

Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation /by Neil Howe and Bill Strauss ; Cartoons by R.J. Matson Study Guide

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Plot Summary

This book describes the Millennial Generation, which consists of the people born between the years 1982 and 2002. Howe and Strauss argue that contrary to conventional wisdom, Millennials are well-behaved and optimistic and have the potential to be one of America's greatest generations.

Most commentators believe Millennials are continuing and deepening the trend towards cynicism seen in Generation X, but by almost any measure Millennials are doing better than Generation X-ers at a similar age and still improving. Howe and Strauss contend that this improvement is due to increased care given to babies and children in the early-1980s by Baby Boomer parents. The increased attention has made Millennials more special, sheltered, confident, team-oriented, high achieving, pressured, and conventional than either Generation X or Baby Boomers. These attributes make Millennials capable of replacing the G.I. Generation that fought in World War II and is rapidly dying off. Millennials will do this by solving the main problem of Generation X through increased civic action and correct the excesses of Baby Boomers with a greater emphasis on action over talk.

The Millennial Generation is the largest in American history, and it is also the healthiest, which reflects the greater concern from Millennial children. While it is conventional wisdom that American culture has become very bad for children, there is actually far more emphasis on protecting children both morally and physically than ever before. While a Millennial family is more likely to have a single parent than a Boomer family was, that trend among many others is now improving. Schools are being swept by a movement towards high standards that encourage high achievement by Millennial students. Millennials are increasingly busy with school and planned extra-curricular activities and have the least time for unstructured play of any generation. As a generation, Millennials face a strict crack down on bad behavior best exemplified by the movement towards strict zero tolerance rules, and Millennials' behavior is much better than that of Generation X-ers. Millennials commonly work together to reach a community goal and area already organizing their own charities. Millennials consume culture that is more optimistic and innocent than the dark, moody culture of Generation X, and Howe and Strauss predict that this trend will only continue. Millennials also have more money to spend than any earlier generation, but less of that money comes from sources independent of their parents. Millennials are a worldwide generation, but the generation started earlier in North America, making North American Millennials leaders for Millennials across the globe.

Howe and Strauss predict that Millennials main contribution will be strengthening the civic institutions of the country as well as the physical infrastructure. Furthermore, the authors argue that Millennials can be a Hero Generation like the G.I.s, but Millennials must first be faced with a crisis and overcome it. However, if Millennials fail to overcome the next crisis, their great energy could turn negative and lead to a dictatorship or another detrimental outcome.



Chapter One

Chapter One Summary and Analysis

The first chapter of the book explains who Millennials are and why Howe and Strauss believe the age group can make a large positive impact on American society. Howe and Strauss begin by contrasting the positive self image many Millennials have of their generation with the generally negative one the media has bestowed upon them. Howe and Strauss argue that the Millennials—people born after 1982—are a far better generation by traditional measures than either Generation X or the Baby Boomers which preceded them. Millennials dislike the other common labels of Echo Boomers and Generation Y for their generation because it denies them an independent identity. Baby Boomers and members of Generation X are marked by selfishness and a profane culture, but the Millennials are actually more optimistic and group oriented than their elders. Millennials also have more respect for authority and established rules than Baby Boomers or Generation X, and Howe and Strauss credit the extra attention parents and society at large gave to children in the 1980s and 1990s for these positive developments. Howe and Strauss argue that the media believes that Millennials will be a terrible generation because the media and most of society simply predict that the future will continue in a straight line from the recent past, but Howe and Strauss point out that that is never the case.

Howe and Strauss point out that parents' expectations of Millennials are different than those for Baby Boomers and Generation X. The older generations were expected to be creative and skeptical while Millennials are expected to be optimistic and high achievers. It is not surprising that each generation lives up to the expectations set for it by their elders. Millennials also differ from their predecessors in the fact that they have more material possessions and will be more numerous than any previous generation. Millennials are also the most ethnically diverse generation ever, and minorities are the group of Millennials who are driving the most dramatic social improvements.

Howe and Strauss concede that there are still many Millennials who engage in corrupting or socially deviant behavior such as drug use, sexual promiscuity, and even violent crime. However, the two note that on average, Millennials are less likely to engage in those behaviors than either Boomers or Generation X. Howe and Strauss believe that Millennials for the most part are only interested in coarse culture because adults press it upon them. Even after the horrific shootings at Columbine, it is the adults overreacting and creating zero-tolerance policies and forcing metal detectors into schools, while Millennials remain largely optimistic about themselves and their futures.

Howe and Strauss attribute a great deal of older generations skepticism about Millennials to the simple fact that everyone becomes nostalgic for their particular past. Furthermore, both sides of the political spectrum use scare stories about young people to rally their supporters. Finally, the media is driven by sensationalism, so even though violence among young people is declining, it is featured on the news more often. Even

when the media is reporting good news about Millennials, the bad news tends to lead the story.

Chapter Two

Chapter Two Summary and Analysis

In the early-1980s more people begin purposefully having children and in the years that follow parents worry more than ever over potential dangers and threats to children. Soon, almost every issue is presented in terms of its impact to children. Howe and Strauss contend that this marks a trend in the Millennial Generation that they are more wanted, protected, and worthy than earlier generations.

Howe and Strauss write that when members of Generation X begin to be born in the early-1960s fertility rates fall dramatically from their Boomer era peaks, and this correlates with a drop in concern for children. During the 1980s, concern for children rebounds to greater heights than seen before in American society with products for children appearing everywhere. The term "family values" comes to dominate the national dialogue during the 1990s. Politicians essentially give up on Generation X, the youngest members of which are already teenagers by then, and focus their attention solely on Millennials. As the year 2000 approaches, the media gives more and more attention to high school students, but Millennials are given a shocking and sad memory with the murders at Columbine in April 1999. Still, Howe and Strauss argue that the Millennials deserve to be celebrated for numerous reasons.

Howe and Strauss contend that generations are a useful concept, but should not be defined mainly by birth numbers but instead by what they call the "generational persona." Each generation's persona is defined by three qualities: perceived membership, common beliefs and behaviors, and common location in history. The Millennials begin to identify as a generation at a far younger age than most Baby Boomers and especially members of Generation X did. Howe and Strauss identify seven common traits of Millennials. They are taught to believe they are special. They are sheltered but raised to be confident, team-oriented, high-achieving people. They are pressured to achieve success and are largely taught conventional principles. Howe and Strauss predict that later born members of the Millennial Generation will achieve even more highly than their older forerunners. Millennials shared historical experiences mainly include good economic times and unquestioned American dominance in foreign affairs. Millennials are also united in what they do not remember as a generation being the first generation that did not witness the "Challenger" explosion, for instance.

