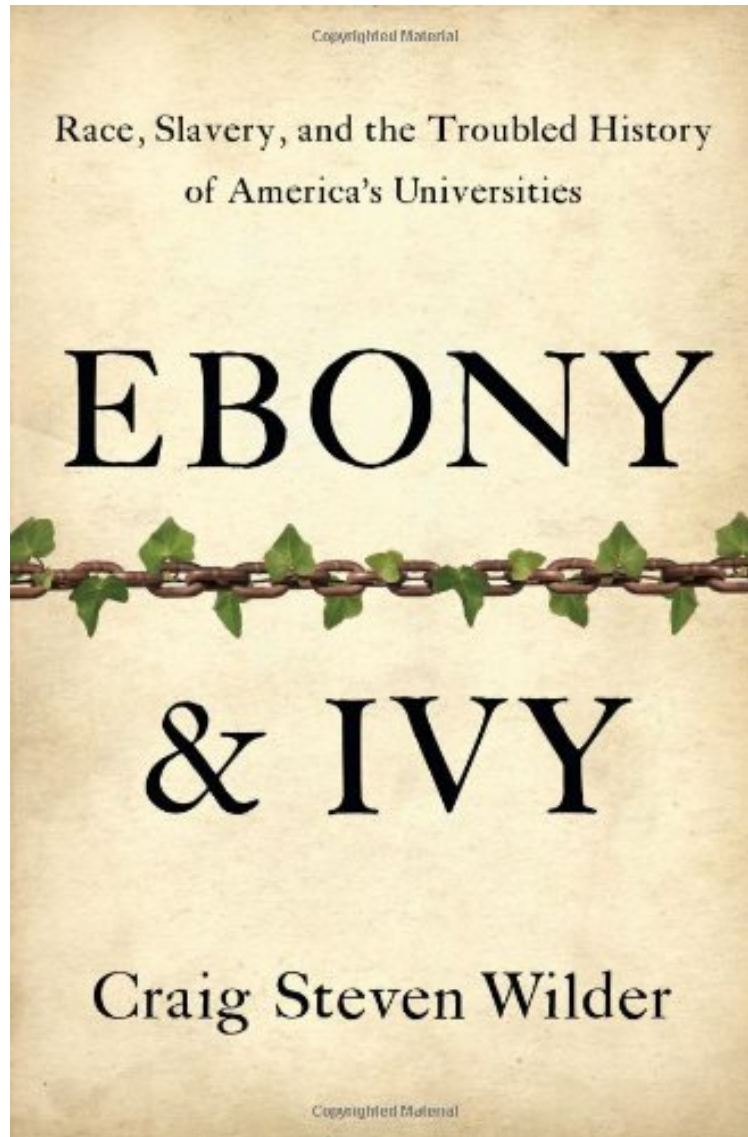


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# Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities

*Craig Steven Wilder*

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**Craig Steven Wilder : Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities**

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities*:

45 of 47 people found the following review helpful. A convincing depiction of slavery's place in early American society By jay k. Focusing on the highest level educational institutions in early America, which were almost always

closely connected to churches, Wilder provides a very strong demonstration of how deeply ingrained slavery was as not only a legal and normal institution, but an institution which was accepted by those considered to be society's highest intellectual and ethical leaders. This very readable book reflects the author's extensive research and balanced use of his findings. I would recommend it highly. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Slavery at Yale, Harvard, and Princeton By Lowell Dodge Wilder's history of slave-holding by the early leaders and students at Ivy League colleges shatters any remaining illusions that slavery was a creature of the South. Imagine a Harvard man currying favor in a court of Europe by offering an American Indian slave. Wilder explores how the slave trade and the establishment of plantations in the South and West Indies that used slaves were driven by the interests of northern industrialists and merchants of the time. Beyond all of this, the book's accounting of the subjugation and enslavement of the Pequots and other Indian tribes of New England in the name of converting them to Christianity should be enough to force a re-writing of the history of the area. All painstakingly documented. It's about time we had a history of the times that tells it like it was. 33 of 36 people found the following review helpful. Ebony Ivy: The Educational Soul of America By frenchiel Ebony Ivy demonstrates the beauty of truth-telling and scholarly research in a most dignified manner. It does not assign blame, it powerfully connects how things that happened in the past is embodied in the present, and continues to exist in the future. I believe that Dr. Craig Steven Wilder has gifted us, human kind, with a wealth of knowledge about the creation of educational institutions in America ... the soul of our American civilization. I am still amazed at how money is raised in the name of one group, but the money is mainly used to finance yet another group. I would highly recommend this book for all, especially professional educators ... the so called, "keepers-of-the-gate." At this time, I cannot imagine a masters or doctoral degree being conferred without a class using Ebony Ivy as its core. Thank you, Dr. Wilder. Thanks to the many who helped to facilitate this scholarly work. In addition, Dr. Wilder, your interview with Amy Goodman on Democracy Now! is gracious, scholarly, magnificent ...!

