Childhood in Modern Europe

This invaluable introduction to the history of childhood in both Western and Eastern Europe between c.1700 and 2000 seeks to give a voice to children as well as adults. The work is divided into three parts, covering childhood in rural village societies during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; in the towns during the Industrial Revolution period (c.1750–1870); and in society generally during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Each part has a succinct introduction to a number of key topics, such as conceptions of childhood, infant and child mortality, the material conditions of children, their cultural life, the welfare facilities available to them from charities and the state, and the balance of work and schooling. Combining a chronological with a thematic approach, this book will be of particular interest to students and academics in a number of disciplines, including History, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, Literature and Education.

Colin Heywood is Professor Emeritus of Modern French History at the University of Nottingham and is currently the honorary president of the Children’s History Society. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and has served on the Committee of the Society for the History of Childhood and Youth. His previous books include Childhood in Nineteenth-Century France: Work, Health and Education (1988), and Growing Up in France: From the Ancien Régime to the Third Republic (2007).
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