Howe and Strauss look at the current "generational constellation" to see how each older generation interacts with Millennials. The G.I. Generation is mostly associated by Millennials with grandparents and are the generation most likely to be seen as heroic. The Silent Generation actually makes up the bulk of Millennials' grandparents and frequently indulge Millennials' wants. Baby Boomers make up the vast majority of the parents for early Millennials, and they are seen as demanding far more moral behavior of their Millennial children than they ever imposed on themselves. Generation X is usually represented by an older sibling for earlier Millennials but will come to be the parents of

many late Millennial children. Generation X is viewed most negatively by Millennials but is also seen as the easiest to get along with.



Chapters Three and Four

Chapters Three and Four Summary and Analysis

Howe and Strauss begin chapter three describing the normal lives of Baby Boomer teenagers in 1962, which seemed very wholesome and peaceful. However, the Boomers go on to be one of the most socially revolutionary generations in American history. Howe and Strauss contend that people are always surprised by how generations rebel because most people, experts included, tend to simply project current trends to continue in the future.

According to Howe and Strauss, every generation rebels, but the means through which it rebels is determined by the persona of earlier generations. Generations rebel by solving the major problem of the generation that precedes them, correcting the excesses of the generation at midlife, and filling the role left by the dying generation. For instance, Boomers solve the problem of the Silent Generation, attack the G.I. Generation for its conformity, and take the place of the highly spiritual Missionary Generation.

For Millennials, this means they solve the problem of Generation Xers by engaging in more civic deeds. Millennials correct the excesses of Baby Boomers by focusing on action instead of talk. Finally, Millennials replace the G.I. Generation by becoming a very active force in American life. Howe and Strauss predict that one sign of Millennial maturation will be an increasing uniformity in their dress and increased calls for compulsory national service. Furthermore, Millennials strengthen institutions at the expense of the individual and place a greater emphasis on rationality as opposed to spirituality.

Chapter four begins with a discussion of the demographics of the Millennial Generation. Millennials are the largest generation in American history and almost a third larger than the Baby Boomers. However, Howe and Strauss argue that is not just because the Baby Boomers were a large generation that there are so many Millennials. The authors believe that the size of the Millennial generation is caused mainly by the fact that Boomers began to desire children more than ever in the early-1980s.

Demographers predict the increased fertility rates beginning in the mid-1970s, and they expect that trend to continue through the mid-1980s and drop off as Baby Boomers move out of childbearing years. However, demographers are surprised to find that birth rates stay high into the late-1990s. Howe and Strauss take this as evidence that the large number of Millennials are not merely the result of the large size of their parents' generation but a society wide increase in the desire for children.

Another piece of evidence for that viewpoint is that Americans use fewer contraceptives and have fewer abortions in the 1980s and at the same time spend far more on fertility treatments. Adoption becomes so common that it takes five years to adopt a Caucasian



American child, so many people adopt children from abroad. In addition to being more wanted than any other generation, Millennials have several other traits working in their favor including older parents, smaller families, higher level of parental education, and fewer families breaking up.

Howe and Strauss see a great deal of importance in the longer names given to Millennials as opposed to the shorter names of Boomers and Generation-Xers. The authors believe the longer and more original names of Millennials reflect a greater emphasis on creativity in the older generations.

Millennials are the American generation with the largest share of second-generation immigrants in eighty years. These immigrant families tend to be poorer than most native-born families, but they are also more stable and less likely to be involved in crime than third- or fourth-generation immigrants.

Babies in the Millennial generation are healthier than any other group of babies in American history. After doctors issue warnings about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in the early-1990s, the death rate from SIDS dropped by half again showing the level of concern parents show for Millennial children. On the whole, the health of Millennial children and teens is also better than that of earlier generations. Mortality rates and suicide rates are both down. However, three afflictions are worse for Millennial children than for any other generation: asthma, obesity, and attention deficit disorder. All three correlate with more structured, indoor activities and less time for unstructured play. Howe and Strauss write that Millennials' safety has become such a concern that they are treated almost like public property with new rules and regulations from both the left and the right implemented to keep them safe.



Chapter Five

Chapter Five Summary and Analysis

In the 1990s, it becomes accepted conventional wisdom that American society is very bad for children and becoming worse. This is because Millennials' childhood experiences are dominated by an optimistic individualism and its accompanying free markets and a simultaneous fracturing of the national culture. Millennials are mostly raised by rich and extremely hard-working Boomers.

The Millennials are the first generation to never live through a substantial economic downturn before coming of age. Along with the far greater proportion of mothers in the workforce than earlier generations, the long boom enables Millennials to grow up with far more material wealth than any generation before. Children living below the poverty rate is also substantially lower among Millennials with the total percentage of children in poverty falling from 22 in 1983 to 18 in 1998.

At the same time, however, society is far more fragmented. Faith in government and other large institutions reached their peaks in the early-1960s and have fallen steadily ever since. Furthermore, more cultural goods such as fashions and styles of music are marketed to smaller niche markets. Multiculturalism is the major idea for ethnic minorities replacing assimilation. The disparity between rich and poor is far higher than it was when Baby Boomers were growing up. Many parents drop their children off at school in enormous SUVs, while poorer students still must ride the slow bus. Howe and Strauss explain that the greatest contribution to the discrepancy between poorer and wealthier families is having two parents. Adults are beginning to see the dangers of this social fragmentation, but believe Millennials must reconstruct these social bonds, not themselves.

Parents of Millennials often refer to themselves as the mom or dad of their children, indicating that they put their children at the center of their lives. The G.I. Generation is tightly connected with their peers, but Baby Boomers commonly come to know their fellow parents through their children. Government spending on children explodes in the early-1990s. Furthermore, almost every agency of the federal government is working to protect children at either a physical or moral level. A couple examples of this phenomenon are the Consumer Product Safety Commission inspecting child products more closely than others and crackdowns on child pornography by the Department of Justice. At the local level, curfew laws for teenagers are becoming very popular across the country along with before and after school programs for students with working parents. Parents are also increasingly worried about the dangers on the internet from pornography to online predators.

