

## **HE 711 - Discussion Board #12**

John R. Thelin did an exemplary job researching the history of higher education in America and sharing this information with the society. Indeed, the history of higher education in American is long, and Thelin makes a great effort to describe how learning institutions evolved over a period of over four centuries. Thelin did a lot of research, not only tracing the history of higher education in America but analyzing the workings of these institutions in the context of the impact that they had on the society.

First and foremost, Thelin traces the development of the earliest learning institutions in American history. The author notes the conditions and the environment that facilitated the opening of learning institutions in the country. He notes that these conditions were not entirely homogeneous and portrays the perspective that institutions of learning were formed with specific but different motives forming a heterogeneous backbone of today's higher learning institutions (Thelin, 2011). The fact that Thelin goes to such great depth to trace the founding pillars of the first learning institutions is a testament to solid research on his part.

The author also details a chronological narration of how learning institutions evolved from small organizations teaching basic principles in the early years to institutions of higher learning over time. While the description of this journey is not entirely consistent in terms of comprehensive details for each particular phase, a lot of work was put to describe higher education history in the later 1800s. It is worth noting that these were the years when there were significant events such as the civil war that influenced American higher education. The fact that the author spends considerable time discussing this period is proof of an understanding of the critical periods that shaped American higher education on his part.

Apart from simply providing a history of learning institutions, the author delves into analyzing various perspectives of these organizations that determine their overall effectiveness. For instance, Thelin discusses institutional costs and the objectives of learning institutions over different periods. Notably, the author critically analyzes these perspectives to highlight how far American higher education has come and what needs to be done to improve their current setting. Such in depth review and analysis of these learning institutions is another testament to the author's extraordinary effort to trace and put to perspective the history of higher education.

## Reference

Thelin, J. R. (2011). *A history of American higher education*. JHU Press.