Youth and Society: The Construction and Deconstruction of Youth in West and East Europe

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Sociology

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Abstract

One of the issues at the end of the 20th century in Europe is the process of Europeanization, including the widening of Europe to the East. This book draws upon a variety of sources to show how different ideas of youth were constructed in East and West Europe in the course of modernization under both Communism and welfare capitalism. Modern concepts of youth, the book argues, have been de-constructed and re-constructed by changes in state policies, the labour market, education and popular culture so that it is no longer so clear who youth are or how they can be helped. The book is aimed at departments of sociology (courses in education, youth and the family), social policy and politics.

Fingerprint


Cite this

The Mongol invasion of Europe led to construction of mighty stone castles, such as Spiš Castle, today in Slovakia. During the Middle Ages, the many civilizations present in both East and West were similar in some ways, and irreconcilably different in others. The social system of the West and East were different. Mongolia rose from nomadic tribes united by Genghis Khan. He conquered much of the surrounding land and created a large empire. The West and the Eastern civilizations differed politically because the common people of the East were not always content with their leadership. While the West had many rulers in a short period of time, there was no unrest with the people. Eastern civilizations had rebellions and long gaps between rulers that caused unrest. Ian Morris has written a pair of books that are intended to contribute to a particularly important set of disagreements in comparative economic history: what accounts for the advantage in economic development that seems to be enjoyed by Western Europe at various points in history? The key arguments are presented in Why the West Rules--for Now: The Patterns of History, and What They Reveal About the Future, and he lays out the quantitative methods and evidence in The Measure of Civilization: How Social Development Decides the Fate of Nations. The basic argument is that current debates are criti