Howe and Strauss point out that Boomers could be raised in such a permissive environment because of the strong social ties of the G.I. Generation, and the recent social fragmentation requires Millennials to be raised in a more restrictive environment.

This along with the intent focus of government on Millenials are yet more ways that Millenials are replacing the G.I. Generation.



Chapter Six

Chapter Six Summary and Analysis

According to Howe and Strauss, parents on both the left and the right agree that families are very different than they were when the Baby Boomers were children and that the families the Boomers grew up with were the best because they produced the Boomer Generation. Howe and Strauss concede that the idea of a family is very different than it was in the 1940s, but it is not crumbling and is getting stronger in many ways.

In the late-1960s and 1970s, serious people question if the American family will last, but by the 1990s every politician must affirm family values to win election. In fact, the one uniting factor for diverse Baby Boomers is that they all love their children. However, the Millennial family still faces a number of challenges, single parenthood foremost among them.

Howe and Strauss point out that the nature of most single parent families has changed radically since the Boomers were children. Then most single parent families result from the early death of a parent, but now the largest group is single mothers who never marry. This is still far from the ideal situation, but it has certain advantages over divorce in that the children in these families feel not guilt associate with the breakup of a marriage.

Millennial children also benefit from the increasing percentage of parents choosing to work at home through telecommuting, self-employment, or some other means. Involvement from Silent Generation grandparents has also increased dramatically. Finally, child care facilities are greatly improved over the low quality institutions of the 1970s, giving busy parents an alternative to staying home full time.

Howe and Strauss take on a number of myths about Millennial children in the next section of the chapter. Children are actually more supervised than ever before, but this has led to a decline in both "free play" and "outdoor play." Millennials also spend more time with their parents than Generation X did and just as much time as the Boomers did. Although the composition of family activities has changed a great deal, families still do many things together. Also, while child abuse is reported more often than in the past, the actual incidence of child abuse seems to be on the decline. Finally, parents of Millennials still discipline their children but worry about their ability to discipline effectively more than previous generations of parents. These parents are less likely to punish physically but are stricter on extremely important issues such as drinking, drugs, and driving.

Howe and Strauss stress that while families have changed a great deal over the past several generations, these changes have likely made families more effective in the new historical circumstances.



Chapter Seven

Chapter Seven Summary and Analysis

Chapter seven begins with Howe and Strauss describing the results from an international achievement test in 1995. The eighth and twelfth grade Generation X students tested do very poorly compared to students in other countries, but the Millennial fourth graders score near the top of all countries. Most analysts at the time attribute this to students losing their gains from earlier years as they advance through the school system, but Howe and Strauss contend that it is due to the simple fact that Millennials are better students than members of Generation X.

Howe and Strauss attribute the turnaround in student performance to a 1983 "Nation at Risk" report that showed students performing very poorly in almost every area. This reports helps lead politicians like President George H.W. Bush to set out a series of educational goals for the Class of 2000, the first class of Millennials. Parents are also more devoted to the educations of their children than ever before, buying numerous items like "Brainy Baby" videos in hopes of raising smarter children.

Next, Howe and Strauss discuss the so-called "school choice movement" that seeks to give parents more options of where to send their children to school. These options include vouchers for private and parochial schools, charter schools, and home schooling. The authors consider the label "school choice" misleading because while these options do represent expanded choices for parents, the options often restrict the choices of students more than traditional public schools.

Schools are now far more likely to teach students values such as responsibility and loyalty than they were in earlier generations. This is because the G.I. Generation was reluctant to impose conformist values on Boomer children after defeating fascism in World War II and facing down Communism in the Cold War.

Students work is also more oriented towards teamwork than in the past. Millennial students frequently work in teams and are graded as such. Furthermore, schools are turning away from their focus on gifted and disabled students and focusing more on average students.

However, the largest change in schools for Millennials is the resurgence of standards, which largely disappeared under Baby Boomers and Generation Xers. Every state but Iowa now has some kind of statewide educational standards. Standardized tests now frequently determine if a student passes on to the next grade or graduates from high school as social promotion is largely being done away with. This has led to more teaching to tests and test taking and an emphasis on subjects like math and science that have clear cut answers.

The standards do appear to be having a positive effect. Scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress test are rising for every ethnic group, and the achievement gap between white and minority students is narrowing. However, the emphasis on more logical subjects at the expense of subjects like English and history could be turning Millennials into a very uncreative generation.

Chapter Eight

Chapter Eight Summary and Analysis

Millennial teenagers have far more respect for their parents and other authority figures than earlier generations.

The last decade has seen money and tangible goods replaced by time as people's most valuable resource. Millennials are not immune to this trend, and many complain of having very little free time. Surveys show sharp reductions in the number of teens who frequently go to the movies, cruise in vehicles, and visit the mall. Teens consume all types of media in their free time, but teens are reading more for school than in earlier decades. The largest drops in teen's time usage are in unorganized sports and television watching while the largest increases are in time spent at school or on school work and household chores.

Millennials perceive themselves as special and are perceived by other generations as special as well. This is in part due to the tremendous amount of media attention bestowed upon the Class of 2000. However, Millennials also agree with their Boomer parents that Millennials will be the generation to solve such pressing problems as cleaning up the environment and cutting the crime rate.

Millennials are also an extremely sheltered generation compared to Boomers and Generation Xers. Millennial teens are more likely to complain that their parents treat them like children than earlier generations, but Millennials also approve of a great deal of this sheltering.

Millennials are a confident generation with very large majorities reporting that they are usually happy and a small majority believing that it is easier to be a kid than in earlier decades. Howe and Strauss argue that increase in confidence is due to the lack of major wars or threat of one and a strong economy for almost the entirety of Millennials' memories.

Millennials are very team oriented, with substantial majorities reporting that the major causes of problems in both schools and society at large is a lack of respect for authority and people who do not think of others before themselves. With such an emphasis on working together, peer pressure is frequently becoming a positive force in Millennials' lives.

Millennials are confident in their ability to make positive achievements in the world when they become adults but see their major areas of impact being technology and the economy as opposed to more abstract areas like the arts.

Millennials feel a great deal of pressure to live up to the expectations placed on them. While grades have generally gone up, this inflation has only added to the pressure to get perfect grades.

Finally, Millenials are a very conventional generation, sharing many more of their parents' values and tastes than Boomers shared with their G.I. parents.



