Index

adoption
  and child trafficking, 12
  from China, 75
  by co-wives or relatives, 54, 189
  on Faroe Islands, 271–72
  vs. fostering, 54, 189
  of girls vs. boys, 75
  among Guinean Muslims,
    Portugal, 54
  on Ifaluk, Micronesia, 12
  interracial and international,
    12, 75
  by LGBT couples, 271–72
  advice
    for immigrant mothers, 138–39
    on Internet, 22–23, 116, 138, 140, 211
    manual as genre, 2–3, 4, 22, 23–28
  sources of, for parents, 19,
    25–26, 52, 108, 116, 121, 138–39,
    143, 176, 203, 211, 223, 267, 269,
    283–84, 292

variable, 4, 21–24, 76, 80–81, 86, 90, 107, 113–14

Africa
  malnutrition in, 5–6
  sibling caretaking in, 13. See also
    Beng people; Fula people;
    Guinea-Bissau; Mandinga
    people; Somalia
  afterbirth, see placenta/afterbirth
  afterlife. See ancestors,
  reincarnation
  alcohol
    and breastfeeding, 278
    and circumcision, 144
    and co-sleeping, 17, 279
    as gift to godparents, 249
    and Islam, 56, 65, 116
    during pregnancy, 163, 272–73
  rubbing alcohol and umbilical
cord stump care, 47–48
  and Sabbath, 140
  as sacrifice, 159, 179
Amaru legend (Quechua people, Peru), 238–41
American Academy of Pediatrics, 7
ancestors, 34–35
life of, 162, 171, 186
knowledge of names of, 209
reincarnated in newborns, 2, 13, 159, 162, 168, 178, 181, 185, 186
worshiped or honored, 35, 72, 78, 82, 87, 154, 159, 168, 178, 181, 185, 186
angels, 52
send messages in dreams, 2, 64
animals sacrificed, 59–62, 112, 159, 165, 176, 179, 208
teaching children to care for, 250–51, 252, 256, 257
arranged marriage, 158, 162–63
attachment, 12, 14, 47, 69
parenting, 17, 223
theory, 13, 14, 17. See also relationships
autism, 14, 16, 215–16
babies. See Infants
Baganda naming ceremony, 13
baptism
in Peru, 247, 249, 259
in Portugal, 54
bathing
by adults on morning after sex, 173
of babies, 2, 143, 160, 173, 176, 181, 182
of babies as community event, 112
of babies and conflicting advice by relatives, 107
of babies by grandmother, 107, 113, 114, 168–69
of babies and protective jewelry, 175, 182
of newborns, 1, 112, 168–69
by woman during post-partum period, 48, 242
by woman during pregnancy, 42, 164
Beng people
arranged marriage among, 158, 162–63
babies as reincarnated ancestors among, 159, 162, 168, 170, 178–79, 181, 185, 186
baby carriers among, 182, 187
bad omens in infant speech among, 187
bad omens related to teeth and teething among, 183
bathing babies among, 173, 176, 177, 181, 182, 184, 189
bathing after sex among, 173
bathing newborns among, 168–69
bathing while pregnant among, 164
breastfeeding among, 160, 168, 175, 181, 182
character assessed among, 164–65, 185
children as babysitters among, 182
children do errands among, 188
children foretell a death among, 185
child spacing among, 187–88
clan structure among, 158, 159, 167–68, 188
conception aids among, 163, 166
co-wives among, 184
death of a baby among, 180–81
death during childbirth among, 165
death of a fetus among, 165
death during pregnancy among, 164
Index

birth. See childbirth, post-partum care, pregnancy
birth control, 57–58, 157, 187–88
one-child policy in China, 73–75, 86. See also conception
birth defects and disabilities, 42, 86–87, 164, 186
birth education and parenting classes, 84, 141, 275
birth rate, high promoted by government, 73, 132
as strategy against high infant mortality rate, 7
risks of, 139, 208
valued by community, 100, 102, 139–40, 163
blood
of childbirth, 48, 100, 110
creates fetus, 41, 42
flow of, during pregnancy, 84
menstrual, and fertility, 105
during post-partum period, 88, 110
Brazelton, Berry, 22–23
Brazil, favelas, 11–12
disease: Bird, 174–75
disease: Corpse, 164, 177
disease: Dirt, 173–74, 177
disease: Dog, 164
disease: tetanus, 17
diviners among, 158–61, 164, 166, 167, 170, 178–79, 181, 182, 185, 190
divorce during pregnancy among, 165
educational system among, 156, 157, 161, 172
enemas among, 163–64, 169, 187
extended family structure, 157–58
farming and trading, 153–54
gender roles among, 155–56
health care access among, 156
history of, 153–54
jewelry for babies, 161, 171, 173, 174, 175, 179, 182
language of, 153
mothers, good and bad, 189
names and naming among, 171–72, 179
pacifism of, 154–55
painting medicines on babies among, 175–76, 182
post-partum care among, 181–82
poverty of, 154, 155–56, 177
pregnancy among, 163–66
rape, 162.
rituals following death of a baby, 180
sacrifice following a violated taboo, 179
sacrifice to keep a baby healthy, 176
sacrifice to make sick babies well, 179
sacrifice to protect the pregnancy, 166
school. See educational system
sex forbidden until babies walk, 183–85
snake-children, 164
talking babies, 187–88
talking to babies among, 184–85
teaching babies to drink water among, 168
twins, 166, 172, 180
umbilical cord stump among, 167, 169–71, 173, 181, 187
village welcomes new baby among, 167
witchcraft and witches among, 165–66, 167–68, 177, 188.
See also Côte d’Ivoire

