



2019. Approx. 250 p.

Printed book

Hardcover

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K. Cheney, A. Sinervo

Disadvantaged Childhoods and Humanitarian Intervention

Processes of Affective Commodification and Objectification

- Offers a unique political economic approach to focus on the politics of childhood within humanitarian aid and international development
- Examines geographically diverse areas such as the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Australia, North America
- Highlights the experiences of children targeted for aid

This book explores how humanitarian interventions for children in difficult circumstances engage in affective commodification of disadvantaged childhoods. The chapters consider how transnational charitable industries are created and mobilized around childhood need—highlighting children in situations of war and poverty, and with indeterminate access to health and education—to redirect global resource flows and sentiments in order to address concerns of child suffering. The authors discuss examples from around the world to show how, as much as these processes can help achieve the goals of aid organizations, such practices can also perpetuate the conditions that organizations seek to alleviate and thereby endanger the very children they intend to help.

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