Chapter Nine

Chapter Nine Summary and Analysis

In the early- and mid-1990s, teachers and school administrators institute stricter discipline policies for Millennial students, and the students respond with drastically improved conduct in terms of both crime and sexual behavior. Howe and Strauss point out that these improving trends cannot be explained by the strong economy of the 1990s as the best-behaved generation came of age during the Great Depression while the Boomers came of age in good economic times but were responsible for rising crime levels and sexual promiscuity.

The most common new policy to deal with discipline problems are known as "Zero Tolerance," which impose harsh penalties for certain infractions and do not allow for any exceptions. While the original zero tolerance policies focus almost exclusively on violence, they expand to include truancy, drug use, and off campus offenses. While the policies lead to a number of extreme penalties, they also seem to reduce behavioral problems in schools.

Zero tolerance rules spring from the idea that if the little things are policed stringently, big things will not become an issue. Consequently, schools are now moving to crack down on profanity.

Millennial teens appear to be having far less sex than members of Generation X. From 1988 to 1995, the percentage of high school students with sexual experience has fallen from 54 percent to 48 percent. Those students who are sexually active are far more likely to use contraceptives than those of earlier generations with the biggest increases in contraceptive usage coming from black teens. Howe and Strauss attribute the fall in sexual activity to the combined efforts of liberals worried about sexually transmitted diseases and conservatives who preach the morality of abstinence.

The evidence on teens' substance use is more mixed. Drug use trends upward during the 1990s after a steep fall in the 1980s. However, drug and alcohol use levels remain far below their 1980 peaks.

Youth crime falls drastically from its peak levels in the early-1990s. The rate of violent crime fell 45 percent between 1993 and 1998, and the victimization rate fell 38 percent.

While events like Columbine seize headlines, school violence has actually fallen. Howe and Strauss contend that this fact is not frequently reported because it is easier to make a sensationalist story out of extremely violent incidents, even if they are extraordinarily rare.

Millenials are still more violent and sexually active than the Silent Generation, but they are the first generation to show a decline in sexual activity and violence since World

War II. Both Millennials and their parents have extremely high expectations for the generation's behavior.



Chapter Ten

Chapter Ten Summary and Analysis

Although Boomers and Generation X-ers often assume that Millennials lack political understanding, Millennials are actually engaged in numerous social and civic projects.

Howe and Strauss highlight Millennial acts of charity such as a sixteen-year-old girl in Baltimore who founded an organization that feeds six hundred lunches to homeless people every week and elementary students in Washington state who raise money for victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras. As children, Millennials drive a resurgence in uniformed service organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, whose memberships since 1980 are up 50 and 20 percent, respectively. Furthermore, Millennials spend more hours doing community service than Boomers, but Boomers become more active when they can help Millennials in their service.

Millennials are less focused on issues of race than any other generation and are less likely to label themselves as purely white or black than their elders. Millennials conceive of diversity as less in strictly racial terms of black or Asian and more in ethnic terms such as Nigerian and Korean. While Millennials are constantly told not to think of people as just members of their race, Millennials see adults view people in precisely these terms constantly. The dominant paradigm for race when Millennials are growing up is that each race should keep what makes them different, but Millennials are largely rejecting this view as damaging to overall social cohesion.

Millennials are also unique in that they are the first generation in which girls outperform boys on most educational measures. Millennial girls are more likely than Millennial boys to have an "A" grade average, take an Advanced Placement class, and earn a college degree. However, girls are also driving almost all of the increase in cigarette and marijuana use and to admit having an eating disorder. The tremendous success of Millennial girls has led many to worry about the future of Millennial boys, and boys are beginning to assert their masculinity more openly. Howe and Strauss predict that Millennial boys will eventually catch up with their female counterparts and bring their generation to its full strength.

At the beginning of Bill Clinton's term as president, Millennials broadly approve of him and believe that Clinton works hard for issues that affect young people. However, after the Monica Lewinsky scandal, Millennials begin to vigorously disapprove of Clinton and his behavior.

Religion is a larger force in Millennials' lives than any other factor than parents. Whereas during the Boomer and Generation X era religion retreats from the public square, religion is becoming a large part of school life again for Millennials. Also unlike Boomers, Millennials seek religious experiences that emphasize tradition over individual expression.

Howe and Strauss argue that the primary force driving Millennial behavior is a new desire to create strong communities.



Chapter Eleven

Chapter Eleven Summary and Analysis

In 1996, music industry executives discover that cynical, edgy music does not sell anymore and the search begins a new type of music to offer teenage listeners. Howe and Strauss attribute this shift to the break between Generation X and Millennials and argue that the late-1990s are the first tremor of the shift toward Millennial music.

Howe and Strauss point to music producer Lou Pearlman, who creates boy bands such as the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, as an example of someone who understands Millennials' desire for simpler, sweeter music. While there are still musical acts that seek to shock and play angry music such as Eminem, Kid Rock, and Marilyn Manson, Howe and Strauss believe they are simply holdovers from Generation X. The authors predict that Millennial tastes in music will completely dominate the market by 2010.

Stories for Millennial children such as the Harry Potter books and "Pokemon" series return to classical values of heroism that were absent during Generation X when realistic stories were the primary focus. Even television for small children shows a remarkable shift for Millennials with the rise of Barney, which emphasizes sweetness and teamwork as opposed to real life lessons and self-esteem. As Millennial children develop, their Boomer parents of both political persuasions become convinced that culture matters a great deal and begin lobbying for different kinds of censorship on media.

Millennial teens are likewise turning away from the realism and hyper-sexuality of Generation X's films. The film industry handles Millennial children very well in the 1980s and early-1990s with numerous Disney animated films that feature children forcing adults to behave better, but Hollywood is caught off guard when these children become teenagers. Before the mid-1990s, most films about teens tend to be dark, but while films since may still seem crass to adults, they typically feature plots where teenagers with good "neotraditional" values are rewarded. Millennial teenagers are more comfortable with encountering violence in media, but Howe and Strauss attribute this fact to Millennials' distance from actual war and violence in every day life. However, Millennials are more uncomfortable with regards to sex than either Boomers or Generation X. Millennials are raised on video games and will soon overtake Generation X as the primary market for them, but Howe and Strauss predict that video games may become less violent due to the fallout from the Columbine shootings.

While Millennials are less interested in culture and less confident of their ability to make cultural contributions than Boomers, Howe and Strauss predict that the Millennial Generation will make its impact in areas such as technology and politics that will reestablish a sense of order in American life even if it comes at the expense of a somewhat less rich culture.