Index

breastfeeding,
among Beng, 160, 168, 175, 181, 182
among Chinese, 85
and colostrum, 211
current rates of, 7–8
difficulties for working mothers, 9
among Fareese, 260, 277, 278, 279
herbal treatments for the baby, 111
and infection, 168
and Islam, 55–57, 210
among Israelis, 142
among Mandinga and Fula, 42, 55, 58
among Palestinians, 110–11
and pregnancy, 42, 57, 142, 211
and “milk kin,” 7, 55–56
nighttime, 16, 179, 279
and nutrition, 6–8, 12, 42, 55, 83, 85, 88, 110–11, 142, 210–11, 278
by older children, 57, 58, 223
among Quechua, 245
politics of, 7–9, 55
among Somalis, 210–11, 223
weaning from, 8–9, 55, 57, 58, 116–17
and witchcraft, 168
by wet nurses, 6–7, 9
Buddhism, 264

Caesarean section (C-section), 87, 203, 205–7, 275. See also childbirth
caretaking. See advice, breastfeeding, childcare, relationships
Catholicism, 28
baptism in Peru, 249
forced conversion of the Inca, 226–27
character, 55, 91, 164–65, 185
childbirth, 5, 141–42
attendants during, 87, 105, 110, 141, 166, 204, 242, 274–75
among Beng, 163–68, 188
with birthing balls, 203
by Caesarean section (C-section), 87–88, 205–6, 275
among Chinese, 87
complications during, 164–65, 167, 188, 203, 205, 275
and female circumcision, 203
death during, 40–41, 46, 163, 165–66, 180, 188, 243
defecation during, 163
deinfibulation of circumcised women before, 206
eating dates to help, 109
epistiotomy during, 110
among Faroese, 274–75
fear during, 45, 141, 166
and female genital surgery, 26, 44–45, 203
among Fula and Mandinga, 43–47
at home, 44, 105, 109, 166, 242, 243
knowledge sources about, for first-time mothers, 21, 25, 243
at military checkpoints, 107–8
pain during, 44–45, 59, 67, 166, 267, 275
Index

among Quechua, 242–43
and midwife, 105, 109, 174–75, 242–43
placenta delivery during, 45–47, 163, 167, 242
position during, 26, 44, 46, 166, 203
premature, 41
and sacrifice, 166, 167
sadness after, 111
speaking during, 45
translation during, 204
umbilical cord cut during, 46–47, 167
screaming during, 45
among Somalis in the US, 203–6
and witchcraft, 165–66, 188.
See also breastfeeding, miscarriage, post-partum care, pregnancy
childcare
challenges concerning, 4
change vs. continuity of practices, 19, 20, 22, 26, 76
debate over strategies, 3
generational differences concerning, 76–92
Internet advice about, 22–23
manuals, xiii, 3–4, 21–22, 24–27
options for, 115, 133–34, 148–49, 270, 278
by working mothers, 7, 9, 11, 13, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38–39, 45, 72, 73, 74, 81, 83, 85, 87, 90, 100, 106, 101, 111, 114, 115, 118, 120, 121, 133, 139, 142, 149, 150–51, 155–56, 162, 168, 177, 178, 181–82, 189, 207–8, 210, 251–56, 274, 277–78. See also community, father, grandparents, mother, post-partum care, pregnancy
children
dangers to, in an occupied country, 118
medical checkups for, 138, 143, 215, 217, 269, 278
help with household tasks, 15, 45, 118, 156, 252–54, 287
poverty, effects on, 5, 2, 5–7, 9, 11, 20, 97, 99, 132, 194, 200, 220
sent on errands, 118, 188
taught skills, 5, 14–15, 131, 196, 213, 215, 217, 286, 287
taught to be tough, 1–2, 151, 262
taught to respect nature, 250, 262, 285
taught to value community, 2, 37–38, 47, 63, 117, 184, 221, 231, 241, 287
variety of ways to raise, 1, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13–14, 22, 30, 64, 76, 77–78, 92, 160, 197, 289
China
baby girls in, 74–75
breastfeeding in, 85
changing cultural context for childrearing, 71–76
childbirth in, 87
childcare by paternal grandmother, 16
childrearing strategies negotiated in, 76, 89–92
Communist Revolution in, 72–73
Cultural Revolution in, 72, 82
economic stresses on families in, 73–76
generation of “left-behind children” in, 75

© in this web service Cambridge University Press
www.cambridge.org
Index

China (cont.)
generation of “only children” in, 73, 77, 78, 91
high birth rate under Mao, 73
patriarchal history, 71–72
immorality and social distrust in, 74–76
income gap in, 73–76
infant formula tainted in, 85
“modernization” effects in, 73–76
Nationalist rule in, 72
one-child policy in, 73–75, 86
overpopulation and famine in (1970s), 73
post-partum care in, 87–89
“special needs” children in, 75
Spring Festival in, 74, 78
toilet training in, 89
Christianity, 28, 34, 38, 57, 93, 117, 125, 127, 155, 158, 180, 201, 230, 275, 287–91
Catholicism, 28, 158, 227–28, 249, 264
Evangelical, 227
Lutheran Church, 264–65
Protestantism, 28, 158, 264–65.
See also baptism
circumcision (female), 26, 38, 40, 44, 45, 65–68, 203
complications in childbirth from, 203
and deinfibulation before childbirth, 206
and infibulation, 203
circumcision (male), 65–66, 114, 136, 144–46
Clothing for infants and children, 26, 53, 54, 60, 66, 88, 141, 150, 178, 180, 182, 244, 245, 248, 249, 280
code-switching, 230
colostrum, 56–57, 211. See also breastfeeding
common sense, 3, 39, 121, 143
Communism, 72–73, 81, 130
community
children learn to contribute to, 117, 124, 225, 241, 246, 247, 251–54, 257, 258, 259
children’s relationship with, 12, 37–38, 63, 66, 99, 101, 184, 250–54, 263, 287, 292
role in raising children, 2, 69, 70, 106, 112, 115, 116, 118, 120–21, 241
welcomes a new baby, 49, 112, 167
conception, 163, 166
failure to achieve, 50, 51
and help from midwife, 104–5
by spirit, 13. See also birth control, birth rate, birth education, infertility, miscarriage, pregnancy, childbirth
Confucianism, 28
corpses
avoid touching during pregnancy, 164
dangerous to infants, 164, 177
relation to newborn, 168–69.
See also death
Côte d’Ivoire
civil war in, 154
colonization of, by the French, 154, 155, 156, 157, 174. See also Beng people
cowry shells, 10, 52, 154, 161, 166, 170–71, 179
cultural anthropology, 23–24, 30, 47
# Index

