

## **State of the union**

**At the core of the US binational character is a deep and durable tension between a Christian white-supremacist ideology that evolved to justify slavery and a broad-based multiethnic resistance to it.**

**Reinforcing this tension are cultural divisions between the rural and urban populations, including divergent values on education and immigration. The split between the two halves of the nation — red and blue, right and left — increasingly appear irreconcilable.**

**Steven Simon and Jonathan Stevenson,  
New York Review of Books, September 22, 2022**