



Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America

By Peter N. Stearns

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw a dramatic shift in the role of children in American society and families. No longer necessary for labor, children became economic liabilities and twentieth-century parents exhibited a new level of anxiety concerning the welfare of their children and their own ability to parent effectively. What caused this shift in the ways parenting and childhood were experienced and perceived? Why, at a time of relative ease and prosperity, do parents continue to grapple with uncertainty and with unreasonable expectations of both themselves and their children?

Peter N. Stearns explains this phenomenon by examining the new issues the twentieth century brought to bear on families. Surveying popular media, “expert” childrearing manuals, and newspapers and journals published throughout the century, Stearns shows how schooling, physical and emotional vulnerability, and the rise in influence of commercialism became primary concerns for parents. The result, Stearns shows, is that contemporary parents have come to believe that they are participating in a culture of neglect and diminishing standards. **Anxious Parents: A Modern History of Childrearing in America** shows the reasons for this belief through an historic examination of modern parenting.

 [Download Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing ...pdf](#)

Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America

By Peter N. Stearns

Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns

The nineteenth and twentieth centuries saw a dramatic shift in the role of children in American society and families. No longer necessary for labor, children became economic liabilities and twentieth-century parents exhibited a new level of anxiety concerning the welfare of their children and their own ability to parent effectively. What caused this shift in the ways parenting and childhood were experienced and perceived? Why, at a time of relative ease and prosperity, do parents continue to grapple with uncertainty and with unreasonable expectations of both themselves and their children?

Peter N. Stearns explains this phenomenon by examining the new issues the twentieth century brought to bear on families. Surveying popular media, "expert" childrearing manuals, and newspapers and journals published throughout the century, Stearns shows how schooling, physical and emotional vulnerability, and the rise in influence of commercialism became primary concerns for parents. The result, Stearns shows, is that contemporary parents have come to believe that they are participating in a culture of neglect and diminishing standards. **Anxious Parents: A Modern History of Childrearing in America** shows the reasons for this belief through an historic examination of modern parenting.

Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2727405 in Books
- Brand: NYU Press
- Published on: 2003-05-01
- Released on: 2003-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .75" w x 5.98" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 251 pages



[Download Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

While other authors have stressed the 20th century's emphasis on parental anxiety by focusing on the advice industry (e.g., Ann Hulbert's recent *Raising America, Forecasts*, Mar. 10), Stearns, a George Mason University history professor, takes a broader approach. If the 20th century invented the scientific approach to child care, it was partly because parents were seeking expert opinions. Modern life had created real changes in the lives of children: urbanization and smaller, nuclear families. While earlier generations of parents had viewed children as resilient, in the 20th century they were considered vulnerable, which shaped parents' approaches to children's discipline, schooling, chores and uses of leisure time. The impact of parental anxiety on children's daily lives may not have been drastic, but it did steer children in certain parent-sponsored directions, says Stearns. Children became more school-oriented, their free time more regulated. As parents worried that their kids were bored, kids began describing themselves that way. Parental hovering increased adolescent need to differentiate from parents; constant emotional temperature-taking may have led to an increase in childhood depression. Stearns urges "more parental backbone" to reject guilt tripping by the experts and more "decency" from the advice givers. Less nostalgia and more study of how things really were and are (i.e., by reading excellent texts like this one) may give parents and educators a clearer picture of how well they're doing. Stearns has put a lot of thought into this dense but elegantly argued and thoroughly researched volume, and it should become a classic in the study of American childhood.

Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"In what is his trademark style, Stearns creates an artful synthesis that is both revelatory and captivating. An at times unsettling analysis of parental angst, the book is replete with worthy insights for historians and contemporary parents alike."

-The Journal of American History

"(Stearns) has a keen appreciation of what really mattered to 20th-century Americans, in their families and beyond. Indeed, it is his easy command of all that was going on outside the home- and his profound grasp of the connectedness of those larger developments and their consequences for childrearing - that sets his study apart from other histories of the modern American family."

-Journal of Social History

"Stearns points to a number of contemporary phenomena, each of which he considers an expression of parental anxiety. Stearns appears to be particularly sensitive to the upward mobility of kids' grades."

-The New York Review of Books

“A strong, effective, and readable portrayal of how twentieth-century American parents have invested and over-invested in their children. In a fairly short compass, Stearns has demonstrated many of the things that historians have tended to belabor—the role of expertise, why despite their declining numbers, children have become so important socially, the new realm of consumption, how the anxiety about children has become a central matter in twentieth-century culture and even an identifier of American life. Stearns knows what is going on and that children are not a means to express other anxieties, but the very source of many of the anxieties we express.”

-Paula S. Fass, University of California, Berkeley

“The book is more than a synthesis of existing scholarship. It is a compendium of ideas—some personal, mostly scholarly—about the experience of parenting in the United States since the beginning of the twentieth century. The book is imaginative and thought provoking.”

-*History of Education Quarterly*

“Anxiety is the hallmark of contemporary parenting. Today’s parents are tormented by fears of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, child abductions, and juvenile drug and alcohol use. In perhaps his most timely and exciting book, Peter N. Stearns explains with wit and humane insight how modern mothers and fathers came to agonize incessantly about children’s personality development, school performance, and psychological well-being.”

-Steven Mintz, University of Houston

About the Author

Peter N. Stearns is Provost and University Professor at George Mason University. Since 1967, he has served as editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Social History*. His numerous books include *World History in Documents*; *American Behavioral History*; and *Anxious Parents*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rose Sosa:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite book and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America*. Try to the actual book *Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America* as your good friend. It means that it can to get your friend when you experience alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So, we need to make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Cari Sexton:

The book untitled Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was authored by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of time of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice read.

Dennis Lewis:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside along with friends, fun activity having family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's find.

Jesse Mansell:

As we know that book is vital thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a publication we can know everything we want. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This reserve Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America was filled about science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has various feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a e-book. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you wanted.

Download and Read Online Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns #TAIZYRHJ92F

Read Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns for online ebook

Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns books to read online.

Online Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns ebook PDF download

Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns Doc

Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns MobiPocket

Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns EPub

TAIZYRHJ92F: Anxious Parents: A History of Modern Childrearing in America By Peter N. Stearns