Chapter Twelve

Chapter Twelve Summary and Analysis

As Millennials begin to assert their vast commercial, which is greater than any earlier youth generation, marketers believe that they crave goods that are more shocking than what has gone before. The best symbol of this marketing strategy is Abercrombie and Fitch's borderline-pornographic magazines that the company uses to sell its clothes. However, Howe and Strauss argue that these attempts at branding through shock are becoming less successful and Millennials are reverting to more traditional, mass styles.

Spending by and on Millennials is enormous and growing. For instance, during the 1990s, spending by and on children from 4 to 12 triples. The growth in spending is being driven by almost every part of the population, not just children and their parents. Howe and Strauss identify four components in youth consumption. The first is that parents are gaining more influence over the purchases their children make, and this is primarily motivated by parental concerns over safety. Teens rank their parents as the biggest influence on their purchasing choices. This influence is also working in reverse, however, as the second component is children have growing influence over parental purchases. This trend can best be seen in the growth of minivan sales and the explosion of family vacation resorts. The third component is a Millennial preference for a smaller number of bigger brands. During Generation X, the youth market fragments substantially, but this trend is currently reversing itself. Howe and Strauss argue that the homogenization of the market is due to increased and instant communication between teens across the country. The final component is that Millennials are using informational technology to unify themselves as a generation as they use technologies like instant messaging to stay in touch with each other constantly.

Millennials' large purchasing power comes more from sources controlled by their parents than earlier generations. The largest growth category for the money Millennials is ad hoc purchases by their parents, which are entirely at parental discretion. At the same time, teenage employment is falling despite a booming economy, so Millennials have less money from sources independent of their parents. However, those Millennials who do work are rated as having better attitudes by employers than their Generation X predecessors.

Millennials see more marketing than any previous generation with ten-year-old Millennials knowing almost 400 different brands. Howe and Strauss, however, see signs that such commercialization is happening less with Millennials turning away from traditional marketing tools like television and showing a higher savings rate than adults.

Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen

Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen Summary and Analysis

Millenials share a much more optimistic outlook on the world than earlier generations with progress and peace treated as the natural state of affairs. Earlier generations witness the horrors of World War or live through the possibility of nuclear war between the West and the Soviet Union, but Millenials are untouched by these concerns. Howe and Strauss also argue that Millenials are a worldwide generation, as the past five generations have also been to lesser extents.

The first of these generations is the one that fought as soldiers in World War I and participated in World War II as high ranking officers and politicians. The next generation are the soldiers of World War II. The third are the people who were children during the war but remember it. The fourth generation are those born during World War II or in the postwar period that followed and became very politically active in the 1960s and 1970s. The fifth generation are those born in the 1960s who focus more on technology and having fun than political participation. In most countries outside the United States, people have not identified a new generation since this, but Howe and Strauss explain that the postwar baby booms in other countries did not begin until well after the war was over because of the level of devastation those countries endured. Consequently, their first Millenials are about five years younger than those in the United States.

Global Millenials are marked by being from smaller families but receiving more care and attention because of that fact. Global Millenials have only known a world that is primarily made up of market-oriented democracies and therefore assume the freedom to do as one pleases is a given.

Because North American Millenials are older than their counterparts in the rest of the world, they can take a leadership role in shaping the global generation. They have done this through an omnivorous cultural selection that takes pieces from numerous cultures worldwide to forge a new global culture. North American Millenials are able to lead their global generation because of their interconnectedness with Millenials globally on the internet.

Chapter fourteen begins with Howe and Strauss arguing that beginning in the year 2000, Millenials will dominate the next ten years culturally. Millenials are also more confident about their ability to change the world for the better than the Boomers before them. Howe and Strauss believe that while forecasting far into the future with much accuracy is almost impossible, they can reasonably predict the Millenial life cycle.

During the first decade of the the 2000s (the oh-ohs), the media and most of the nation will continue to focus on Millenials as they go through college, join the military, and enter the work force, which will shift attention towards all of these institutions. This decade will



also be when Millennial males begin to assert their abilities and catch up to a certain degree with their female counterparts. Colleges will be affected by the standards movement with issues such as grades and cheating coming to the forefront. Millennial behavior during this decade will settle culture war disputes over issues such as tobacco and marijuana; if Millennials approve of it, it will become mainstream. Finally, Howe and Strauss predict that some form of national service will be instituted in the oh-ohs.

During the oh-teens, Millennials reach the peak of their cultural influence, but the generation will feel played out by the end of the decade. This decade will also be the one where the most Millennials begin forming families, so there will be an increased emphasis not only on children but on parents as well.

During the oh-twenties, Millennials will encourage schools to become more fun so their children will become more creative than they were as a generation.

Howe and Strauss predict that Millennials in the oh-thirties concentrate on strengthening institutions and physical infrastructure.

Millennials reach the peak of their political power in the oh-forties and use it to dramatically overhaul American institutions in a way that emphasizes public action.



Chapter Fifteen

Chapter Fifteen Summary and Analysis

The G.I. Generation achieves more than any other generation in the twentieth century by fighting World War II, building the Interstate System, and holding the presidency for over thirty years. The G.I. Generation is the most recent example of a hero generation in American history, and Millennials will be the next. Each hero generation shares three characteristics: they are born at a time of social upheaval, they follow a generation that is thought of as a disappointment, and they are intensely protected by adults as children.

The G.I. Generation is born at a time of Progressive Era reforms that frequently sought to protect children such as state pensions directed at widows. Parents of G.I. children raise them more strictly than the earlier Lost Generation had been raised but also keep the children from working as much in factories and first institute the concept of an allowance for children. This era also sees the establishment of youth organizations such as the Boy Scout, Girl Scouts, and 4-H. When G.I.s reach college they are known for policing their own behavior and high achievement rates. As adults, G.I.s replace the self-centered values of the Lost Generation with new civic spirit, bring about the better civilization envisioned by the aging Missionary Generation, and replace the role of the final Progressive Generation veterans of the Civil War.

Members of the Progressive Generation are born at a time when families are spreading out across the continent, and parents respond by calling for compulsory school attendance and uniform grading systems. The Progressive Generation cannot become a fully realized hero generation because they are scarred by the Civil War at such a young age.

The Republican Generation fights the Revolutionary War and writes the founding documents for the United States. As children, they are educated in colonial schools as parents come to see Britain as morally corrupting, and as young adults they are attracted to social organizations like the Masons.

