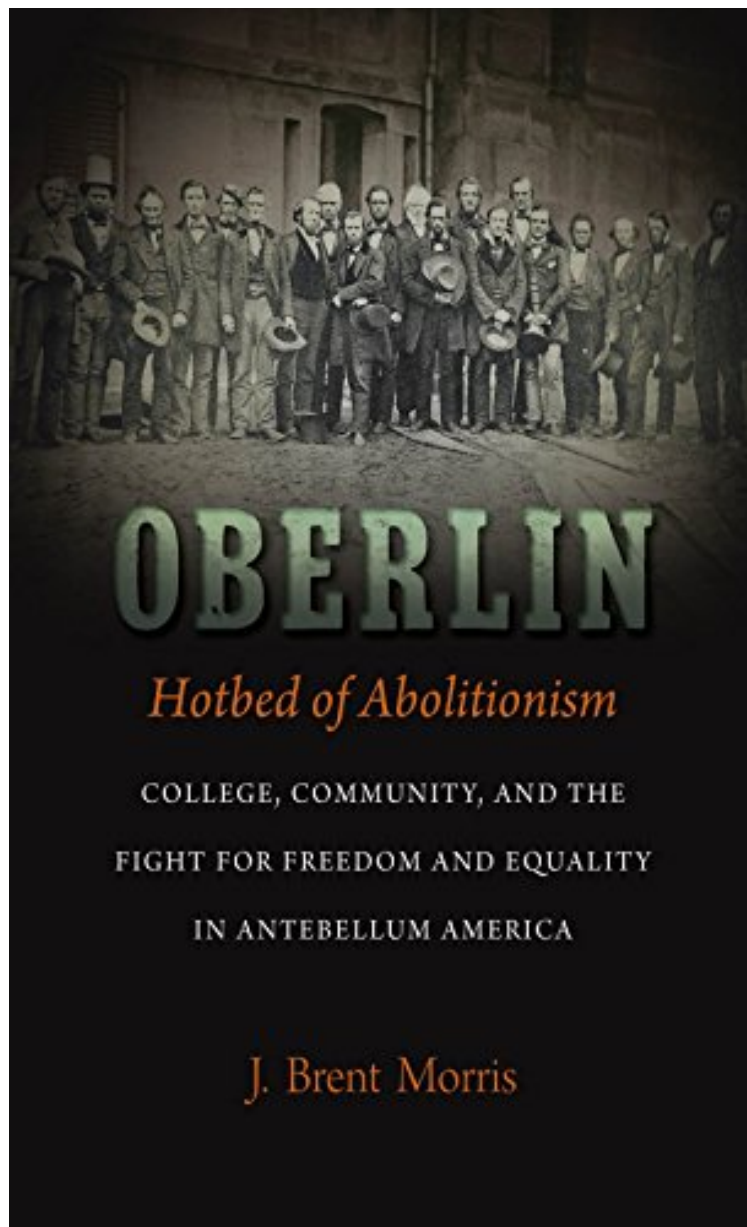


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Oberlin, Hotbed of Abolitionism: College, Community, and the Fight for Freedom and Equality in Antebellum America

J. Brent Morris

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J. Brent Morris : Oberlin, Hotbed of Abolitionism: College, Community, and the Fight for Freedom and Equality in Antebellum America

