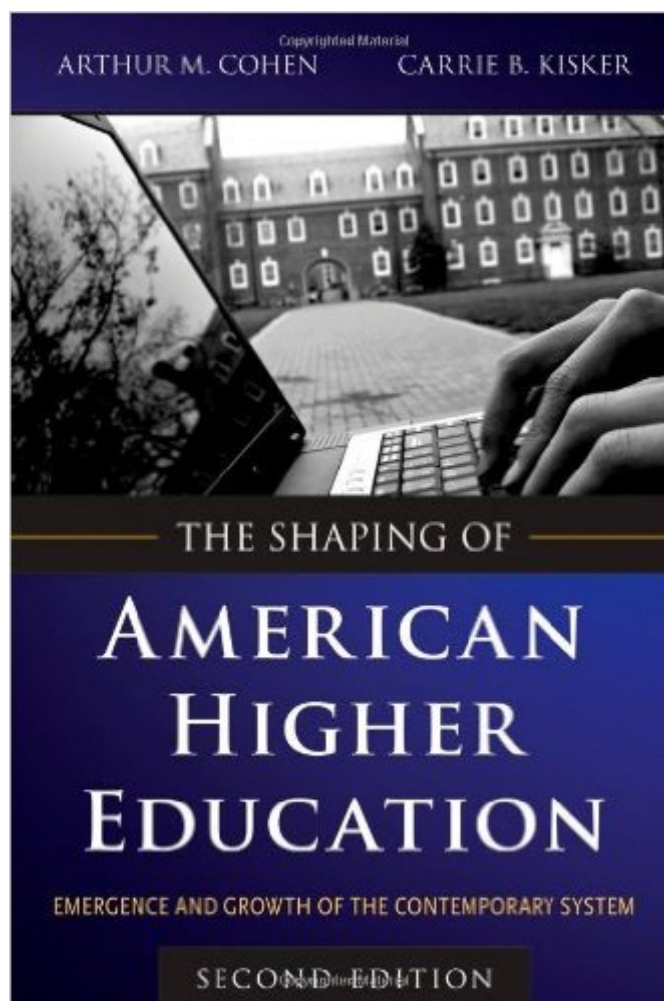


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# The Shaping Of American Higher Education: Emergence And Growth Of The Contemporary System



## Synopsis

When the first edition of *The Shaping of American Higher Education* was published it was lauded for its historical perspective and in-depth coverage of current events that provided an authoritative, comprehensive account of the history of higher education in the United States. As in the first edition, this book tracks trends and important issues in eight key areas: student access, faculty professionalization, curricular expansion, institutional growth, governance, finance, research, and outcomes. Thoroughly revised and updated, the volume is filled with critical new data; recent information from specialized sources on faculty, student admissions, and management practices; and an entirely new section that explores privatization, corporatization, and accountability from the mid-1990s to the present. This second edition also includes end-of-chapter questions for guidance, reflection, and study. "Cohen and Kisker do the nation's colleges and universities a much needed service by authoring this volume. The highly regarded histories of American higher education have become badly dated. They ignore the last quarter century when American higher education was transformed. This volume provides comprehensive information on that era." #151; Art Levine, president, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, and author, *When Hope and Fear Collide: A Portrait of Today's College Student* "The second edition of *The Shaping of American Higher Education* is a treasure trove of information and insight. Cohen and Kisker provide us with astute and straightforward analysis and commentary on our past, present, and likely future. This book is invaluable to those seeking to go to the heart of the issues and challenges confronting higher education." #151; Judith S. Eaton, president, Council for Higher Education Accreditation "Arthur Cohen and his collaborator have now updated his superb history of American higher education. It remains masterful, authoritative, comprehensive, and incisive, and guarantees that this work will stand as the classic required resource for all who want to understand where higher education came from and where it is going. The new material gives a wise and nuanced perspective on the current crisis-driven transformations of the higher education industry." #151; John Lombardi, president, Louisiana State University System "The *Shaping of American Higher Education* is distinguished by its systematic approach, comprehensive coverage, and extensive treatment of the modern era, including the first years of the twenty-first century. In this second edition, Arthur Cohen and Carrie Kisker are especially adept at bringing historical perspective and a balanced viewpoint to controversial issues of the current era." #151; Roger L. Geiger, distinguished professor, The Pennsylvania State University, and author, *Knowledge and Money*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mr. UCLA (the reviewer who gave the book 1 star) was probably a student of the writer, who is a teacher in UCLA. He didn't seem to enjoy his class too much. Anyway, I bought the book because I was working on my so-called "education reform", but realized that I didn't know anything about education. The book helped out a lot. It writes about the full history of American Higher education with an emphasis on later eras. Colonial, Emergent nation, university transformation, mass higher education, and contemporary are the five stage of Higher Education's development. He wrote about the major trends and characteristics of each era, some trends lasting for several eras, like the continuous expansion of the system, never ending diversification, and constant cries for access. One chapter is for one era, and all chapters are subdivided into eight sections to fully illustrate the details of each generation: societal context, institutions, students, faculty, curriculum and instruction, governance and administration, finance, and research and outcomes. The book is very well researched, and has a tremendous amount of data and charts, which were put together very nicely by the author. But that does not mean the book is boring! Though for most of the parts the author tried to be impartial, there were still many sparkling moments when you could feel the author's passion beaming out from the pages, especially as the book go into more modern eras. I know so much more about the history of US education now, and this whole process of developments is very amazing. With this understanding of history, I also gained a far better good grip on current issues, issues not only relating to higher education, but education as a whole. Don't hesitate, you will learn much!