The Glorious Generation helps back the Glorious Revolution in Great Britain. As children, states such as Massachusetts pass the first laws forcing towns to offer schooling for them.



Chapters Sixteen, Seventeen, and Afterword

Chapters Sixteen, Seventeen, and Afterword Summary and Analysis

In order to become a full fledged Hero Generation, Millennials must be faced with a significant crisis to meet, and with Millennials' compliant nature, the United States may take more risks that will provoke this crisis.

Currently, the generational power structure has Boomers in charge of most American institutions, and they are the generation most inclined to use military force. In a crisis, Generation X will serve as excellent managers and engineers, but it is the loyal and compliant Millennials who must serve as the foot soldiers during the crisis.

Analyzing recurring generational trends, Howe and Strauss predict that some time in the middle oh-ohs, the social mood will change as it has in America every twenty years or so. After this change occurs, the next crisis will likely thrust Millennials into the role of a Hero Generation.

If Millennials do not face such a crisis, they will still be a powerful generation, but they will transform American society far less than if they meet and solve a major crisis. Because Millennials lives have been so easy up to this point, a true crisis could turn their optimism to anger. Millennials would still revolutionize American institutions but possibly in a much worse way than previously hoped and expected. However, if Millennials do try to change the country for the worse, their children might be able to curb their excesses as Boomers stopped the worst excesses of the G.I.s.

In chapter seventeen, Howe and Strauss argue that people should not just view history as a series of isolated incident but as a series of cycles fueled by generational change. Soon Millennials will be beyond the reach of their parents, entering into college and the workforce, and they are confident of their ability to succeed in these areas. However, Howe and Strauss write that Millennials, like every generation, has a shadow side that can corrupt them. Millennials shadow side is an impulse towards excessive, and this must be checked by optimism from Millennials' parents.

The afterword explains how the authors came to write the book and the research they employed. Howe and Strauss discuss cultural issues with their own Millennial children, conduct surveys at a number of schools, and run a discussion board on the internet to research the Millennial Generation.



Characters

Millenials

Millenials are the generation of people born between the years 1982 and 2002 and are the primary subject of the book. Numerically, they are the largest generation in American history and will likely reach 100 million members. The older Millenials are typically the children of Baby Boomers, and younger Millenials are usually the children of members of Generation X. While Millenials are most likely to identify the G.I. Generation as their grandparents, the Silent Generation actually makes up the bulk of their grandparents.

Many people think of Millenials as a continuation of Generation X, except even more cynical and disrespectful. However, research shows that Millenials are actually far better behaved and more traditional in their attitudes than either Baby Boomers or Generation X. Millenials are also high achievers in school. All of these positive trends are due to the extra attention lavished on the first Millenials by their Boomer parents in the early-1980s. However, all of these achievements have come at the cost of free time for play and outdoor exercise among Millenials and a corresponding increase in Attention Deficit Disorder and obesity. Millenials are far and away the richest generation in American history, and they consume a great deal of culture, which is actually more traditional in its values than most people realize. Millenials use technology to stay connected with each other at all times, which is making them an extremely civic generation. With their emphasis on civics and community, Millenials are set to replace the G.I. Generation as America's next Hero Generation. However, in order to become a true Hero Generation, Millenials must face a crisis and overcome it.

Baby Boomers

Baby Boomers are the generation born between the years 1943 and 1960, and they are the parents of most of the older Millenials. Boomers' are mostly the children of members of the G.I. Generation. During their youths, Boomers rebel against the strict rules and strong institutions of their G.I. parents in favor of greater individual freedom, creativity, and spirituality. However, Boomers have a much better and less adversarial relationship with their own Millenial children. Boomers are the largest generation in American history at the time of their birth but are eclipsed in size with the coming of the Millenials. Boomers youthful rebellions help bring about civil rights reforms and the feminist revolution, which give greater freedom to previously disadvantaged groups. However, these social changes are also accompanied by negative trends among Boomers such as rising crime, drug abuse, and single parenthood. Boomers exert a great deal of political power to reorient the country to care for and attend to the needs of their Millenial children. Currently, Boomers hold most of the positions of power in America and are the generation most willing to use military force to exert America's power



abroad. This willingness to use force can lead to a crisis that must be faced by Millennials and, if overcome, turn them into a Hero Generation.

Generation X

Generation X consists of the people born between the years 1961 and 1981, and they are widely seen as cynical and pessimistic. They are primarily the children of members of the Silent Generation, and they are most of the parents of the latter born half of Millennials. However, many members of Generation X are also the older siblings of older Millennials. Generation X is raised during a time when American culture was not very concerned about children, which is reflected in the low birth rates during the birth years of Generation X. This leads to high rates of drug abuse and criminality among Generation X, but it has also led to Generation X parents to want their own children and lavish attention upon them. This accounts for why there is no drop in the Millennial birth rate even as Baby Boomers leave their prime child bearing years. Generation X is more alienated from the political system than any generation alive at the moment. Currently, Generation X makes up most of the managerial class of the country, and the next time the country faces a crisis, they will serve as the engineers and (possibly) military officers to confront it.

G.I. Generation

The G.I. Generation is made up of the people born between the years 1901 and 1924 and are best known for their role in defeating fascism during World War II. This victory makes the G.I.s America's last Hero Generation. After the war, G.I.s return home and begin having numerous children, which starts the Baby Boom. The G.I.s are also very engaged in their communities, crafting very strong institutions from a federal government that builds the Interstate System to huge corporations like General Motors and even fraternal organizations like Rotary Clubs. As the Baby Boomers grow up, they rebel against the strong institutions built and maintained by their G.I. parents. Millennials consider the G.I. Generation to be the most heroic and relate to them as grandparents. If Millennials face a crisis and overcome it, they will replace the dying G.I.s as America's Hero Generation.

Silent Generation

The Silent Generation is comprised of those people born between the years 1925 and 1942. Silents have some memories of World War II, but very few were old enough to actively take part in it. The Silent Generation is responsible for beginning the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s, but unlike the Baby Boomers who follow them, Silents do not rebel against American institutions as a whole. Instead, Silents try to find their place within the established institutions and work within them, which is why they are called Silent. Silents are the parents of Generation X and make up the bulk of Millennials'



grandparents. The Silent Generation is supplying a great deal of money to their Millennial grandchildren and has a warmer relationship with them than their Generation X children.

