

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Introduction: The Lure and the Trap | 1 |
|-------------------------------------|---|

PART I

The Origins of the Identity Synthesis

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Postwar Paris and the Trial of Truth | 27 |
| 2. The End of Empire and the Embrace of "Strategic Essentialism" | 39 |
| 3. The Rejection of the Civil Rights Movement and the Rise of Critical Race Theory | 49 |
| 4. The Identity Synthesis | 63 |

PART II

The Victory of the Identity Synthesis

| | |
|---|-----|
| 5. The Identity Synthesis Goes Mainstream | 83 |
| 6. The Short March Through the Institutions | 97 |
| 7. Dissent Discouraged | 113 |

PART III

The Flaws of the Identity Synthesis

| | |
|---|-----|
| 8. How to Understand Each Other | 133 |
| 9. The Joys of Mutual Influence | 147 |
| 10. Speak Freely | 161 |
| 11. The Case for Integration | 183 |
| 12. The Path to Equality | 205 |
| 13. On Structural Racism, Gender, and Meritocracy | 225 |

PART IV

In Defense of Universalism

| | |
|--|-----|
| 14. A Response to the Identity Synthesis | 241 |
| 15. A Brief Case for the Liberal Alternative | 253 |
| Conclusion: How to Escape the Identity Trap | 265 |
| Appendix: Why the Identity Synthesis Isn't Marxist | 287 |
| Acknowledgments | 291 |
| Notes | 295 |
| Index | 385 |