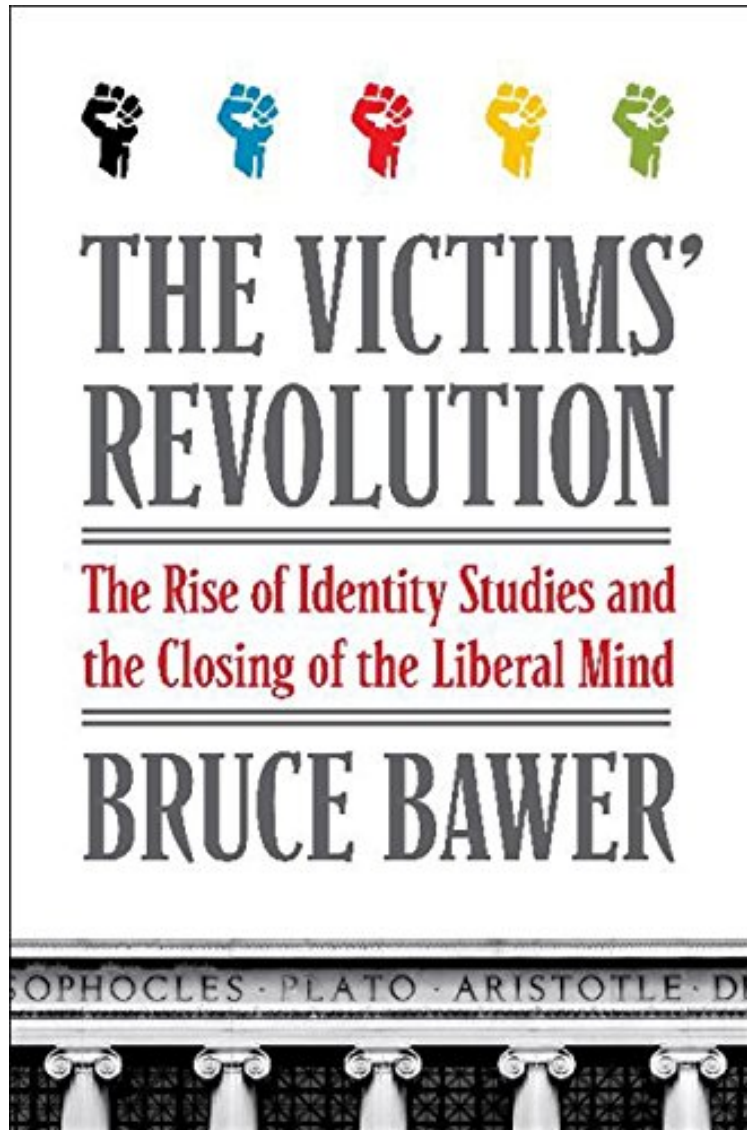


The Victims' Revolution: The Rise of Identity Studies and the Closing of the Liberal Mind

Bruce Bawer

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Victims' Revolution: The Rise of Identity Studies and the Closing of the Liberal Mind:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Problem of PC definedBy Laurence JarvikBawer does a good job describing the problem of PC in the university, but unfortunately fails to come up with a convincing solution.0 of 1

people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy La YhadiraFantastic!60 of 70 people found the following review helpful. Former Humanities Major gives this TWO THUMBS UP!!!By Native DaughterAs a humanities major in the early 80s (thankfully BEFORE all that Bawer describes in this book infected the academy) I can only say THANK YOU MR. BAWER for helping me understand what I faced when I went back to graduate school in 2010. I was shocked to find out that I was now identified as an "oppressor" (because I'm a straight Caucasian female - worse if had I been a straight white male!) and that America is the biggest evil oppressor the world has ever known, etc. This meme is repeated again and again in so many ways in textbooks that it is STUNNING. And since I'd studied humanities prior to this "infection" I was doubly stunned. Students (and their parents) - shelling out big bucks for "higher education" should read this cautionary tome. Know what you are paying for before you patronize "higher education." Kudos to Mr. Bawer, a member of a so-called victim group (by dint of being gay) for having the intellectual honesty and courage to write this book! I'm posting and sharing with everyone.