Drs Cohen and Kisker have written an impressive and comprehensive work which covers the gamut of American university education from its beginning to the present day. Set within the context of social, cultural, political and economic trends of each era, the issues are meticulously researched and clearly and concisely articulated. The book is chock-full of facts, statistics and footnotes which create great reliability, yet couched in the passion of the authors. It is very readable and provides fascinating coverage of higher learning in all its facets. This book will be a valuable addition to the libraries of those who want a complete history of our educational system. Kudos to Dr Kisker and Dr Cohen for writing such a complete, authoritative and valuable work.

Cohen and Kisker have given a much needed dust-off and reshaping to the first edition, introducing contemporary issues and giving a nuanced reading of recent implications of some of the most important issues in higher education today. The clarity of the writing and incisiveness of the ideas make it a valuable tool not only for academics, but for anyone interested in learning more about the state of the modern higher education system in all its glory (and folly). At a time when the biggest endowments have seen record declines and been forced to reconsider priorities, this book can serve as a road map for navigating the many political, managerial and structural issues these institutions will face going forward. Part reference tool, part theory, part commentary, the new edition of "Shaping" is an important addition to the field.

This was the textbook for a class I took on the history of higher education. While the book is fairly complete, it is very dry. It has a unique structure. While it is written to follow chronological periods, the chapters are divided into different themes, such as faculty, curriculum, institutions and so forth. So you could read the book cover to cover or you could follow a theme all the way through by just reading the relevant sections from each chapter. Unfortunately, the book reads like a government statistics report in places. There are so many numbers given for each time period and each topic that they start to blend together and become repetitive. To me, this obscures the basic story line at times. Supposedly, this is one of the better books on the topic and I have to admit that it does have a lot of useful information, but by the time my classmates and I had pushed our way through the 500+ pages, we were ready to put it on the shelf and never speak of it again. I would not recommend this book if you are looking for a basic introduction to the topic for general reading. However, if you need a scholarly work about the history of higher education, this may be a decent choice.

The Shaping of American Higher Education (2nd edition) by Arthur Cohen and Carrie Kisker is an extremely useful resource, not only as a history of higher education, but also as a sourcebook for past and current statistics about postsecondary faculty, students, finances, outcomes, curriculum, etc.. The book packs in the facts, but is also clear and easy to read (two things that don't always go together). Thumbs up to Cohen and Kisker for writing a readable book that doubles as an encyclopedic source for everything higher education.

Thoroughly researched and well written, this book is an incredible volume of knowledge and analysis. The book is thoughtfully structured by era and topic for greater accessibility to professors, students and researchers and includes excellent discussion questions for each chapter. The addition in this second edition of an expanded chapter about the Contemporary Era given the current economic, political and social setting, the trajectory of change among higher learning institutions and calls for reform takes this book beyond its significance as an in-depth analysis of the historical context of today's higher education system and endows it with great insight into the trends we will see going forward in the world of higher learning while espousing the inherent value that both individuals and society at large stand to gain from college attendance.

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