

Synopsis

The roots of controversy surrounding higher education in the US extend deep into the past. This original, incisive history goes far in offering a needed sense of perspective on current debates over such issues as access, costs, academic quality, social equity, and curricula. Eminently readable and always lively, this timely historical account is sure to be an invaluable resource for assessing the present condition and future prospects of American colleges and universities.

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Customer Reviews

With economy and clarity, Lucas, professor of education at the University of Arkansas, limns the antecedents of the American college and university system. Proceeding from an examination of the Western cultural heritage to today's higher educational establishments, which he characterizes as unchecked sprawl, overlapping missions and amorphous identities, Lucas avoids contrasting the "untidy" present with a purportedly idyllic past. Instead, he shows that contemporary academic issues often have ancient lineage: town-and-gown antagonism, secret societies, grade inflation. Written for the general reader, this study illuminates current issues of higher education. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Lucas (education, Univ. of Arkansas) touches upon many of the current debates in the academic world and shows how these controversies are really not new. One might believe that the early academics were solely seekers of knowledge, but the author discovers that "students in all times

have pursued higher learning for a great variety of reasons, that their motives have been mixed, not pure." Lucas then explores other common misconceptions about higher education. The title is misleading as the first third of the text discusses the beginnings of education through the rise of the medieval university while the remainder documents the growth and development of American academe, including current issues such as gender and multiculturalism. Recommended for academic libraries. Samuel T. Huang, Northern Illinois Univ. Libs., DeKalb Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Wore this book out reading and re-reading. Yes, it was that good! Thanks for a great read with a vast number of references.

Excellent book and perfect for my class. Well written, interesting and easy to follow.

The author, based on his background, is an education major attempting to be an historian. Amazingly, he proves himself incompetent in both fields. From his hilarious look at the ancient world (my major was history, concentration on the classics, at Rutgers) to his opinionated analysis of the 1960s, Dr. Lucas presents a hodgepodge of factoids, rarely well linked, and with little attempt whatsoever to connect outside the world of academia. I envision him sitting in an office, surrounded by stacks of index cards, grabbing one fact, one name after another and slinging them together. The book is not popular in format, as its turgid prose and overwhelming collection of factoids would scare off the average reader, but also lacks the proper documentation one expects of a scholarly work. I scratched my head and wondered, "What is evidence?" over and over. Finally, the entire work is clearly influenced by the author's bias. He supports a liberal education based on classical traditions; that much is obvious. He is completely, and explicitly, Eurocentric in his approach. Before this was written, there was a need for an accessible but scholarly, single-volume account of American higher education. Following its publication, there was still that need.

Good history of American education.

a must for higher education majors.

This book was a journey through the origins of higher education. It makes sense looking at where we are today, and what directions we still need to go. Great book for every educator...

This text is poorly written. It jumps around through time and doesn't provide any historical context most of the time. There are better options out there.

This second hand book was well preserved! It's good for me to read with some notes in this book by former owner.

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