

**Lacroix, Robert. *Leading research universities in a competitive world*, by Robert Lacroix and Louis Maheu; tr. by Paul Klassen. McGill-Queen's, 2015. 281p bibl index afp ISBN 9780773544772, \$49.95.**

Contemporary issues in higher education in the US are plentiful: escalating tuition costs and mounting student indebtedness; the proper role and shape of intercollegiate athletics; student conduct and freedom of speech; the increasing presence of international students and worries about diversity in general; and adjustments in the academy in light of new technologies in the digital world. An important complementary topic is the one tackled here by two Canadian social scientists—an examination of the research university in the past, present, and future. Lacroix and Maheu accomplish several things with their book: they review the history and organization of a slice of higher education; they contrast and compare where universities are most pronounced and successful—namely, the US, the UK, France, and Canada (though they do not cover Germany, Japan, Australia, or other European pockets of excellence); and they examine the challenges posed by market forces and public policy decisions on these institutions going forward. By its very nature, one short, wide-ranging volume cannot hope to be an "owner's manual" guide for academic governance or treat with any assurance the "800-pound gorilla" of the research-doctorate universe (the US). Nevertheless, the book is an informative, interesting contribution to the field of educational studies. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.