daycare, 13, 111, 115, 116, 133, 149, 217, 276, 282, 284
down syndrome, 23
death of child, 120, 161, 172, 179, 180–81, 184, 185, 249
during childbirth, 40, 46, 163, 243
diabetes, 10
diapers, 89, 141. See also toilet training
disabilities. See birth defects
discipline, 151
developmental checkups for babies, 143
developmental psychology, 24, 30, 77, 143, 250
dew, dangerous for babies, 175
diabetes, 10
diapers, 89, 141. See also toilet training
discipline, 151

disabilities. See birth defects
discipline, 151
balanced approach to, 91–92
family and community orientation concerning, 197
among Faroese, 286–87
and fear of spoiling children, 90–91
prepares children for the harshness of life, 90–91
among Quechua, 250, 256–57
among Somalis, 219–20
disease, 9–10, 23, 25, 35, 36, 38, 50, 52, 57, 65, 86, 158–59, 161
“Bird,” 174–75
caused by breastfeeding while mother pregnant, 57
caused by cold water, 48, 234
caused by exposure to adults who had sex, 173–74, 176
caused by exposure to corpse, 164
caused by exposure to dew, 175
caused by exposure to moonlight on full moon night, 174–75
cau sed by exposure to nocturnal birds of prey on new moon, 174, 175
cauced by immigration, 10
cau sed by misnaming, 178
cau sed by missing afterlife, 170, 179, 181
caus ed by neglecting sacrifice, 159, 179, 181
causal ed by neglecting post-partum care, 48, 83, 88
caus ed by neglecting vaccination, 143
cau sed by spirits, 178
cau sed by witchcraft, 177
“Corpse,” 164, 177
“Dirt,” 173–74, 177
“Dog,” 164
increase in, 87
knowledge about from family, 21
knowledge about from Internet, 21
mental illness, 48
modern vs. traditional treatment of, 9–10, 170, 174, 176, 177, 178, 202
mother responsible for avoiding in children, 172
disease (cont.)

obesity, 10
and poverty, 9–10, 170, 177, 178
prevented by body paint, 175
prevented by daily bathing, 172
prevented by jewelry, 175, 178
prevented by sacrifice, 176, 179
prevented by salt water bath, 170

tetanus, 167, 176–78. See also
diviners, healers, illness, vaccination
divorce, 74, 103–4, 127, 143, 136, 165,
219, 282–84
during pregnancy, 165
dogs
and Islam, 64
avoid touching corpses of, 164
as pets, 201
domestic abuse. See violence
dreams
of infants, 2, 64
and conception, 13
as divination, 52
as prophecy, 263
and reincarnation, 170
drumming, 66

ear piercing and earrings
of babies, 170
for baby carrier, 182

education, 8, 25, 29, 96, 115, 118, 129,
133, 134, 143, 147, 149, 150, 156,
157, 161, 192, 196, 197, 215, 219,
225–26, 229, 232, 236, 249, 257–59,
268, 287–91
in China, 74, 79, 81, 82, 91
in Côte d’Ivoire, 156, 157, 161, 172
devauled by peasants, 157, 254
devalues tradition, 245, 250
among Somalis, 191
eye early reading as preparation
for, 217
on Faroe Islands, 287
and female circumcision, 68
and gender, 86, 100, 103
and heritage language school, 151
for immigrants, 37, 54, 70, 127,
129–30, 131, 133, 135, 137–38, 148,
150–51
in Israel, 127, 129–30, 131, 133–35,
136, 147–51
and names, 172
and naming ritual, 59
in Palestine, 98, 99–101, 103, 120
in Peru, 229, 254–59
in Portugal, 38, 50, 51, 59, 63, 68
in refugee camps, 193, 198, 199
through ritual, 65
and upward mobility, 15–16, 73,
74, 127, 131, 134, 135
valued by family, 98
valued by peasants, 15–16, 26,
228, 235, 237, 241, 244, 251, 255
and writing-on-the-hand ritual,
63–65. See also birth
education classes, daycare, Qur‘an’ic school
emotion
abuse, 282
anger, 104, 117, 120, 164, 171, 172,
185, 250, 286
avoiding showing during
childbirth, 46
avoiding showing by father, 69,
232
and polygyny, 104
commitment by mother, 69, 120
fear, 44, 45, 48, 87, 89, 91, 102, 124,
131, 144, 148, 195, 200, 203, 217,
221, 236, 238, 239, 240, 265, 266,
283, 284, 291

360
Index

guilt, 89, 212
joy, 66, 86, 111, 112, 121, 239, 279
loneliness, 50, 214
love, 50, 69, 76, 82, 90, 91, 101, 112, 121, 135, 162, 163, 196, 219, 246, 247, 257, 280, 281, 286
pride, 35, 37, 49, 53, 69, 78, 85, 91, 100, 140, 169, 183, 209, 226, 262, 269
and resilience, 261, 289
ruptures from government policy, 96
sadness, 82, 111, 120, 121, 148
shame, 45, 51, 54, 59, 162, 173, 187, 203, 204, 245
support from midwife, 110
worry, 5, 19, 41, 46, 47, 50, 56, 62, 66, 68, 84, 86, 89, 103, 120, 135, 141, 164, 174, 183, 187, 207, 216, 275, 276, 284, 288, 289. See also attachments, relationships

enemas
during pregnancy, 163–64
for babies, 169, 187
episiotomy, 110
ethnographic research, 30
evil eye and pregnancy, 141

family
children learn to work for, 251–54
importance of for Israel, 132–33
importance of for Palestinians, 95
maintaining traditions of, 120–22
relationships in the Faroe Islands, 281–82
role in raising a child, 246–47. See also fathers, grandfathers, grandmothers, grandparents, mothers, relationships