A 2006 report commissioned by Brown University revealed that institution's complex and contested involvement in slavery-setting off a controversy that leapt from the ivory tower to make headlines across the country. But Brown's troubling past was far from unique. In *Ebony and Ivy*, Craig Steven Wilder, a rising star in the profession of history, lays bare uncomfortable truths about race, slavery, and the American academy. Many of America's revered colleges and universities-from Harvard, Yale, and Princeton to Rutgers, Williams College, and UNC-were soaked in the sweat, the tears, and sometimes the blood of people of color. The earliest academies proclaimed their mission to Christianize the savages of North America, and played a key role in white conquest. Later, the slave economy and higher education grew up together, each nurturing the other. Slavery funded colleges, built campuses, and paid the wages of professors. Enslaved Americans waited on faculty and students; academic leaders aggressively courted the support of slave owners and slave traders. Significantly, as Wilder shows, our leading universities, dependent on human bondage, became breeding grounds for the racist ideas that sustained them. *Ebony and Ivy* is a powerful and propulsive study and the first of its kind, revealing a history of oppression behind the institutions usually considered the cradle of liberal politics.

From Booklist \*Starred \* Not only were many of America's most prestigious colleges founded and supported by slaveholders, but the colleges also provided much of the scholarly and cultural basis of support for slavery. Historian Wilder documents the uncomfortable truth of the inextricable tie between slavery and the ivory tower, how venerable colleges, including Harvard, Princeton, William and Mary, Yale, and others, vied for the attention, land, sons, and money of plantation owners. Slavery provided financial support to the colleges and secure career prospects for many of their graduates, and many colleges owned slaves used for work, trade, and sale. What began for many universities as an ostensible mission of civilizing savages Native Americans and Africans later morphed into support for the establishment and development of colonies and territorial expansion. In the growing debate about slavery, abolition, and the movement to return Africans to Africa, prestigious universities and scholars helped to frame and address questions of theology, economics, medicine, history, and other areas of study in the growing debate around the issue, many legitimizing slavery and racism even as they benefited from it. This is a well-researched and revealing look at the connection between American academia and American slavery. --Vanessa Bush It is Mr. Wilder's vast and often seemingly banal catalog of mercantile transactions, charitable bequests, and academic and administrative appointments all links in the chain that joins universities to slavery that lends the book its disturbing power a passionate recounting of the collective dehumanization of African-Americans coincident with the rise in power and prestige of the Atlantic college, particularly the Ivy League. Allegra di Bonaventura, Wall Street Journal Wilder knows a great deal about his subject and does not flinch from facing it head-on... there is much to admire in 'Ebony Ivy' and much to learn from it. Washington Post A groundbreaking history that will no doubt contribute to a reappraisal of some deep-rooted founding myths. Kirkus s (starred review) A well-researched and revealing look at the connection between American academia and American slavery. Booklist (starred review) Wilder's copiously documented argument exposes how deeply implicated American higher education has been in racial exploitation that has dispossessed and subjugated

peoples of color so as to invest whites beyond measure. His is a study deserving of serious attention from anyone interested in America's history, institutions, or intellectual development. *Library Journal* About the Author Craig Steven Wilder is a professor of American History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and has taught at Williams College and Dartmouth College. The author of *A Covenant with Color* and *In the Company of Black Men*, he was recently featured in the news-making documentary *The Central Park Five*. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.