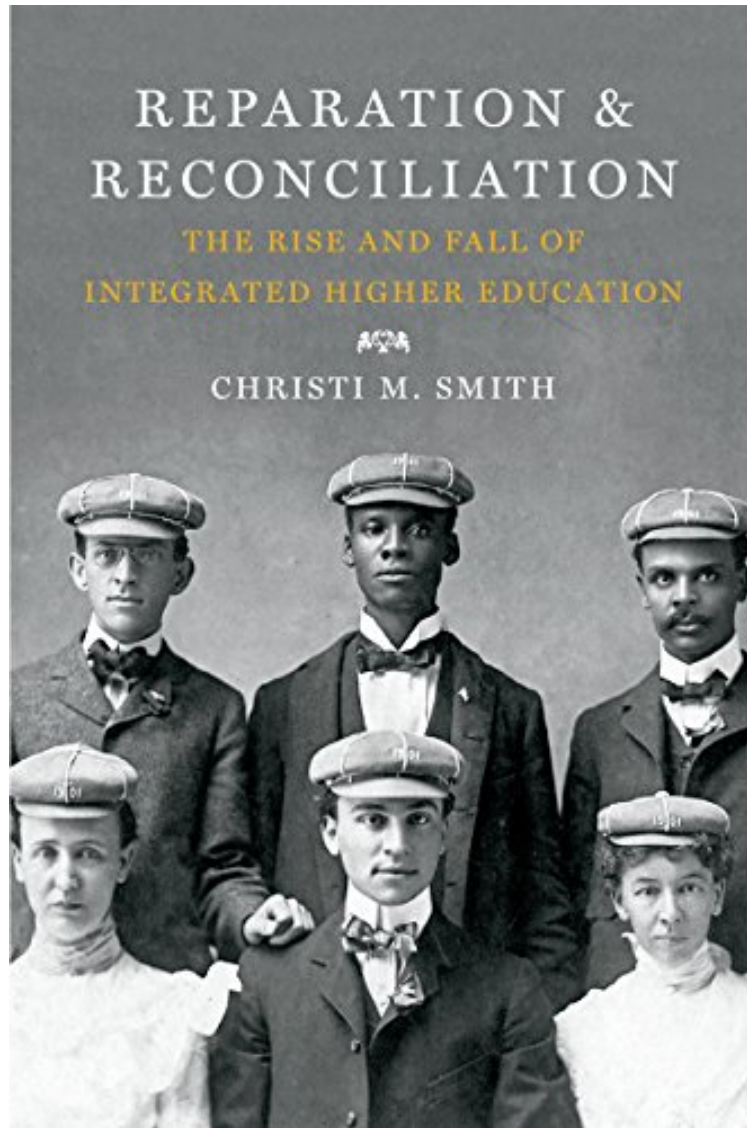


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# Reparation and Reconciliation: The Rise and Fall of Integrated Higher Education

*Christi M. Smith*

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**Christi M. Smith : Reparation and Reconciliation: The Rise and Fall of Integrated Higher Education** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reparation and Reconciliation: The Rise and Fall of Integrated Higher Education:

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Steven Volk Remarkably useful and interesting book about the 19th century history of three colleges: Oberlin, Berea and Howard University. Smith traces out the forces which pushed the newly founded Oberlin (1833) toward an open door policy as regards African Americans (and women), and the role of the American Missionary Society in similar stances taken at Berea and Howard. Policies at all three suggested the critical role they felt that higher education could play, not just in the lives of the students who would be educated, but in the country as a whole. These colleges imagined they could change the course of U.S. history. And while they didn't succeed in that -- the task was much too great -- their impact was vital. If that's the positive story, much more troubling is why each college ed-emphasized racial integration by the end of the century. Reasons of finances, particularly as competition with more colleges and universities required each to further define its goals, turned Oberlin in the direction of directly competing with the elite Eastern colleges; Berea as specializing in the education of Appalachian youth, and Howard towards producing a Black elite. All in all, an impressive and innovative history.

Reparation and Reconciliation is the first book to reveal the nineteenth-century struggle for racial integration on U.S. college campuses. As the Civil War ended, the need to heal the scars of slavery, expand the middle class, and reunite the nation engendered a dramatic interest in higher education by policy makers, voluntary associations, and African Americans more broadly. Formed in 1846 by Protestant abolitionists, the American Missionary Association united a network of colleges open to all, designed especially to educate African American and white students together, both male and female. The AMA and its affiliates envisioned integrated campuses as a training ground to produce a new leadership class for a racially integrated democracy. Case studies at three colleges--Berea College, Oberlin College, and Howard University--reveal the strategies administrators used and the challenges they faced as higher education quickly developed as a competitive social field. Through a detailed analysis of archival and press data, Christi M. Smith demonstrates that pressures between organizations--including charities and foundations--and the emergent field of competitive higher education led to the differentiation and exclusion of African Americans, Appalachian whites, and white women from coeducational higher education and illuminates the actors and the strategies that led to the persistent salience of race over other social boundaries.

Without sacrificing rich and telling historical detail, Christi M. Smith engages large themes, creating a book that will garner attention within important ongoing conversations associated with educational equity, the manner in which segregation is manifested and reproduced, the degree to which such outcomes are fixed or mutable, and, most sweepingly, the legacy of racial (and racist) practices in the United States--a conversation that has taken on renewed salience. With its rich, incisive, and engaging historical accounts, this book can and should speak compellingly to varied audiences.--David Cunningham, Washington University in St. Louis Deeply researched and original in focus, this excellent book deals with important and fundamental issues in nineteenth-century American history. Christi M. Smith has drafted a leading scholarly work that will be lauded in reviews and cited by colleagues.--Desmond King, University of Oxford About the Author Christi M. Smith is Assistant Dean and Senior Scholar at the Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Washington University in St. Louis.