

## The difference.

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**A friend of mine in England was showing me photographs from the time she had spent teaching English in Upper Volta, Africa. I scanned snapshots of family, individuals, and groups-men, women, and children of average stature, varying in posture in physical development. Suddenly I noticed one man who was remarkably different from all the others.**

He stood beautifully, with wide shoulders that were neither pressed back under military tension nor rounded forward in a clerical stoop, and his chest was deep. His spine was erect and his head balanced, with no strain apparent in his neck muscles. I exclaimed at the perfection of his physical development. Then I found a second such person. Without knowing anything about my interest in chairs, my friend commented that the two men I had singled out were the only two who had grown up in a village without a missionary school and its tables and chairs.

Of course, there may have been other differences between these two people and the rest that I will never know, but my friend's comment served to precipitate my suspicions into a hypothesis. Here was a dramatic sign that the entire scientific paradigm for chair design was misguided. Chair *in and of themselves* are the problem; not poorly designed chairs.

G. Cranz

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