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Abstract

At a moment when higher education faces attack from multiple fronts, it can be helpful to step back and address a central question: What is the role of a university in society? In this innovative book, Chris Brink offers a timely reminder that a university should have a social purpose in addition to striving for academic excellence. The current obsession with rankings, he argues, has altered our idea of higher education, and the current focus on status has perpetuated inequality and limited social mobility. How can we re-establish universities' social purpose? The solution, Brink tells us, lies in considering not only what universities are good at, but what they are good for. Bringing Plato and

26.5.2026

Aristotle together with historical and contemporary academic vignettes, *The Soul of a University* shows how universities can—and should—respond to societal challenges and promote positive social change. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)

Signature

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