming the barrier of “comparative advantage”
  – Taking advantages of international exchange (knowledge & technology)
  – Education expansion & distribution
• Global citizenship?
  – Understanding, tolerance & mutual respect
  – Peace & global concerns