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OF IDENTITY STUDIES AND THE CLOSING
OF THE LIBERAL MIND }] by Bawer, Bruce
(AUTHOR) Sep-04-2012 [Hardcover]**

Bruce Bawer

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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 Women's 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 i

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