



Highlights of **CREATING AN OPPORTUNITY SOCIETY**

By Ron Haskins & Isabel Sawhill

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The book includes:

- The argument that we should focus more on the *opportunity* to move up the ladder and less on poverty or inequality.
- An in-depth look at values and attitudes that influence the willingness of the more-advantaged to help the less- advantaged.
- The extent of mobility --- both within and across generations --- in American society and how it compares to other countries.
- Data showing that the middle class dream is largely achievable if individuals do just three things:
 - Graduate from high school;
 - Work full-time; and
 - Delay childbearing until marriage
- What has been happening to middle class families in the U.S. in recent decades and the politics of assisting the poor when the middle class itself is foundering.
- The concentration of income and wealth at the very top of the distribution.
- The importance of cultural versus structural explanations for why some people succeed and others don't.
- A detailed set of recommendations to strengthen education at every level, encourage work, and strengthen families --- based on such criteria as greater effectiveness, simplicity, consistency with public values and with new research on how people behave.
- The importance of both personal responsibility and government assistance in helping people get ahead.
- The importance of providing any new assistance in a fiscally responsible way --- all of our proposals are paid for.
- A call for greater intergenerational equity achieved by gradually allocating resources from more affluent seniors to less affluent younger families and their children.



For more information, please visit the *Creating an Opportunity Society* website:
www.opportunitysociety.org