Faroe Islands
adoption on, 271–72
advantages for raising children on, 292
breastfeeding on, 278
childbirth on, 274–75
children disciplined on, 286
children run freely on, 284
children’s relationship with family on, 266, 281–82
children take responsibilities on, 286–87
culture of hardness and independence on, 262–63
divorce on, 282
domestic abuse on, 282–84
education system of, 288
egalitarian society of, 286–87
emergence of “imported brides” on, 266, 270
environment, relationship to 264
Faroese language, 262, 290
feeding babies on, 278–79
fishing and whaling industry of, 264, 273
government of, 261–62
history of, 261–62
huldufólk steal babies, 291
immigrant population on, 265–68
legal position of immigrant wives, 282
LGBT community on, 265, 271–72, 282
marriage on, 265
maternity leave on, 274, 276, 278
maternity nurses on, 268
naming children on, 275–76

© in this web service Cambridge University Press

www.cambridge.org
Index

Faroe Islands (cont.)
parenting and professional life on, 276–78
paternity leave on, 277
population of, 261
pregnancy on, 272–74
relationships and marriage, 270–72
religion on, 264–65, 287
resources provided by the state on, 267
single mothers on, 265
sleeping arrangements for babies on, 279
teaching culture and traditions on, 290–91
traditional lifestyle and culture, 262–67, 280
visiting and interpersonal relationships, 266–68
working mothers, 276–77
father, 39, 55, 129, 140, 150, 161, 188, 245–46, 283
absent, 228–29, 232, 237–38
name-giving ritual, 58, 208–9
paternity leave, 133, 277
and polygyny, 104
status of related to number of sons, 102–3
favelas, Brazil, 11
feeding infants and children. See breastfeeding, colostrum, foods and feeding, weaning
female genital mutilation, 66–68.
See also circumcision (female), infibulation
female nudity, 64
fertility. See birth control, birth rates, conception, infertility

foods and feeding, 142
allergies, 116
to avoid, 116
infant formula, 8–9, 142, 210
introducing solid food, 8–9, 116, 278–79
during post-partum period, 87–88
tainted or toxic, 6, 85, 156, 273.
See also breastfeeding, colostrum, weaning
fostering children, 54
free-range parents, 22
Fula people (Fulani)
childbirth among, 43–47
community role in raising children, 69
father’s role among, 69
fostering children from co-wives, 54
infertility among, 50–54
Islam among, 34–35
migration to Portugal by, 35
mother’s role among, 68–69
origins in Guinea-Bissau, 33–35
post-partum period among, 47–50
pregnancy among, 40–43
“problems of the land,” 52–54
religions of, 34–35
rituals of early childhood among, 58
Fulbe. See Fula people

Geertz, Clifford, 3
gender roles, structures, and values, 37, 60, 118
among Americans, 26
among Beng, 155–56, 162, 164
among Chinese, 72, 82, 86
among Faroese, 287, 289
among Israelis, 132–33, 139, 140, 145–46

© in this web service Cambridge University Press  
www.cambridge.org
among Mandinga and Fula, 14–15, 37, 43, 53, 60, 63, 65–70
among Quechua, 237–38, 246, 252–54, 259
among Palestinians, 23, 100, 101–4, 114, 119
among Somalis, 208, 218–22
godparents, 145, 243–44, 247
Graham, Philip, 24, 294, 309, 317, 338
grandfathers as benefactors, 103
as caretakers, 80, 249
as godfathers, 145
children named for, 208–9
relationship with grandchildren, 184
as caretakers, 16, 79, 84, 151, 169, 171, 173, 189
conflicts between, 107
relationship with grandchildren, 184, 189, 248, 258. See also mother-in-law
grandparents as caregivers, 23, 30, 74, 76, 81, 91, 134, 260, 268, 282
conflicts with, 30, 76, 89, 91
children named for, 172
death of, predicted by speaking infant, 187
feel conflicted, 226
reincarnated in grandchildren, 172
relationships with, 34, 80, 118, 171, 184–85, 217, 225, 226, 238, 240, 246, 257, 267, 281, 282. See also grandfathers, grandmothers
Guinea-Bissau, 33, 35
civil war in, 38
co-wives in, 54
ethnic composition of, 33–34
migration to Portugal from, 2, 28, 35
migrants return to, 36–37, 39, 41–42
naming in, 53
traditions in, vs. in Portugal, 14, 39–40, 44, 45–50, 60–61, 65–68
witches travel from, 52. See also Fula, Mandinga

hair cutting, 46, 48, 61, 117, 163, 245–49, 259
of mother as talisman for baby, 174
of mother washed after post-partum period, 114
of parents shaved in funeral after first child dies, 180
of spirits, 291
white, as sign of experience, 160

Hebrew language, 124, 127, 150–31, 157, 150
names, 144. See also Israel

helicopter parents, 22

Holocaust, 124, 126
teaching children about, 2, 147–48. See also Israel, violence, war

honor ancestors, 78, 82
and family, 86
and godparent, 145–46
and women, 99
human trafficking, 12
Index

husband
absence of, 9, 44, 139, 165, 207, 229, 237, 238
actions by to protect pregnancy, 165
brothers of, 188
causes sickness in baby, 179
and childbirth, 44, 141, 165, 242, 274
citizenship of, 43
debt of, to child, 59–62
and divorce, 103
and fatherhood, 58, 221, 222, 224, 277
friend of, as godfather, 145
at funeral of first child to die, 180
heals sick baby daughter, 177
helped by wife for work, 36
household of, 71, 99, 101
importance of finding a good partner, 270–72
imports wife, 271
and infertility, 50–51, 53
infidelity of, 74
mystical role of, in pregnancy, 105, 165, 166, 176
and naming, 53, 209
and polygyny, 38, 54, 104
and post-partum period, 48, 50, 74
prefers son to daughter, 43
presence of, at childbirth, 44, 141
and Qu’ran, 63
relationship with brothers-in-law, 103
relationship with wife, 90, 100, 111, 163, 173, 209, 213
sacrifice by, to protect pregnancy, 166
sex with, 41–42, 57, 68, 74, 165, 180, 184, 185

sisters of, 162
spanks early-walking baby, 183
spirit-, 52
violence by, against wife, 74, 103
work by, 72, 207, 213, 222, 238, 246, 254, 277, 278, 279. See also mother-in-law

