Childhood in a global perspective. By Karen Wells.

Most studies about children are issue-specific and either national or regional in scope. Wells (Birkbeck College, London) breaks this tradition and looks at the experiences of childhood in contemporary societies as both local and global forces affect them. Today, newer and improved standards of raising children have emerged worldwide. Yet older forces of economic inequality, discrimination, and war continue to shape the lives of children in different places around the world. Children's lives are influenced not only by political, social, and economic crises emanating from the expansion of global capitalism, but also by individual and communal perspectives on what constitutes a good childhood. Chapters look at the intersections of class, race, gender, and age in the lives of children in the contexts of family, education, economy, politics, and war. Though written as a textbook, this is a truly remarkable contribution to the literature on the sociology of children, and offers a highly accessible and informative resource for wider audiences. Summing Up: Essential. All levels/libraries.

-- A. Mahdi, emeritus, Ohio Wesleyan University

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