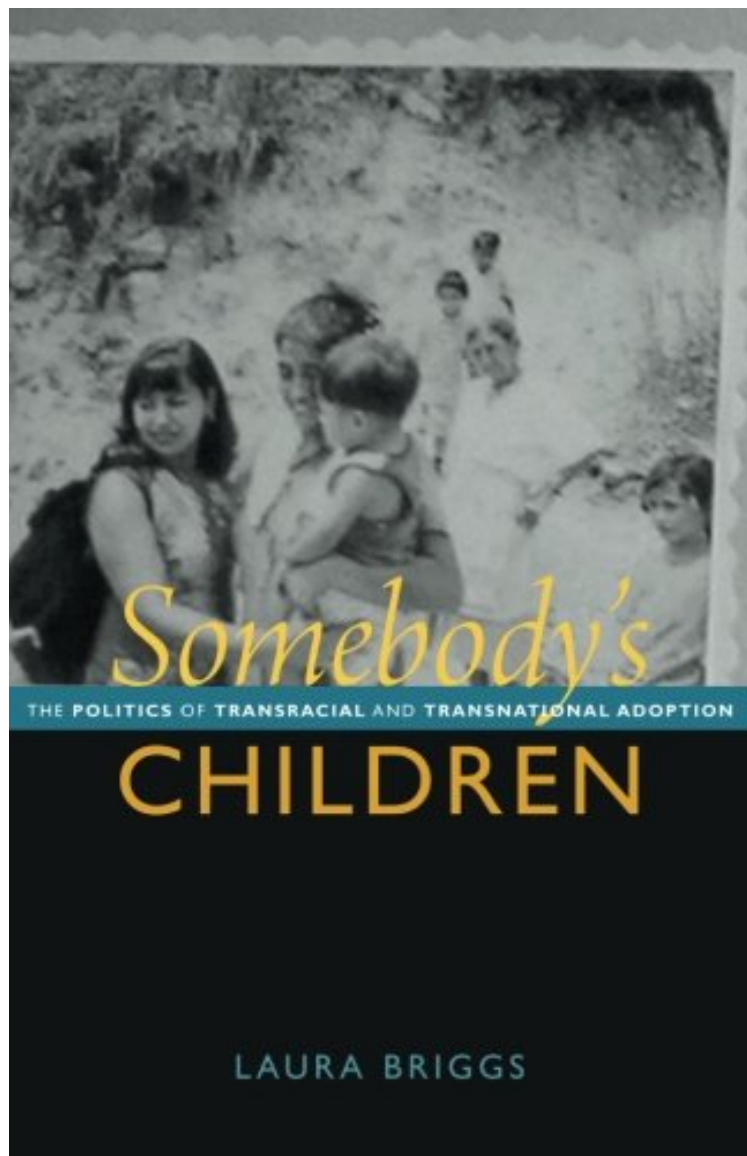


(Download) Somebody's Children: The Politics of Transracial and Transnational Adoption

Somebody's Children: The Politics of Transracial and Transnational Adoption

Laura Briggs

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Laura Briggs : Somebody's Children: The Politics of Transracial and Transnational Adoption before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Somebody's Children: The Politics of Transracial and Transnational Adoption:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ComprehensiveBy Francisco Paler LargeThis book is thorough to

say the least. I enjoyed her take on transnational adoption but by page 250 had gotten the point. This book goes down the rabbit hole and never returns. A good read if you are going to write an extensive argument for about how neoliberalism plays a role in transnational adoption. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent analysis of adoption and associated issues By JKL Amazing book. The author deftly undermines all of the received wisdom about adoption and thoroughly analyzes the socioeconomic and political reasons that poor and disenfranchised women are compelled to surrender their children. A necessary book on a subject that is too frequently given short shrift. This reviewer can only hope that more such books follow, puncturing the myth that adoption is a solution that works for everyone. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Book!!! By Ashley Baker Everyone needs to read this book but sadly most won't. This book shows how much of the discourse and politics surrounding adoption originated. It demonstrates clearly how poorer mothers and children are victimized by national and international adoption laws.

In *Somebody's Children*, Laura Briggs examines the social and cultural forces—poverty, racism, economic inequality, and political violence—that have shaped transracial and transnational adoption in the United States during the second half of the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first. Focusing particularly on the experiences of those who have lost their children to adoption, Briggs analyzes the circumstances under which African American and Native mothers in the United States and indigenous and poor women in Latin America have felt pressed to give up their children for adoption or have lost them involuntarily. The dramatic expansion of transracial and transnational adoption since the 1950s, Briggs argues, was the result of specific and profound political and social changes, including the large-scale removal of Native children from their parents, the condemnation of single African American mothers in the context of the civil rights struggle, and the largely invented "crack babies" scare that inaugurated the dramatic withdrawal of benefits to poor mothers in the United States. In Guatemala, El Salvador, and Argentina, governments disappeared children during the Cold War and then imposed neoliberal economic regimes with U.S. support, making the circulation of children across national borders easy and often profitable. Concluding with an assessment of present-day controversies surrounding gay and lesbian adoptions and the struggles of immigrants fearful of losing their children to foster care, Briggs challenges celebratory or otherwise simplistic accounts of transracial and transnational adoption by revealing some of their unacknowledged causes and costs.

"Heroic rescue narratives of "orphaned" brown babies—from the adoption of native children to the fairy-tale story of Zahara Jolie-Pitt—often crumble under scrutiny. Briggs, who adopted a Mexican American daughter, looks unflinchingly at the disturbing history of U.S. adoption across race and borders." - Ms. Magazine