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978-0-521-64567-6 - Coercion and Punishment in Long-Term Perspectives

Edited by Joan McCord

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Children must learn to act appropriately, in ways that differ from society to society and from context to context. How best to socialize children so they can function successfully is a crucial question that has fascinated educators and psychologists for centuries.

In a world where children exhibit unchildlike levels of violence, matters concerning child rearing take on an immediacy for parents and psychologists. Does physical punishment prevent violent behavior? Are there ways to influence children so that punishment will not be necessary?

Drawing upon rich, longitudinal data, the contributors to this volume examine benefits and costs of coercion and punishment, considering such topics as mental health, antisocial and criminal behavior, substance abuse, and issues related to measurement and prediction. They look at coercion among peers, aggressive behavior in boys and girls, different parenting styles, and effects of home context. The volume brings together evidence that has appeared in disparate literatures, and questions the easy assumptions that have been made about coercion and punishment.

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UNIVERSITY PRESS

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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

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First published 1995
First paperback edition 1998

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

A catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 0-521-45069-1 hardback
ISBN 0-521-64567-0 paperback

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Acknowledgments

The chapters in this volume are based on presentations at the Society for Life History Research Conference, which took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 29 to May 2, 1992. I wish to thank the participants at the conference. Their questions and discussions helped to make the research reported in these essays both challenging and interesting.

I would like also to acknowledge the willing and valuable assistance of Ingrid Farally and Kevin Conway. They were able to keep this volume on schedule and in good order. Finally, I owe a special debt to Carl A. Silver for his encouragement and cogent criticisms.