

COMENTARIO SECCIÓN: LA DESIGUALDAD VIVIDA

Juan Carlos Castillo

Instituto de Sociología
Facultad de Ciencias Sociales - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
jcastillov@uc.cl - jc-castillo.com

COES - Centro de Estudios de Conflicto y Cohesión Social
(CONICYT/FONDAP/15130009)

August 17, 2017

The Rise of Meritocracy I

- "The world beholds for the first time the spectacle of a brilliant class, the five percent of the nation who know what five percent means" (Young 1958, p.93)
- "If, in the adult world as much as in the school, the stupid are kept together, they are not reminded at every run of their inferiority. (...) This class solidarity, provided it is not coloured with a rebellious ideology, can be, I would say certainly has been, a most valuable aid to the cohesion of society" (p.114)

The Rise of Meritocracy II

- By 1990 or thereabouts all adults with I.Q. of more than 125 belonged to the meritocracy. A high proportion of the children with I.Q.s over 125 were the children of these same adults. The top of today are breeding the top of tomorrow to a greater extent than at any time in the past. The élite is on the way to becoming hereditary; the principles of heredity and merit are coming together. The vital transformation which has taken more than two centuries to accomplish is almost complete” (p.166)

The Rise of Meritocracy III

I have been sadly disappointed by my 1958 book, *The Rise of the Meritocracy*. I coined a word which has gone into general circulation, especially in the United States, and most recently found a prominent place in the speeches of Mr Blair. The book was a satire meant to be a warning (which needless to say has not been heeded) against what might happen to Britain between 1958 and the imagined final revolt against the meritocracy in 2033.

COMENTARIO SECCIÓN: LA DESIGUALDAD VIVIDA

Juan Carlos Castillo

Instituto de Sociología
Facultad de Ciencias Sociales - Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
jcastillov@uc.cl - jc-castillo.com

COES - Centro de Estudios de Conflicto y Cohesión Social
(CONICYT/FONDAP/15130009)

August 17, 2017