



Illiberal Education: The Politics of Race and Sex on Campus

Dinesh D'Souza

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As it "illuminates the crisis of liberal education and offers proposals for reform which deserve full debate" (Morton Halperin, American Civil Liberties Union), "Illiberal Education" "documents how the politics of race and gender in our universities are rapidly eating away traditions of scholarship and reward for individual achievement" (Robert H. Bork). (Education/Teaching)

Illiberal Education: The Politics of Race and Sex on Campus Details

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From Reader Review Illiberal Education: The Politics of Race and Sex on Campus for online ebook

Scott Souza says

Fascinating look at the changing of American colleges in the late 80's and early 90's.

Cris says

Dinesh is a good speaker and has good ideas but this book is not very representative of that. A good idea, a badly organized book. While I understand the author's need to provide factual information a condensation of the facts is a good thing. What I really wanted was an analysis of how those ideas affected the climate of education and this was not it.

Jane Fournier says

I have read one of Dinesh D'Souza's books and enjoyed it. Now I'll start this one in the midst of the turmoil of our education system in the USA and we will see what he has to say. Although the book was written some years ago, Dinesh hits the nail on the head as to why our colleges became the way they have become. I have a son that attended 3 different colleges counting a junior college. 2 in Colorado and 1 in Florida. He came out a dedicated Democrat and ended up with a Master's in English and English Literature. He is very bright but I thought then and I know now that he was taught his Socialist ways in University settings. He taught for 6 years in local high schools and was very frustrated as a lot of his students were Hispanic and not at all interested in learning English. Now he teaches in China where all his students K-12 are very interested in learning English. What's with that?

Jeff says

This is spot on and tells us a lot about the problems we are experiencing as a society today. Unfortunately, this kind of problem needs to be addressed at the very beginning of education (kindergarten and the early grades). By the time kids get to high school it's really almost too late to try and remediate. Schools need to start having the guts to hold kids back if they haven't mastered skills at their grade level. We have become a society where truth and mastery no longer are of primary importance, feeling good about yourself is. This is why we are rapidly falling behind other societies around the world. My Chinese and Korean students are head and shoulders above my American students. This book helps explain why. Highly recommended.

Marcus Devin says

Hardback

Frederick Hammill says

Terrible plot. Not engaging at all. Kept waiting for some kind of twist to make it exciting, but it never came.

William Lawrence says

Hasty generalizations plague this book. The premise that some students are discriminated against and passed up for lower scoring students based on race is indeed a problem, if we are to base admissions on test scores alone, but D'Souza is just too manipulative with his politically charged language.

Jonathan says

None

John says

I generally believe abridged versions of books are to be avoided at all costs, but I decided to make a rare exception in the case of *ILLIBERAL EDUCATION*. After all, it was written more than 25 years ago and represents one of Dinesh D'Souza's very first literary offerings. I was curious about it, but figured it probably wouldn't hold up very well in the year 2017. So, I decided to take a shortcut and listen to an abridged version on audio cassette read by Joseph Campanella.

And while the sound quality was crappy, I was nonetheless mesmerized by the information I was hearing. Despite its age, *ILLIBERAL EDUCATION* deals with the same issues in higher education that America faces today. Published a few years after Allan Bloom's influential *THE CLOSING OF THE AMERICAN MIND*, D'Souza's book covers some of the same ground, but from the perspective of a recent graduate rather than a wizened professor nearing his retirement. The book discusses how programs like Affirmative Action ultimately hurt the very minorities they were created to help, and how blind devotion to the concept of "diversity" generally results in self-segregation among students and decreased mutual respect among faculty members. Cultural relativism and a lack of consistent standards further inhibit students from receiving a first-rate education, especially when professors would rather teach politically correct falsehoods than politically incorrect truths.

ILLIBERAL EDUCATION demonstrates that these problems have been around a very long time, and that too great an emphasis on race, gender, and sexual orientation has resulted in an entire generation of self-perceived "victims" competing over perceived marginalization status. It's a commonly debated topic on YouTube, if not on college campuses themselves, but one that D'Souza does a superlative job of exploring--at least in the three hours of audiobook material I heard, which I'm guessing was less than half of the book's total runtime. Don't underestimate this book the way I did; do yourself a favor and read it in full.

Amy says

Interesting perspective about our schools.

elvedril says

An interesting look into the changes that took place at American universities in the late 80s. The author raises interesting points, though he tends to come off as somewhat dismissive of those he disagrees with and seems to really want to show the reader how much smarter he is than some of the professors he interviews. Despite that the book does a good job of showing the changes that were occurring and suggests some of the dangers that they might lead to.

Louis says

This is an older book by D'Souza but it was excellent. An in-depth, well-researched look into how the very policies developed by liberals to supposedly advance the effort of increasing minority college graduates has done nothing but create angry balkanizations within college student populations, cast doubt on the actual merit of minority achievements (by causing people to assume that all minorities succeed only through the benefit of lower standards), and increase the level of minority dropouts due to feelings of inadequacy when placed in a setting that does not match their skill set, all in the name of diversity. His answer...allow for a percentage of affirmative action-style set-asides, but based not on skin color but on socio-economic need. A thoughtful and well reasoned book.

Peter says

I was at Harvard when the young Dinesh first realized that a career could be had of converting his outrage into cash. He wrote this book and I purchased a copy. Harvard was in the throes of political correctness, and it was somewhat disheartening to see my entire worldview challenged by what, at times, could seem like trivialities. So I "feel his pain." Or I did. Before. Now, having been out of the U.S. for nearly twenty years I fail to see what he is so angry about. Or rather, I can still understand what he is angry about, but I think, having gained the perspective of great distance, he is angry about the wrong thing. There are more important issues that need to be addressed, and I cannot understand the blindness, the failure to see them, unless it is the blindness of rage. The antidote to rage induced blindness is distance. So do us all a favor, Dinesh. Count to ten, maybe go visit your relatives overseas for a year or two or five. But at least get some perspective, and a grip.

Hubert says

It's worthwhile to read a conservative screed to hone ones arguments in favor of a multicultural education. The author wrote this when he was rather young, so he might be forgiven for the way in which he meanders around a bit. This book propelled D'Souza to celebrity status, perhaps a bit too early, and perhaps prevented

him from doing more serious academic work.

A proper response to this text would take a long time, but here are some starting points. Implementing a proper curriculum is not as simple as deciding whether to include works from Western or non-Western authors; perhaps that was how the debate was framed by some in the late 80s but such framing seems simple-minded in 2018. Nowhere in the work does he tout any of the benefits of communities (read student groups) that might benefit from learning about shared experience. It might be more instructive to look at someone like Martha Nussbaum who much more persuasively connects how a liberal arts education rooted in close study of core works from multiple traditions can be applied to a contemporary global society.

A number of inaccuracies populate the book. Just one example: he claims that minority student groups exclude on the basis of race or gender. This is an impossibility, and student groups who discriminate are not eligible for student group funding (nor are they allowed to host events on campus, I believe). For example I am aware of a number of non-Asian American students who were members of Asian American student groups in the mid-90s. These students wanted an extracurricular avenue outside of formalized curriculum that would enrich their collegiate experience. How is this a bad thing?

By the way, there is a huge rabbit hole to be dug when evaluating D'Souza's recent life and work. He did an anti-Obama documentary, dated conservative rabble-rousers Ann Coulter and Laura Ingraham, and was convicted of campaign finance fraud and then pardoned by President Trump. Woah!

Gerhard Peters says

I like D'Souza and book is no exception.
