

In this provocative, wide-ranging study, Robert C. Smith contends that ideological conservatism and racism are and always have been equivalent in the United States. In this carefully constructed and thoroughly documented philosophical, historical, and empirical inquiry, Smith analyzes conservative ideas from John Locke to William F. Buckley Jr., as well as the parallels between the rise and decline of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1970s and the ascendancy of the conservative movement to national power in 1980. Using archival material from the Reagan Library, the book includes detailed analysis of the Reagan presidency and race, focusing on affirmative action, the Voting Rights Act, the Grove City case, welfare reform, South Africa policy, and the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. *Conservatism and Racism, and Why in America They Are the Same* goes beyond a focus on the right wing, concluding with an analysis of the enduring impact of the conservative movement and the Reagan presidency on liberalism, race, and the Democratic Party.

**Robert C. Smith** is Professor of Political Science at San Francisco State University. He is the author of several books, including *African American Leadership; We Have No Leaders: African Americans in the Post-Civil Rights Era*; and *Racism in the Post-Civil Rights Era: Now You See It, Now You Don't*, all published by SUNY Press.