



The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe's Families after World War II

By Tara Zahra

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World War II tore apart an unprecedented number of families. This is the heartbreaking story of the humanitarian organizations, governments, and refugees that tried to rehabilitate Europe's lost children from the trauma of war, and in the process shaped Cold War ideology, ideals of democracy and human rights, and modern visions of the family.

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Editorial Review

Review

Across a European landscape shattered by the death and displacement of World War II and the Holocaust, an extraordinary humanitarian agenda crystallized: saving the children. Tara Zahra's elegantly written history brilliantly reconstructs the moment, offering a breakthrough example of the new transnational European history. (Samuel Moyn, author of *The Last Utopia*)

Zahra deftly draws important lessons about conceptions of childhood and nationality from the ways international organizations, individual countries, and families themselves sought to rebuild shattered lives. An essential contribution to our understanding of a refashioned postwar world. (Norman Naimark, author of *Stalin's Genocides*)

Innovative and compelling, Zahra's book brilliantly challenges our understandings of trauma, relief, and rehabilitation, carefully elucidating the competing and highly ideologized claims on children by family and nation after a war that had devastated both. (Atina Grossmann, author of *Jews, Germans, and Allies*)

A fascinating, important, and highly original book which considers the implications and consequences of World War II for children. (Larry Wolff, author of *Inventing Eastern Europe*)

Beautifully written and exhaustively researched, *The Lost Children* makes the story of family reconstruction central to the history of social and political reconstruction in the years following the end of the Second World War. (Robert Moeller, the University of California, Irvine)

In this impressive multinational study, Zahra charts the history of humanitarian relief from the 1915 Armenian genocide to the postwar era, in the process demonstrating how the institutions of the family became politicized, whereby governments across Europe after 1945 began concerning themselves with promoting the family unit. Zahra demonstrates the impact of pre-1939 humanitarian campaigns on wartime thought. (Frederic Krome *Library Journal* 2011-05-01)

Zahra's research examines the difficulties inherent in attempting to mend the social dislocation caused by war...Zahra's work is insightful in considering what treatment of lost children can tell us about broader developments in the post-war period, both in terms of how nations interacted with each other and how psychologists understood the impact of war on children. (Hester Vaizey *Times Higher Education* 2011-05-05)

[A] fascinating book...Tara Zahra, a historian who made her name writing about the ambiguities of nationality in Czechoslovakia, has now added an important contribution to the growing literature on Europe's reconstruction after World War II...Zahra is especially good at tracing the connections between pedagogic theories and nationalist politics, and her rich source basis allows her to demonstrate the ubiquity of the problem. (Mark Mazower *New Republic online* 2011-06-20)

[A] superb book...[A] wide-ranging, exceptionally well-researched study. (Adam Kirsch *Tablet Magazine* 2011-06-28)

Zahra's book contributes significantly to understanding postwar childhood and refugee history in central

Europe. The book's merit lies not only in portraying the very real welfare issues regarding thousands of stateless, expelled, and otherwise lost children in this region, but also in showing how those issues became vectors for other early postwar issues...This work has resonance beyond central Europe; historians for the Balkans or the USSR, for example, will find Zahra's insights and approaches highly useful. Scholars and students of postwar Europe more generally will appreciate the extra depth she brings to an understanding of humanitarian issues in these years. (R. Spickermann *Choice* 2012-03-01)

About the Author

Tara Zahra is Professor of History at the University of Chicago, and a MacArthur Fellow.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Smith:

Here thing why this specific The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe's Families after World War II are different and dependable to be yours. First of all reading a book is good but it really depends in the content from it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe's Families after World War II giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any publication out there but there is no publication that similar with The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe's Families after World War II. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your technique home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe's Families after World War II in e-book can be your alternative.

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Edward Trotta:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book The Lost Children: Reconstructing Europe's Families after World War II it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read

this book through your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

Catherine Gates:

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