1. Record Nr. UNINA9910816784403321 Autore O'Brien Dennis <1931-> Titolo All the essential half-truths about higher education / / George Dennis O'Brien Pubbl/distr/stampa Chicago,: University of Chicago Press, c1998 **ISBN** 1-281-22388-3 9786611223885 0-226-61658-4 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (268 pages) Disciplina 378.73 Education, Higher - United States Soggetti Universities and colleges - United States Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Includes bibliographical references (p. [229]-247) and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Full-Face Preface -- 1. Anyone for Higher Education? -- 2. The Faculty Is the University -- 3. Tenure Is a Necessary Condition of Academic Freedom -- 4. Universities Are Neutral on Moral Value A Universities Teach Moral Value -- 5. The Liberal Arts Curriculum Aims at Distribution/Diversity -- 6. Teaching Is the Primary Task of Higher Education -- 7. The Problem with Higher Education Is the Administration -- 8. Low-Cost Public Education Benefits the Least Advantaged -- 9. The University Is the Axial Institution of Modern Society -- 10. Synthetic Morality -- 11. Ultimate Synthesis: Money, Mission, and Management -- References, Acknowledgments, and Afterthoughts -- Index Sommario/riassunto In this refreshing and original exploration, George Dennis O'Brien looks at higher education in America. O'Brien argues that to debate intelligently the future of education we must stop focusing on its ideals and look instead at its institutions. He does this by addressing nine half-truths, such as whether "low cost public education benefits the least advantaged in society," and goes on to examine how accurately

> they reflect the true state of higher education. The result is a thoughtprovoking discussion of the present challenges and future prospects of

American higher education. "O'Brien's historical overview of the

transition from 19th-century denominational colleges to 20th-century research-driven and largely secular ones is provocative. Cleverly written and well-focused, the book addresses the financial pressures facing higher education and asks vital questions about cutbacks and curricula."-Publishers Weekly "Lively, engaging, and richly suggestive." -Francis Oakley, Commonweal "O'Brien employs calm, powerful reason, without sensationalism. His perspective is illuminating. . . . All the Essential Half-Truths About Higher Education is one of the wisest and most useful treatments of American higher education." -John Attarian, Detroit News