Lost Generation

The Lost Generation consists of people born between the years 1883 and 1900. Members of the Lost Generation serve as soldiers in World War I and participate in World War II as high ranking officers and politicians. They are the predecessor to Generation X as the Lost Generation is known for its alienation from society, disrespect for authority, and world-weariness. The Lost Generation is also considered to be very self-obsessed. These faults are corrected by the G.I. Generation with its focus on community and service, in much the same way that Millennials may soon correct the excesses of Generation X.

Missionary Generation

The Missionary Generation is the first post-Civil War American generation. Missionaries' youths are marked by labor strikes, student rebellions on campuses and increasing levels of immigration. Missionaries lead a number of moral crusades such as the Temperance movement against drinking, which eventually transforms into the far more radical Prohibition movement. This generation is the predecessor of today's Baby Boomers as the Missionaries are concerned with changing consciousness and moral crusades.

Progressive Generation

The Progressive Generation are those people born between the years 1843 and 1859, and they are the Hero Generation that precedes the G.I. Generation. The Progressives are a Hero Generation because their oldest members fight in the Civil War as enlisted men. However, Progressives do not have as great of an impact later in life as other Hero Generations because they are so badly damaged by the Civil War. As children, Progressives are the first generation to be legally compelled to attend school.

Republican Generation

The Republican Generation is born between the years 1742 and 1766, and is the second Hero Generation in American history. Republicans serve as soldiers during the Revolutionary War and then as the leaders of the young republic as the Constitution is drafted and ratified. The generation has an extreme emphasis on civic virtues. Republicans are the first generation to be educated in America as their parents worry that England is morally corrupting.

Glorious Generation

Members of the Glorious Generation are born between the years 1648 and 1673, and they are the first Hero Generation in American history. The Glorious Generation gives support to the Glorious Revolution in England in the late-1680s. The generation makes American society stable and not a mere frontier and establishes some of the fundamental laws in the United States. The Glorious Generation also firmly entrenches slavery into American society.



Objects/Places

Columbine

Columbine is the site of the worst school shooting in American history at the time this book is written. The event casts a shadow over the entire Millennial Generation.

Hollywood

Hollywood is the location where most American movies are made, and it badly misjudges Millennials' taste for more wholesome fare as they become teenagers.

New York City

New York City is the major cultural center of America, but it is declining in influence for Millennials as instant communication allows trends to start and spread anywhere.

Japan

Japan is the creator of such Millennial crazes as Pokemon and Dragon Ball-Z.

Baltimore Northern High School

This is where principal Alice Morgan Brown suspended the entire student body for refusing to pick up their report cards, exemplifying the stricter rules Millennials live under.

Tower Records

This is a major record company whose chairman first realizes that Millennials do not listen to the same gloomy music as Generation X before them.

Abercrombie and Fitch

This is a popular line of clothing that uses very revealing photography to sell its products. However, Millennials seem to be drifting away from the brand and its risqué image.

Nickelodeon

Nickelodeon is a television channel for children, and in 2000 it hosts a live conference with Millennial kids around the world showing how global the generation is.

North American Millennials

Because North America does not suffer as much damage in World War II, the post-war Baby Boom begins earlier there, making all subsequent generations slightly older than their counterparts in the rest of world. Therefore, North American Millennials are capable of leading Millennials from around the world.

West Paducah, Kentucky

This is the site of another school shooting where student Ben Strong stepped between the shooter and the principal of the school and persuades the shooter to stop.



Themes

Millenials Are Underestimated

While many people think of Millenials as a continuation of Generation X, often even giving them the name Generation Y, Howe and Strauss demonstrate how wrong this idea is. As teenagers, members of Generation X are responsible for the highest rates of youth criminality in American history. On the other hand, Millenials are reversing the trend of rising youth crime rates and sending those rates back to levels not seen since the mid-1960s. Despite all the attention given to mass school shootings such as Columbine, school violence is down substantially since its peak in the early-1990s. In the 1992-1993 school year, there are 55 violent deaths in American schools compared with 25 in 1998-1999, 15 of which are deaths at Columbine.

A similar pattern is found with drug use which peaked in the early-1980s, and while it has risen somewhat in the 1990s it remains far lower than the highs of the previous decade. Rates of teen pregnancy and abortion have both fallen dramatically during the 1990s. Millenial students are also outperforming their Generation X predecessors by wide margins on a number of measures. The number of seniors taking Advanced Placement examinations has more than doubled since 1984. More students now go on to attend college. From numerous metrics, Howe and Strauss conclude that Millenials are doing far better than most people are willing to give them credit for.

Millenials Have Tremendous Potential

Given the improvements Millenials have already shown over their generational predecessors on a number of metrics and the support society gives to Millenials, Howe and Strauss believe that Millenials can become a Hero Generation. A Hero Generation accomplishes some kind of great deed to strengthen their society and remain celebrated in the society's history long after all its members are dead. According to Strauss and Howe, the appearance of Hero Generations typically occurs based on a specific pattern. A Hero Generation follows a disappointing youth generation, which in the case of Millenials is Generation X. Furthermore, Hero Generations are born following some kind of large scale social upheaval like that seen with the numerous protest movements in the 1960s and 1970s that preceded the Millenials.

All Hero Generations are intensely protected as children, which Millenials are as children become the dominant focus of society in the early-1980s. Finally, a Hero Generation must face a major crisis and overcome it, as the G.I. Generation did with World War II. In order to replace the G.I. Generation as America's Hero Generation, Millenials will need a crisis, but Howe and Strauss believe one could easily be provided by Baby Boomers' extreme willingness to use military force to impose American will abroad. However, if the Millenials face a crisis but cannot overcome it, their energy could be transferred into anger and become highly destructive.

History is Propelled by Generational Shifts

Howe and Strauss seem to believe that history is changed not primarily by individuals but by differences in generational personae. Near the beginning of the book, the authors argue that a generation can think or act just as much as individual can, and each generation has certain attributes that make up its persona. The persona of the generations already alive will largely determine the persona of the next generation, so the kinds of people in each generation are largely determined. Accordingly, Howe and Strauss believe that history plays out in a fairly deterministic way. For instance, there is a definite pattern that generations follow down through the ages. Hero Generations appear every four to five generations and follow a youth generation that is seen as a disappointment and an earlier generation that leads great moral crusades and raises consciousness.