Ifaluk, Micronesia: adoption practices, 12
illness. See diviners, disease, healers
immigrants
changing diet of, 10, 41
changing parenting practices of, 219–20
changing ritual practices of, 61–68
continuity of sleeping practices among, 19
in Côte d’Ivoire, 150, 158
in Denmark, 265
on Faroe Islands, 266, 270–71
and health issues, 216
in Israel, 26, 124, 126–38, 144, 150, 151
and language issues, 134–35, 136, 137, 140–41, 144, 150, 151, 217, 271, 274, 280
legal issues of, 43, 54, 282–84
in Portugal, 2, 28, 35, 36, 50, 51, 59
racism and tensions surrounding, 38, 44, 62, 66–68, 135–38, 156, 194–95, 200, 220, 265–66
in the US, 28, 193, 195, 200
variety of advice for mothers, 138–39

Incas
end of the Inca Empire, 226–27
Quechua language of, 227

364
Index

indigenous religions, 28, 34–35, 37–38, 158–59, 228
infant formula, 7, 8, 9, 85, 111, 142, 210. See also breastfeeding, colostrum, weaning
infant mortality, 40
and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), 17–18
from starvation, 6
rates of, 5. See also death infants
diversity of advice about rearing, 1–4
uniqueness of humans, 4–5.
See also adoption, childcare, breastfeeding, clothing, developmental psychology, disease, dreams, foods and feeding, language, newborns, names and naming, relationships, sleep, teething, walking
infertility, 50–54
and perceived risk from
c-sections, 205–6
and in-vitro fertilization, 132
spiritual causes of, 51–54. See also birth control, conception, infibulation, circumcision
infibulation, 26, 203, 205–6
inoculations. See vaccinations insults
and complements, 180
and cultural
miscommunication, 202
as protection of babies, 50, 53
teaching babies, 23, 184–85
Islam, 28–29, 212, 265
and breastfeeding, 56–57, 111, 210
and childbirth, 44–47, 109–11
and circumcision (boys), 65–66, 114
and circumcision (girls), 66–68, 203
and drumming, 66
and food, 56, 65, 211
in Côte d’Ivoire, 134, 135, 136, 158, 180
in Guinea-Bissau, 33–70
differing views about rituals, 64–65
as global community (umma), 35, 39, 196, 203
and infertility, 54
in Israel, 124, 125, 127
and miscarriage, 52–52, 53
and naming, 58–62, 208–9
in Palestine, 93–122
in Portugal, 33–70
and post-partum period, 48–50, 112–14
and prayer, 36, 46, 53, 56, 60, 63, 65, 67, 70, 112, 114, 150, 206, 212
and Qur’an, 34, 37, 38, 41, 49, 57, 63–65, 67, 116, 202, 217–18
in Somalia, 191–223
and spirits, 52–54
Sunnı, 104
in the US, 191–223. See also Fula people, Islamophobia, Mandinga people, Palestinian people, Somalis
Islamophobia, 38, 194–95, 200, 221
Israel
and anti-Semitism, 29, 130
Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jews, rift between 128
birth rate high in, 132, 139
calendar of rituals and holidays in, 146–48
Index

Israel (cont.)
celebrating the arrival of baby girls in, 146
childcare options in, 133
children learn to belong to, 148
circumcision of baby boys in, 144–45
degrees of Jewish religiosity, 127–28
democracy in, 126–28
developmental checkups for babies in, 143
eyearly education in, 148
education of women in, 133
education system in, 133–35
employment of women, 133
establishment of, 124–25
Ethiopian Jewish immigrants in, 129
family, importance of, in, 132–33, 139–40
godfather in, 145
Hebrew language, 124, 127, 130–31
Hebrew names, 144
history of Jewish settlement in Palestine, 124–26
Holocaust, legacy of, 124, 126, 147–48
immigration by Jews welcome in, 128
immigrant tensions in, 135
Israeli–Palestinian conflict, 93–95, 125–26
as a Jewish and democratic state, 126
judicial system in, 127
kibbutz communities in, 124
Law of Return in, 127
maternity leave in, 133
names and naming in, 144–45
Palestinian population in, 125
poverty in, 132–133

society deeply divided, 125–32
society, overview, 123
teaching children about the Holocaust in, 147–48
wars in, 124–26
women’s status and traditional roles in, 127, 132, 139
Ivory Coast. See Beng people, Côte d’Ivoire

Japan, sleeping arrangements in, 16
jewelry
desired by babies, 179
for mourning, 180
protective for babies, 10, 161, 168–69, 170, 171, 173–75, 178–79, 182. See also earrings

