

Discussion-3 Education, power, and technology can impact a country's prosperity

Discussion Topic:

Education, power, and technology can impact a country's prosperity. Please discuss several factors that support that assertion.

My Post:

Hello Class,

Education, power, and technology are three intertwined forces that shape modern societies and drive national prosperity. Without education, technological progress stalls; without technology, power weakens; and without balanced power, education remains a privilege for the few. This post explores the relationship between these elements, how interdependent they are to each other, and how they form an engine that sustains a nation's growth, prosperity, and geopolitical relevance.

Education

Education is essential to technological advancement; without it, a country will not have the capacity to develop skilled individuals, or implement complex technological systems needed for economic and social progress. By equipping these individuals with knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities, education enables them to positively impact the workforce, and contribute to social innovation, but more importantly to technological advancement. Ultimately, education leads to increased economic growth (Sudderth, n.d.). Moreover, as shown by the research done by Gupta et al. (2023) analyzing the relationship between education and economic growth, education improves health outcomes of individuals and promotes social cohesion of countries.

Figure 1

Knowledge, Education, and Technology



Note: The figure illustrates the Knowledge, Education, and Technology cycle relationship representing the Innovation Complex Index (a quantitative measurement on how the relationships between Knowledge, Technology, and Economic Growth drives innovation) From “Knowledge, Technology and Complexity in Economic Growth” by Hausmann and Dominguez (n.d.).

Technology

Technology is a driving force that generates economic growth and increases prosperity (Hausmann & Dominguez, n.d.). The industrial revolution is a prime example of how technology can transform societies and create economic growth and prosperity. Thus, it can be argued that technology through prosperity and innovation creates power. Societies race to acquire new technologies to reinforce or to change the balance of power among countries. Technology has become "a focal point in the geopolitical arena, particularly in the contest between China and the democracies" (Lewis, 2022); for example, the ongoing AI race that China and the U.S. are engaged in. This relationship between technological competition and power goes beyond military goals or applications; it is more economic and technological than military and aims to establish geopolitical domination. "The ability of nations to create and use new technologies will determine national strength" (Lewis, 2022).

Power

In a geopolitical context, for a nation to be categorized as having power (or as a superpower – by also having a strong military) in the geopolitical context, it is a nation that is technologically advanced, and it is economically strong. To be technologically advanced, the nation needs to possess a strong education system that supports innovation, research, and development, and this education system needs to be supported by institutions and policies. However, when power is imbalanced or weak, the quality of education declines, and access to quality education becomes limited to the few who can afford it. This undermines a nation's capacity to maintain or grow technologically, consequently influencing its geopolitical power negatively. In other words, a nation with imbalanced and weak power typically limits access to education to those who can afford it, creating a vicious circle where the nation stagnates. A stagnant nation can break this cycle by rebalancing its power, by investing in a strong education system.

Ultimately, a robust education system that supports innovation, research, and development by promoting advancements in and the use of technology, is the key for a nation's prosperity and strong geopolitical power. Additionally, this interconnected cycle of education, technology, and power is the engine that keeps a nation prosperous and geopolitically relevant. If one of these engine components is broken (whether it be accessible education, technological innovation, or balanced power) the entire system fails apart, leading to property, inequality, and a weakened geopolitical relevance.

-Alex

References:

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