



# Toward a More Perfect University

*Jonathan R. Cole*

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## **Toward a More Perfect University** Jonathan R. Cole

Education has been disrupted dramatically by culture, technology and economics. The only certainty about the universities of the future is that they will not thrive if left unchanged. Jonathan Cole, John Mitchell Mason Professor at Columbia University, and its former provost, is one of the country's leading academic researchers into higher education. A fierce champion of the merits and benefits of the great American research university, Cole identifies the potential fault-lines that threaten the future of universities and the strategic changes that successful colleges will have to make in order to preserve their intellectual relevance, economic viability and social mission.

In turn he examines:

Admissions policies;

Examinations;

Cost;

Undergraduate education;

The role of the humanities

The place for professional schools;

Research campuses of the future;

Sports;

Leadership and governance;

The intellectual and legal threats to academic freedom.

Using his deep knowledge of the history and traditions that underpin US higher education, Cole separates the essential from the fashionable. Higher education is a vital national resource, and an economic proving ground. It is the bedrock of American business and society and it must adapt in order to remain globally competitive and intellectually valuable. The culture of the great American universities reflects the moral and social foundations of the republic itself: they are a litmus test of values and philosophies, and their future affects everyone.

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