Respected author, critic, and essayist Bruce Bawer whose previous book, *While Europe Slept: How Radical Islam Is Destroying the West from Within*, was a New York Times bestseller and a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist now offers a trenchant and sweeping critique of the sorry state of higher education since the campus revolutions of the late 60s and early 70s. In *The Victims Revolution*, Bawer incisively contends that the rise of identity-based college courses and disciplines (Womens Studies, Black Studies, Gay Studies, etc.) forty years ago has resulted in an impoverishment of thought and widespread political confusion, while filling the brains of students with politically correct mush. Timely, controversial, and brilliantly argued, Bawer's *The Victims Revolution* is necessary reading for students, educators, and anyone concerned about the contemporary crisis in academia a serious and important work that stands with other essential books on the subject, like *The Shadow University* by Alan Kors, *Illiberal Education* by Dinesh D'Souza, and Allan Bloom's *The Closing of the American Mind*.

Bawer scores lots of entertaining points against the insufferable posturing and unreadable prose that pervades identity studies. Bawer is a lively, cantankerous takedown of a juicy target. (Publishers Weekly) Bawer is passionate in his criticism of the current state of academia and its effects on broader American culture. (Booklist) The developments described by Mr. Bawer will not surprise readers familiar with the campus wars that broke out in the 1980s, when entire departments devoted to these fields began to be established. Where the author's text shines is in explaining their root causes. (Wall Street Journal) The book is terrific, exposing the academic criminality that those programs encourage i.e., teaching naive and impressionable students things that either are utterly false or are merely wild-eyed opinions as truth.... I strongly recommend the book. (National) This is a vital, sparkling, and truth-telling book. (Jay Nordlinger, National) This book is an adventure in American religious thought, exciting and intelligent. (Booklist) From the Back Cover An eye-opening critique of the identity-based revolution that has transformed American campuses and its effect on politics and society today. The 1960s and 70s were a time of dramatic upheaval in American universities as a new generation of scholar-activists rejected traditional humanism in favor of a radical ideology that denied esthetic merit and objective truth. In *The Victims Revolution*, critic and scholar Bruce Bawer provides the first true history of this radical movement and a sweeping assessment of its intellectual and cultural fruits. Once, Bawer argues, the purpose of higher education had been to introduce students to the legacy of Western civilization the best that has been thought and said. The new generation of radical educators sought instead to unmask the West as the perpetrator of global injustice. Age-old values of goodness, truth, and beauty were disparaged as mere weapons in an ongoing struggle of the powerful against the powerless. Shifting the focus of the humanities to the purported victims of Western colonialism, imperialism, and capitalism, the new politicized approach to the humanities gave rise to a series of identity-based programs, including Womens Studies, Black Studies, Queer Studies, and Chicano Studies. As a result, the serious and objective study of human civilization and culture was replaced by theoretical approaches emphasizing group identity, victimhood, and lockstep progressive politics. What have the advocates of this new anti-Western ideology accomplished? Twenty-five years ago, Allan Bloom warned against the corruption of the humanities in *The Closing of the American Mind*. Bawer's book presents compelling evidence that Bloom and other conservative critics were right to be alarmed. *The Victims Revolution* describes how the new identity-based disciplines came into being, examines their major proponents and texts, and trenchantly critiques their underlying premises. Bawer concludes that the influence of these programs has impoverished our thought, confused our politics, and filled the minds of their impressionable students with politically correct mush. Bawer's book is must-reading for all those concerned not only about the declining quality of American higher education, but also about the fate of our society at large. About the Author A native New Yorker who has lived in Norway since 1999, Bruce Bawer has written several influential books on a range of issues. *A Place at the Table: The Gay Individual in American Society* (1993) was named by columnist Dale Carpenter as the most important non-fiction book about homosexuality published in the 1990s; Publishers Weekly called *Stealing Jesus: How Fundamentalism Betrays Christianity* (1997) a must-read book for anyone concerned with the relationship of Christianity to contemporary American culture; *While Europe Slept: How Radical Islam Is Destroying the West from Within* (2006) was a New York Times bestseller and a

National Book Critics Circle Award finalist; and *Surrender: Appeasing Islam, Sacrificing Freedom* (2009) was hailed by *Booklist* as immensely important and urgent." He has also published several collections of literary and film criticism, including *Diminishing Fictions* and *The Aspect of Eternity*, and a collection of poetry, *Coast to Coast*, which was selected by the *Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook* as the best first book of poems published in 1993. He is a frequent contributor to such publications as *The Hudson*, *City Journal*, *The American Scholar*, *Wilson Quarterly*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and has reviewed books regularly for the *New York Times Book*, *Washington Post Book World*, and *Wall Street Journal*.