Empire’s Children

Between 1869 and 1967, government-funded British charities sent nearly 100,000 underprivileged children to start new lives in the settler empire. This pioneering study tells the story of the rise and fall of child emigration to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Southern Rhodesia. In the mid-Victorian period, the book reveals, the concept of a global British race had a profound impact on the practice of charity work, the evolution of child welfare, and the experiences of poor children. During the twentieth century, however, rising nationalism in the dominions, alongside the emergence of new, psychological theories of child welfare, eroded faith in the “British world” and brought child emigration into question. Combining archival sources with original oral histories, *Empire’s Children* not only explores the powerful influence of empire on child-centered social policy, it also uncovers how the lives of ordinary children and families were forever transformed by imperial forces and settler nationalism.

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Empire’s Children

*Child Emigration, Welfare, and the Decline of the British World, 1869–1967*

Ellen Boucher
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Abbreviations

ANA      Australian National Archives
CAF      Central African Federation
CCCW     Canadian Council of Child Welfare
CES      Child Emigration Society (later Fairbridge Society)
CRO      Commonwealth Relations Office
CUL: RCS Cambridge University Library, Royal Commonwealth Society
CVOCE    Council of Voluntary Organisations for Child Emigration
EEC      European Economic Community
LGB      Local Government Board
NCH      National Children's Home
NLA      National Library of Australia
NSPCC    National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
OSC      Oversea Settlement Committee
OVC      Overseas Visitors Club
RFMC     Rhodesia Fairbridge Memorial College
SAWA: BL State Archives of Western Australia: Battye Library
SLNSW    State Library of New South Wales, Mitchell Library
TNA: PRO The National Archives: Public Record Office (United Kingdom)
UDI      Rhodesian Unilateral Declaration of Independence, 1965
ULSCA    University of Liverpool Special Collections and Archives
WHO      World Health Organization