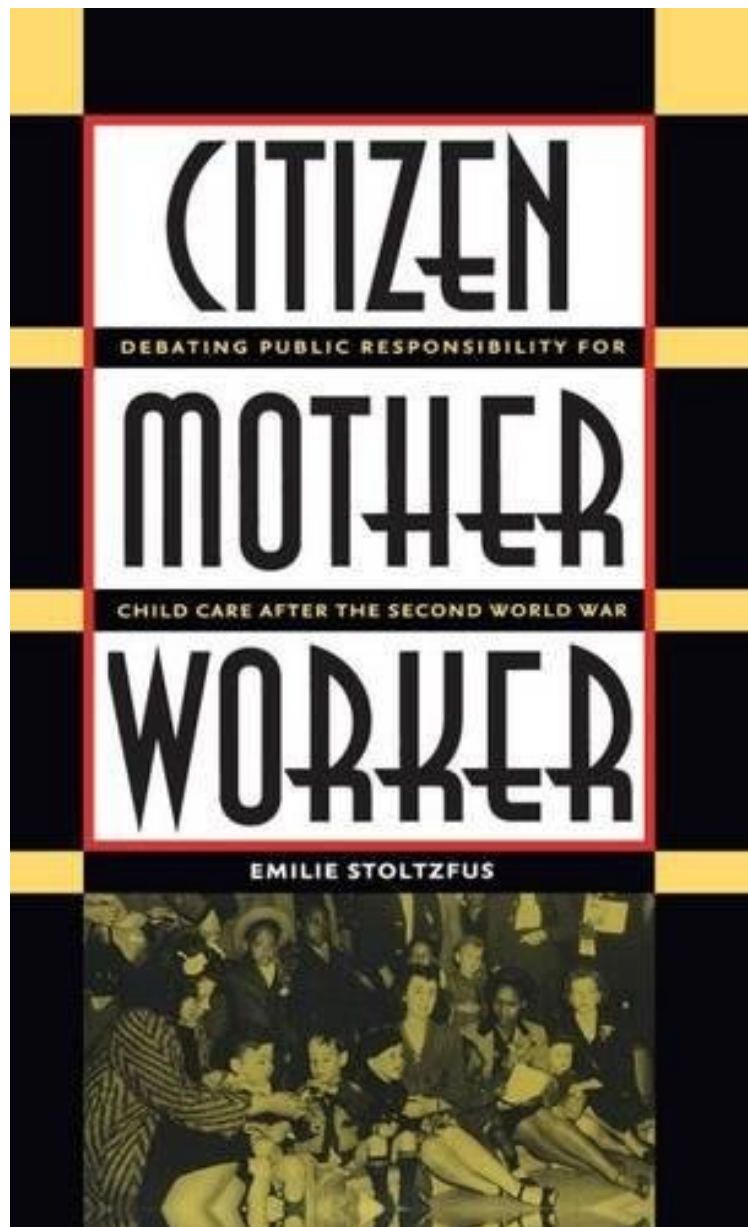


[PDF] Citizen, Mother, Worker: Debating Public Responsibility for Child Care after the Second World War (Gender and American Culture)

Citizen, Mother, Worker: Debating Public Responsibility for Child Care after the Second World War (Gender and American Culture)

Emilie Stoltzfus

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Emilie Stoltzfus : Citizen, Mother, Worker: Debating Public Responsibility for Child Care after the Second World War (Gender and American Culture) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth

my time, and all praised Citizen, Mother, Worker: Debating Public Responsibility for Child Care after the Second World War (Gender and American Culture):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A different timeBy W BoudvilleStoltzfus studies the roughly twenty years after World War 2, and the social attitudes in the United States towards women, in that time. She found that picking the topic of whether a government (federal or state) should offer child care to women in the workforce was a good focal point. It let her study the women's efforts to get this maintained after the war years, when it was introduced as an emergency measure. Plus, the reactions of the lobbied politicians and bureaucrats were typical of the prevailing social attitudes towards working women.It really has not been that many years ago. Yet the echoes from these pages makes it seem like another era. Probably it was. When any employer could fire a female employee solely because she got married, or pregnant, with any risk of opprobrium.The book also goes into the intertwining of the child care issue with that of race. How, in this pre-civil rights time, many women who had to work were Negro. Which naturally made harder the lobbying of white legislators.

During World War II, American women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers, and many of them relied on federally funded child care programs. At the end of the war, working mothers vigorously protested the termination of child care subsidies. In *Citizen, Mother, Worker*, Emilie Stoltzfus traces grassroots activism and national and local policy debates concerning public funding of children's day care in the two decades after the end of World War II. Using events in Cleveland, Ohio; Washington, D.C.; and the state of California, Stoltzfus identifies a prevailing belief among postwar policymakers that women could best serve the nation as homemakers. Although federal funding was briefly extended after the end of the war, grassroots campaigns for subsidized day care in Cleveland and Washington met with only limited success. In California, however, mothers asserted their importance to the state's economy as "productive citizens" and won a permanent, state-funded child care program. In addition, by the 1960s, federal child care funding gained new life as an alternative to cash aid for poor single mothers. These debates about the public's stake in what many viewed as a private matter help illuminate America's changing social, political, and fiscal priorities, as well as the meaning of female citizenship in the postwar period.

By uncovering alternative discourses about motherhood and work and recovering the mobilization by women for child care after Rosie left riveting, Stoltzfus shows the early postwar years to be a far more contested period than generally remembered. (Eileen Boris, University of California, Riverside) -- By uncovering alternative discourses about motherhood and work and recovering the mobilization by women for child care after Rosie left riveting, Stoltzfus shows the early postwar years to be a far more contested period than generally remembered. Here is a sophisticated analysis that links women's citizenship not only to gender ideology but also to political culture and grassroots mobilization and fully accounts for race, class, and location.--Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa BarbaraExhaustively researched. . . . [An] incredibly compelling read.--*Left History*"Represents a useful addition to our historical assessment of women's resistance to an inflexible and unrealistic ideological prescription to stay home. . . . A solid reminder of the difficulties that women face in attempting to reconcile their commitment to the family with their economic need and social right to work.--*American Historical* About the AuthorEmilie Stoltzfus is an analyst in social legislation at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress.