



Growing Up Postmodern: Neoliberalism and the War on the Young (Culture and Politics Series)

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This collection takes its inspiration from Paul Goodman's *Growing Up Absurd*, a landmark critique of American culture at the end of the 1950s. Goodman called for a revival of social investment in urban planning, public welfare, workplace democracy, free speech, racial harmony, sexual freedom, popular culture, and education to produce a society that could inspire young people, and an adult society worth joining. In postmodernity, Goodman's enlightenment-era vision of social progress has been judged obsolete. For many postmodern critics, subjectivity is formed and expressed not through social investment, but through consumption; the freedom to consume has replaced political empowerment. But the power to consume is distributed very unevenly, and even for the affluent it never fulfills the desire produced by the advertising industry. The contributors to this volume focus on adverse social conditions that confront young people in postmodernity, such as the relentless pressure to consume, social dis-investment in education, harsh responses to youth crime, and the continuing climate of intolerance that falls heavily on the young. In essays on education, youth crime, counseling, protest movements, fiction, identity-formation and popular culture, the contributors look for moments of resistance to the subsumption of youth culture under the logic of global capitalism.

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Growing Up Postmodern: Neoliberalism and the War on the Young (Culture and Politics Series) From Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3160619 in Books
- Published on: 2002-06-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.84" h x .59" w x 5.92" l, .80 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

If you care what 'young' means in the developed world today, *Growing Up Postmodern*'s map of the seductions and blameflows of the newest regime is a vital source. Read it and use it to fight back! (Fred Pfeil)

Children are the collateral damage in a war that an affluent, unjust society has been waging under the sign of neoliberalism. This book presents the informed, incisive voices raised in protest. (Amitava Kumar)

About the Author

Ronald Strickland is professor of English and the director of graduate studies at Illinois State University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Luis Gray:

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Nancy Steffen:

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