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## Poison in the Ivy

Race Relations and the Reproduction of Inequality on Elite College Campuses

by W. Carson Byrd

### DESCRIPTION

The world of elite campuses is one of rarified social circles, as well as prestigious educational opportunities. W. Carson Byrd studied twenty-eight of the most selective colleges and universities in the United States to see whether elite students' social interactions with each other might influence their racial beliefs in a positive way, since many of these graduates will eventually hold leadership positions in society. He found that students at these universities believed in the success of the 'best and the brightest,' leading them to situate differences in race and status around issues of merit and individual effort.

*Poison in the Ivy* challenges popular beliefs about the importance of cross-racial interactions as an antidote to racism in the increasingly diverse United States. He shows that it is the context and framing of such interactions on college campuses that plays an important role in shaping students' beliefs about race and inequality in everyday life for the future political and professional leaders of the nation. *Poison in the Ivy* is an eye-opening look at race on elite college campuses, and offers lessons for anyone involved in modern American higher education.

### AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

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