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oberlin, Hotbed of Abolitionism: College, Community, and the Fight for Freedom and Equality in Antebellum America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Where All Are Welcomed, Challenged, and ChangedBy BokonerThis is a remarkably fine historical study by a young southern scholar. Oberlin, at times, may have failed to live up to its own highest aims, but fairly consistently it has led the nation in education and in attunement of the human spirit through arts, sciences, and music while barring none on the basis of their gender, color, or origin. In short, the institution and the town -- the community as a whole -- has been and continues to be a positively remarkable version of a great human aspiration that made Oberlin a hotbed before, during, and after the American civil war. Perhaps no longer a hotbed, but Oberlin continues to be a great and distinctive place today.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy fph1947Excellent book.well researched.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Fine Study of OberlinBy Matthew BartlettIn the age of abolitionism, one institution stood out unlike any other. Oberlin was not just a college, but a whole community of people in the most diverse atmosphere ever imagined. In the antebellum period, this was the place which shone as a haven for escaped slaves and the diverse population helped to aid the cause of the abolitionists. In his work, J. Brent Morris gives us the history of the institution not only throughout the antebellum period but gives us an outlook into the world of the school and the culture which is helped to create. Oberlin: Hotbed of Abolitionism is a work that stands out like no other; it melds the history of an institution with the world of the antebellum period bringing us to the forefront of the American Civil War. J. Brent Morris is the assistant professor of history at the University of South Carolina Beaufort. He received his PhD in 2010 from Cornell University and lectures on slavery and anti-slavery in the United States. He is also the author of Yes Lord I Know the Road and has written many articles and encyclopedia entries on the subject in prominent publications. J. Brent Morris was also the recipient of South Carolina Historical Society's Malcolm C. Clark's Award in 2010 which is given for excellence in a scholarly article in the society's journal. The book opens with a lengthy introduction into the history of the institution and the people who helped to create the abolitionist society created by the university. As I read through the pages, I began to realize the progressive nature of Oberlin and all of the different types of study from the college and how it seeped into the people of the community. The incredible push of religiosity explained in these pages shows the great impact of the Second Great Awakening on all of the country. However, in Oberlin, Morris makes a point that it all did not start in Ohio, but all around the East Coast. As the text continued, I realized the impact which this place had on the cause of abolitionism in which every person, man and woman, had to be a part of the whole operation. After reading the introduction, this was no surprise since Oberlin seemed steeped into equality which, as stated before, empowered progression of the very age. The fights which the abolitionists in Oberlin partook of after the Mexican War and the expansion of slavery seemed difficult but not out of control for them. The author finishes the work in an epilogue of the events which have occurred in Oberlin to this day and even talks about the issues of racism as the work was being finished. What was amazing to me as I read through the pages was the incredible feats of the people of not only the college, but of the community of Oberlin. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of slavery during the antebellum period and anyone who studies the slavery movement in the nineteenth century. The things accomplished by the people of this community not only showed that the abolition movement was much stronger than many other historians would have you tend to think, but had a strong headquarter like hub from where they could operate without any shrouds. I was also amazed at the breadth of research which Morris has placed into this work without bogging down the narrative as the chapters flowed easily from one to the next. Highly recommended.Matthew Bartlett - Gettysburg Chronicle

By exploring the role of Oberlin--the college and the community--in fighting against slavery and for social equality, J. Brent Morris establishes this "hotbed of abolitionism" as the core of the antislavery movement in the West and as one of the most influential reform groups in antebellum America. As the first college to admit men and women of all races, and with a faculty and community comprised of outspoken abolitionists, Oberlin supported a cadre of activist missionaries devoted to emancipation, even if that was through unconventional methods or via an abandonment of strict ideological consistency. Their philosophy was a color-blind composite of various schools of antislavery thought aimed at supporting the best hope of success. Though historians have embraced Oberlin as a potent symbol of egalitarianism, radicalism, and religious zeal, Morris is the first to portray the complete history behind this iconic antislavery symbol.In this book, Morris shifts the focus of generations of antislavery scholarship from the East and demonstrates that the West's influence was largely responsible for a continuous infusion of radicalism that helped the movement stay true to its most progressive principles.

Will invariably interest those eager to understand the historical relationship between the liberal arts and social activism.--History of Education QuarterlyAn engaging and well-written narrative. . . . Anyone with an interest in the history of Oberlin, higher education, the abolitionist movement, and researching these topics, should seriously consider adding Oberlin: Hotbed of Abolitionism to their library.--Journal of African American HistoryProvides a

thorough overview of the significant role played by Oberlin in abolition and antislavery.--Journal of American History
Morris provides an insightful analysis of a college and community at the vanguard of abolition...Scholars and students of American history, antebellum reform, and Ohio history will enjoy Morris's energetic prose and engaging work.--American Historical A necessary and refreshing departure from the standard story of abolitionism.--The Journal of Southern History
Oberlin, Hotbed of Abolitionism is a superbly conceptualized and deeply researched book that makes an important contribution to abolition studies, utopian studies, and studies of antebellum reform. It is the first book to explore in detail Oberlin's role in ending slavery and obtaining social equality. More than any other study, it highlights the role of western reserve abolition societies in precipitating war and ending slavery.--John Stauffer, Harvard University
This book stands as a very well-written, tightly focused, and deeply ramifying history. J. Brent Morris narrates Oberlin's long-term importance in the struggle to end slavery and racial injustice during the nineteenth century. Illuminating the national importance of what we often think of as a highly local story, it is an important piece of scholarship and a very enjoyable read.--Richard S. Newman, Rochester Institute of Technology
About the Author
J. Brent Morris is assistant professor of history at the University of South Carolina Beaufort.