Each generation makes its mark on history by rebelling against the older generations. Each new generation will solve a problem of the last youth generation, correct an excess in the current midlife generation, and take the place of the generation that is dying off. Howe and Strauss do not claim that they can predict the future by examining the personae of all the generations, but they do argue that they can get a relatively accurate idea of how each generation will react to different events as they age by looking at the current generational constellation.

Style

Perspective

While the book is certainly a serious piece of scholarship marshaling a huge number of statistics and grappling with numerous ideas and cultural phenomenon, it is also unabashedly written in defense of Millennials. In many ways, this stance is merely a corrective to all the negative stories about Millennial youth circulating among the media and politicians, but at times it does seem as though Howe and Strauss are straining the evidence to make their point. Howe and Strauss are very well known experts on the subject of generations and have written several books on the subject together, most notably "Generations," "13th Gen," and "The Fourth Turning." Their bias in favor of Millennials may derive from the fact that they are both fathers of Millennial children, but Strauss also has two very late Generation X children. This fact could easily bias Howe and Strauss into wanting to see nothing but the best for their children and their future. However, in the same vein, Howe and Strauss are both Baby Boomers, but this does not keep them from repeatedly criticizing Boomers throughout the book. Finally, while the book does vigorously defend Millennials, it occasionally expresses reservations about their abilities and futures, and there is an obvious effort to report all information, even if some of it does not fit their thesis.

Tone

The tone of the book is largely academic, but the authors also clearly aim to make the book accessible to the educated layman and fun to read as well. While the text is written in standard essay format with a fair amount of complex language, it is interspersed with other elements designed to add extra interest. There are numerous charts and graphs for more visually oriented readers and also a number of humorous cartoons that illustrate the Howe and Strauss' points spread throughout the book. Also, on every page, there are quotes from news articles, teachers, parents, and Millennials themselves that relate to the main text. These language in these quotes is typically more accessible than the main text. Furthermore, Howe and Strauss discuss numerous elements of popular culture and begin every chapter with a quote from a song or movie that is popular with Millennials. These elements are obviously efforts to attract Millennial readers and engage them on their own terms.

Finally, there is something of a combative tone to parts of the book. Howe and Strauss are in no way writing as demagogues, but they are writing to correct what they see as untrue attacks on Millennials, and this shows through at times. However, even when the authors are most obviously attacking a fallacy, they never let their tone become angry.

Structure

The book is divided into three parts along with an afterword and a fairly lengthy notes section that serves as an annotated bibliography. Each section is further divided into chapters with seventeen chapters in the book total. The chapters are relatively short with an average length of just under twenty-two pages. The longest chapters are the first two, which are both twenty-eight pages long. However, at the end of the book, the chapters become shorter with the last chapter at only five pages in length.

Part one of the book is entitled "Where They Come From," and it explains how Millennials are being raised and gives background on their immediate generational predecessors Generation X and the Baby Boomers. Part one also explains Howe and Strauss' conception of generational change and offers a few initial predictions about the Millennial Generation's future. Part two forms the bulk of the book with over sixty percent of the main text devoted to it, and it is entitled "Who They Are." The section explains the attributes of Millennials including chapters on family, school, culture, commerce, community, and conduct among others. Part three is entitled "Where They're Going" and introduces the concept of the Hero Generation. In this section, Howe and Strauss return to their generational theories and offer more specific predictions about Millennials' future. Finally, the afterword is six pages long and explains how Howe and Strauss became interested in the same subject and conducted their research.



Quotes

"Who can recall the last time in America that young kids preferred ads and shows that portrayed people their own age as smart, studious, and articulate—the way they are starting to do now?"

Chapter One, The Next Great Generation, p. 18

"But Millennials are less vulgar, less sexually active, less violent than the youth culture adults have created for them."

Chapter One, The Next Great Generation, p. 19

"A generation can think, feel, or do anything a person might think, feel, or do."

Chapter Two, From Babies on Board to Power Teens, p. 40

"For Millennials the Dow Jones only goes up, people only get wealthier, and America only fights effortless wars. For them, technology rules, markets are global, government is impotent, and the gap between rich and poor is always widening."

Chapter Two, From Babies on Board to Power Teens, p. 46

"These days, in other words, what matters most is whether a family has one or two parents. In both black and white families, single parents earn only about 30 percent of what two-parent families make."

Chapter Five, Kinderpolitics, p.108

"Through the first half of the 1990s, real federal spending per child jumped by 37 percent, more than twice the rate for the elderly."

Chapter Five, Kinderpolitics, p. 111

"Whenever you notice both sides of the culture wars focusing on the same message, it's usually landing hard on Millennials."

Chapter Seven, Raising Standards for Regular Kids, p. 152

"Ironically, where young Boomers once turned to drugs to prompt impulses and think outside the box, today they turn to drugs to suppress their kids' impulses and keep their behavior inside the box."

Chapter Seven, Raising Standards for Regular Kids, p. 154

"To many Millennial teens, it's as though they see a giant generational train ready to leave the station. Each of them knows they'll either get there with their ticket punched and be on that train—or be off it and never have the same chance again."

Chapter Eight, Jiggy with It, p. 185

"To the extent today's boys get more attention in the classroom, it tends to be pharmaceutical, special-ed, compensatory, or disciplinary attention—all of which boys receive two to ten times as often as girls."

Chapter Ten, Junior Citizens, p. 224



"Technological progress—which served as a liberating purpose to Boomers, and a diversifying purpose to Gen Xers—is serving a new unifying purpose for today's teens."
Chapter Twelve, *Rocket Cash*, p. 272

"Institutions seen as favorable to family life will be reinvigorated; those seen as harmful, challenged. The very definition of marriage may be reinforced with new forms of certification."
Chapter Fourteen, *The Clock Is Tickin'*, p. 317



Topics for Discussion

How do Millennials differ from Generation X? Why do many people believe Millennials to be a continuation of Generation X?

How will Millennials replace the G.I. Generation?

What makes a generation a Hero Generation? How can Millennials become a Hero Generation?

How are Millennials rebelling against Generation X and Baby Boomers?

Describe the future Howe and Strauss envision for Millennials?

Have the extra pressures (e.g. high stakes testing, zero tolerance policies) placed on Millennials to meet high standards and behave in school been worth the cost? Explain your answer using statistical evidence from the book.

Are the authors evenhanded in their analysis or do they seem to favor some generations over others? Explain your answer.

What are some indicators that Millennials are performing better than is commonly believed?