

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791680803321
Titolo	In defense of American higher education // editors, Philip G. Altbach, Patricia J. Gumpert, D. Bruce Johnstone
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Baltimore : , : Johns Hopkins University Press, , 2001
ISBN	0-8018-7456-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vi, 364 pages) : illustrations
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Disciplina	378.73
Soggetti	Education, Higher - Aims and objectives - United States Education, Higher - Social aspects - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; Chapter One The American Academic Model in Comparative Perspective; Chapter Two Higher Education as a Mature Industry; Chapter Three The "Crisis" Crisis in Higher Education: Is that a Wolf or a Pussycat at the Academy's Door?; Chapter Four Built to Serve: The Enduring Legacy of Public Higher Education; Chapter Five From Mass Higher Education to Universal Access: The American Advantage; Chapter Six Higher Education and Those "Out-of-Control Costs"; Chapter Seven The Liberal Arts and the Role of Elite Higher Education Chapter Eight The Technological: Revolution Reflections on the Proper Role of Technology in Higher Education; Chapter Nine Academic Change and Presidential Leadership; Chapter Ten Graduate Education and Research; Chapter Eleven College Students Today: Why We Can't Leave Serendipity to Chance; Chapter Twelve Governance: The Remarkable Ambiguity; Chapter Thirteen Understanding the American Academic Profession; Contributors; Index
Sommario/riassunto	The current era in higher education is characterized by increased need for accountability and fiscal constraint coupled with demands for increased productivity. Higher education is expected to meet the demand of changing student demographics, as well as requests for

research and service from government and industry. To preserve the academy's ability to meet these demands, the editors and contributors to this volume argue that, while change is inevitable and desirable, any radical alterations to the practices that have established and upheld the excellence of higher education in the United States must be carefully considered. The editors and contributors cherish the best ideals of higher education: academic freedom, commitment to both inquiry and teaching, and preservation of an independence of mind and spirit in the face of external pressures. At the same time, the authors of these essays also reflect upon the failings of higher education, including problematic historical legacies such as racism, sexism, and anti-semitism. *In Defense of American Higher Education* is a careful analysis of what we have inherited, undertaken with a critical eye for constructive reform. It will be of interest to anyone concerned about the future of American higher education.