Judaism, 28. See also Israel

Kenyan refugee camps, 192–93, 198–200
kola nuts, 35, 62–63, 154, 159, 176, 182

language
of the afterlife, 171, 179, 187
and arguing, 90
babies encouraged to talk, 118, 186, 209, 213
babies talk too early, 187
babies understand all languages, 186–87
code-switching, 230
during childbirth, 45–46
and evil eye, 145
and greetings, 244, 253, 284
and respect, 186–87, 229–31, 241–42, 250, 257
Index

and secrecy, 172
of spirits, 161, 171, 179
and violence, 236. See also
advice, autism, insults,
prayer
Leach, Penelope, iv, xii, 22, 23, 311
Lévi-Strauss, Claude, 26
LGBT community, Faroe Islands,
265, 271–72, 282
love
and arguing, 76
and childbirth, 112
of children, 50, 69, 89, 101, 121,
135, 162, 219, 246–47, 281, 286
of family by children, 91
vs. family, 82
of nature, 255, 257
and poetry, 196, 280
between spouses, 81–82, 90, 162,
163
Lutheran Church, 264–65
Malnutrition. See infant formula,
nutrition, poverty
Mandinga people, 14, 33–38
breastfeeding among, 55–58
childbirth among, 43–47
community’s role in raising
children, 69
father’s role among, 69
fostering children from co-
wives, 54
infertility among, 50–54
migration to Portugal, 35
mother’s role among, 68–69
origins in Guinea-Bissau, 33–35
post-partum period among,
47–50
pregnancy among, 40–43
rituals of early childhood
among, 58
Mao Zedong, 73, 76, 82, 228
marriage, 99
age at, 132
as alliances between families, 71
arranged, 81–82, 99, 158, 162–63
and breastfeeding, 55–56
between “mil kin,” 7, 55–56
and clans, 158
contracts, 104
and female genital surgery, 67, 68
gay, 271
to immigrant, 270–71, 282
inside caste, 34
inside ethnic group, 55
and Islam, 37
and names, 209
outside ethnic group, 37, 129, 162
legal issues, 127, 271
rates, 132, 265
residence before and after, 86,
99
to snake-child, 186
and timing of children, 79, 105
and widowhood, 236–37.
See also co-wives, divorce,
love, polygyny, violence
maternity leave, 9
on Faroe Islands, 274, 276–78
in Israel, 133, 142, 149
in Palestine, 115
Maya (Guatemala), 16, 18, 19
McKenna, James, 17
medicinal paint on babies, 175, 182
mestizo (mixed race) people in
Peru, 226–27
midwives, 206, 242–43, 274. See
also childbirth, pregnancy,
post-partum care
“mil kin,” 7, 55. See also
breastfeeding
miscarriage, 51, 107, 163. See also
conception, infertility,
pregnancy
Index

MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccination, 215.
See also vaccinations

moon, dangers for babies, 174–75

mothers
breastfeeding challenges of, 9
good vs. bad, 69, 189, 190, 200
role of, 68, 69
status related to number of sons, 102–4
teach values, 2
working, 9, 11–13, 15, 109, 207, 252, 276–77. See also adoption, advice, childbirth, childcare, foods and feeding, grandmothers, marriage, maternity leave, post-partum period, pregnancy, sleep

mother-in-law
arguing with daughter-in-law, 90–91
care of new mother and baby, 83
role in caring for the new baby, 84–86
role in child rearing, 77–78, 81–82

motor development of children
crawling, 183
sitting up, 26–27
standing, 116

names and naming
approved list of names, 208, 275–76
and circumcision, 145
consequence of misnaming, 179
for day of week, 144
for paternal grandfather, 208–9
local vs. foreign, 144, 172, 208–9, 275–76
insulting names, 53–54
of married women, 209
to protect from spirits, 53–54, 276
and recitation of genealogy, 209
and reincarnation, 13, 172
for spirits, 171, 172
ritual for, 13, 14, 58–62, 145, 171, 178, 208, 276
secret, 171–72, 276
of three (or four) daughters (or sons) in a row, 171–72
of twins, 172
of wives, 209

Nazism, 124. See also Israel

newborns
bathing of as a social activity, 112
protect by avoiding complementing, 50, 89
protect by insulting, 50
protect by makeup, 112
nutrition, 5, 10
and breastfeeding, 210, 211, 278
and community, 202, 292
early substitutes for breast milk, 7
and food deserts, 212
among immigrants, 10, 212
introducing solid food, 8–9, 116, 278
malnutrition in children, 5–6
and obesity, 10, 212
and pollution, 6, 85, 273
during post-partum period, 88
during pregnancy, 6, 21, 83–85, 273. See also breastfeeding, disease, food, infant formula, infant mortality, pregnancy, weaning

368
Index

obedience. See discipline
obesity, 10, 212. See also disease, nutrition
omens
and infant speech, 187
in myth, 239
and teeth and teething, 183

Palestine
history of, 93, 95
history of Jewish settlement, 124–26
occupation by Israel, 93–95.
See also Islam, Israel, Palestinian people
Palestinian people
bathing newborns among, 112
connection with place, 96–99, 100–2, 112–14
divorce among, 103–4
education of women among, 100–1
polygyny among, 104
importance of family among, 95
population in Israel, 125
pressure on wives to become pregnant, 104
status of women among, 102
resistance to Israeli occupation, 112
traditional help with conception, 104
traditional value of honor, 99
value of having many children, 119
youthfulness of Palestinian society, 99. See also Islam, Israel, Palestine

parenting
challenges for Somalis in the US, 219
guarding against loss, 119

learning about, 19
Somali view of American parenting, 222–23
and status, 40
value of having many children, 119
Parenting Industrial Complex, 22. See also childcare
parents
criticism of children, 89
expression of love to children, 89
sources of advice for, 19.
See also mothers, fathers
paternity leave, 142, 277. See also fathers
personality. See character
Peru
armed conflict in (1980–’90s), 225
Quechua language in, 225–27, 229, 241–42
Spanish language in, 229
Spanish colonization, 226–27.
See also Quechua people

Peul. See Fula people

place
connection to, 13, 46, 47, 99, 101–2, 112–13
connection to, symbolized by clothing, 112–14
connection to, through children, 101–2
connection to, through placenta, 46–47
connection to, through spirit, 13
and displacement, 70, 96, 101, 117, 124–25, 222, 303
and family ties, 96–99
movement within, restricted by military occupation, 95, 98, 107–8, 110, 121
Index

place (cont.)
sacred, 93, 117, 131, 171, 179, 190, 227, 239, 247
placenta/afterbirth, 45–46
burying of, 46–47
delivery of, 110, 163–64, 242
political unrest. See violence, war
polygamy. See polygyny
polygyny, 37, 54, 104. See also marriage
Portugal
Fula and Mandinga people in, 47–50
immigrants from Guinea-Bissau in, 35
saudade concept in, 13
post-partum care, 181–82
dangers after giving birth, 48–49
duration of confinement period, 48–49, 88–89, 112–14, 206–8
to eat during, 87–88
importance of keeping warm during, 112. See also childbirth, newborn, pregnancy
prayers and blessings
animist, 154, 157, 158–59, 163, 167, 170, 238
Christian, 242, 287–88
Confucian, 87
Jewish, 124, 140, 146, 150
Muslim, 36, 43, 46, 51, 53, 56, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65, 67, 70, 112, 114, 130, 201, 206, 212
pregnancy, 140–41
alcohol during, 272–73
and adultery, 165
among Beng (Côte d’Ivoire), 159, 162–66, 176, 180, 184, 185, 187–88

and blessings from Allah (baraka), 43
while breastfeeding, 57
care during, by family and community, 106–9
among Chinese (China), 31, 80–81, 84–87
and corpses during, 164
and citizenship of the baby, 43
daily enemas during, 163–64
determining the baby’s character during, 164–65
divorce during, 165
duration of, 58, 59
among Faroese (Faroe Islands), 6, 269, 272–74, 276, 278
foods to avoid during, 6, 41–42, 106, 163, 273
foods to eat during, 6, 106
among Fula and Mandinga immigrants (Portugal), 40–52, 57–59
hiding and denying, 40–41
information sources about, 83–84, 140
among Israelis, 133, 138–42
medical care during, 140–41, 202
and miscarriage, 51, 54
among Palestinians (Occupied Territories), 102, 104–9, 115
political impact on, 107–8
predicting the sex of the baby during, 42–43, 109
and preference for either sex, 43, 86
protecting from spirits, 40–41
among Quechua (Peru), 237
sex during, 41–42, 165
smoking during, 272
social pressure for, 86
Index

among Somalis (US), 26, 201–6, 210–11
superstitions about, 80–81, 141
timing of, 187–88
in the UK, 21–22
in the US, 21–22, 26
and vitamins during, 202
among Warlpiri (Australia), 13 and women’s status, 40
working during, 106–9. See also childbirth, post-partum care
Protestantism. See Christianity psychology, 23–24

Quechua people (Peru)
Amaru legend of, 238
aspirations for future generations among, 259
baby’s first haircut ritual among, 247–49
Catholic baptism among, 249
childbirth among, 242–43
children contribute to the community among, 251–54
godparents (agüita) among, 247
disciplining children among, 250, 256–57
godparents (birth) among, 243–44
haircut issues among, 228–29, 235–37
language among, 225–27, 229, 241–42
puna lifestyle (high mountains) of, 233–34
teaching children to care for animals, 250–51. See also Peru
teaching children about respect among, 257–59

Qur’an, 37, 116, 202, 210–11
teaching to Somali children in the US, 217
Qur’anic school, 64–65
among Somalis in the US, 196–97

racism, 38, 130, 195–96, 200, 220–21
refugees
Kenyan camps for, 193
obstacles faced by, 16
Palestinians, 225–26. See also Somali refugees
reincarnation, 13, 159, 162, 186–87.
See also ancestors
relationships
and adoption practices, 12
with ancestors, 2, 13, 78, 82, 87, 154, 158, 159, 162, 168, 178–81, 185, 209
with animals, 200, 233, 235–36, 238, 248, 250–52, 256, 257
with community, 12
and emotional attachments, 12
with “milk kin,” 7
with siblings, 13
with spiritual beings/God, 13
religion, 28–29
and community in the Faroe Islands, 264–65
and conflict over holy places, 117
conflict over Palestine, 93–95
of Fula (Fulani), 34–35
of Mandinga people, 34–35
and education, 287–88
and tele-conferences, 202.
See also Buddhism, Christianity, grandparents, Islam, Judaism, rituals and ceremonies

371
Index

sex
bathing after, 173
during pregnancy, 47–42, 165
forbidden until baby can walk, 183–85
al-Shabaab terrorist group, 193, 195
Shining Path Maoist guerilla movement, 228–29, 235–37
siblings
encouraging acceptance of a new baby, 112
older ones caring for younger ones, 11, 13, 118
singing, 117, 118, 213, 280, 289, 290, 291
sitting upright. See motor development
sleeping
on adult’s back, 178
bedtime routine, 143
conflicting views on where a baby should sleep, 16–19
in crib, 141, 142–43, 279
and messages from Allah, 64
outside, 280–81
in parents’ bed, 16–19, 279–80
and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), 17–18
smoking during pregnancy, 272
snake-child, 164, 185–86
social upheaval
influence on childrearing practices, 20–21
threat to traditional values, 99
Somali refugees
disruption of education, 198
in Kenyan refugee camps, 193
resettlement to the US, 193, 197–200
suspicion of terrorist involvement, 193
Somalia
education system, 191–92

sadness
and breastfeeding, 111
following childbirth, 111
over famine, 238
Saudi Arabians, 64–65, 67
self-esteem of children, 89

respect
concerns of Somali parents in the US, 220
feature of the Quechua language, 229–42
importance for children, 251, 257–59
rituals and ceremonies
animal sacrifices, 60–62, 112, 176, 179, 208
baby’s first haircut, 247–49
celebrating the first tooth, 116
circumcision (female), 40, 44–45, 58, 65–68, 203, 206
circumcision (male), 65–66, 114, 136, 144–46
hair cutting, 117, 245–46
name-giving, 58–62, 208
post-partum period, 114
protective water ritual (agüita de socorro), 247
public holidays, 146–48
rituals following death of a baby, 180
sacrifice following a violated taboo, 179
sacrifice to keep a baby healthy, 176
sacrifice to protect the pregnancy, 166
slaughter of lambs for new babies, 112
welcoming baby girls, 146
writing-on-the-hand, 64–65

372
Index

history of, 191–94
literacy campaign, 191–92
Mogadishu (Xamar), 197–98
war with Ethiopia, 192
Somalis in the US
access to healthcare by, 216
adaptation of women, 218
Americans’ diet, effects of, 210
Americans’ parenting, Somali views of, 222
Americans’ portrayal of, 194, 196
Americans, getting to know, 200
autism rate in children, 14, 215–16
breastfeeding, 210
building male self-esteem and confidence, 221
challenges faced by, 197
childbirth among, 205–6
children learning to speak, 212
circumcision among, 203
communication with doctors, 204
concerns over lack of respect, 220
debate over US immigration policy, 195
dehumanization of circumcised women before childbirth, 206
dental hygiene, 212
disciplining children, 219
racism, experience of, 220–21
experience of refugee resettlement, 197
family and community orientation, 197
forbidden foods, how to avoid, 211
gender roles among, 218, 222
halal foods, how to identify 211
halal meat shops, 208
history of, 193–97
Islamophobia, 221
lack of male role models, 220
late talking in children, 214–16
literacy skills, 196–97
maintaining Somali cultural identity, 208–9
maintaining the Somali language, 217
male youth, challenges for, 219, 222
men, role of, 222
Minnesota Somali population, 194–96
naming children, 208
obesity among, 212
obstacles faced by, 16
oral culture among, 196
parenting challenges among, 219–21
police targeting of Black males, 220–21
post-partum period among, 206–8
pregnancy among, 201–5
Qur’anic school, 196–97
reading books to children, 217
reciting the family lineage, 209
religious needs of women patients, 204
returning to work after childbirth, 206–8
rumors about prenatal care, 204–5
support from the mosques, 221
suspicion about terrorist associations, 195
talking with children, 212
teaching children English, 217
teaching the Qur’an to children, 217
Somalis in the US (cont.)
tensions in Lewiston, Maine, 194
ways of speaking to children, 212–13
women’s headscarves as a marker of difference, 194–95
xenophobia, 194–95
spirits, 34–35
cause miscarriage, 51–54
connection with, 13
protecting from, 10, 40–42, 48, 53–54
Spock, Benjamin, 4, 22
standing up. See motor development
starvation. See death, nutrition, poverty
sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), 17
Sun Yat-Sen, 72
supernatural beings. See spirits
superstitions
about pregnancy, 141
huldufólk who steal babies, 276, 291
supervision of children. See childcare, discipline
taboo, sacrifice following a violated taboo, 179
TED talks, 3
teeth and teething, 88, 89, 115, 143, 212
bad omens for the Beng, 183
celebrating the first tooth, 116
terrorism
al-Shabaab (Somali group), 193, 195
Shining Path (Maoist guerrilla movement), 228–29, 235–37

Somali refugees suspected of, 193
US war on, 195
toilet training, 88–89
age for, 118
and enemas for babies, 187
and use of diapers, 89
which hand to use for wiping, 187
twins
names for, 172
and risk of death, 180
as witches, 166
umbilical cord, 46–48, 167, 168–69, 242
United States
parenting styles in, 222–23
range of sleeping arrangements for children, 17
war on terror, 195. See also Somalis in the US
vaccinations, 10, 143, 175, 215–16.
See also disease: tetanus
violence, 2, 29
against breastfeeding mothers, 116
against children, 53, 183, 189, 219–20, 250, 286
in Côte d’Ivoire, 154, 155
female genital surgery as, 6
in Israel, 124, 130, 148
as omen of death, 185
in Palestine, 94–102, 107–8, 117–21
in Peru, 228–29, 236–37, 240–41, 250
against wives, 74, 103, 282–83.
See also war
vitamins, during pregnancy, 202
walking. See motor development
Warlpiri people, Australia, 13
Index

war
in Côte d'Ivoire, 154
in Israel–Palestine, 125–26
Israel's involvement in, 124–26
in Peru (1980s), 228–29, 236–37
between Somali and Ethiopia, 192
by US, on "terror," 195

water
boiled, 234
breaks during childbirth, 41
drunk by breastfeeding woman, 210
buffalo, 78, 81
carrying of by girls and women, 156, 177, 252
cold vs. hot for bathing post-partum, 48, 88
as colostrum, 56–57
and divination, 170–71
in enema, 169
force-fed to babies, 168
for garden, 252–54
herbal, as healing after childbirth, 242
herbal, as medicine for baby's fever, 177
herbal, as medicine for breastfeeding baby, 111
herbal, as medicine for difficult childbirth, 167
holes for herding animals, 235
and kolas as magical medicine for babies, 176
polluted, 6, 8, 177, 234, 273
sacred, and godparents, 247, 259
salt and, for newborn bath, 110
and spirits, 42, 179
sacrifice in mythical lake 239–40
for washing pesticides from produce, 84. See also baptism, bathing
weaning, 116–17

WEIRD (Western, Educated, from Industrialized Societies, Rich, and Living in Democratic Nations), 39
wet nurses, 6–7, 9. See also "milk kin"

witchcraft, 159
and breast infection, 168
and childbirth, 163, 165–66, 180, 188
and Christianity, 54
danger to children, 10, 46–47, 48, 52–53, 54, 66, 167, 168–69, 177
and Islam, 34–35, 46–47, 48, 52–63, 66
and snake child, 164
and pregnancy, 180, 188
and tetanus, 167
and twins, 166
Wolof people (Senegal), 67
women, status of related to number of children, 102–4
related to pregnancy, 40
women’s rights, 72
work. See fathers, maternity leave, mothers, paternity leave

work and breastfeeding challenges, 9
and childcare challenges, 11
and daycare options, 276–77
return to, after childbirth, 115, 181–82, 206–8, 276–77
World Health Organization, 7
writing-on-the-hand ritual, 62–65

xenophobia, 156, 194–95, 265–66.
See also immigrants, racism

375