



## **Taking Parenting Public: The Case for a New Social Movement**

*Edited by Sylvia Ann Hewlett,  
Nancy Rankin, and  
Cornel West*

*"A vital volume that illuminates the daily crisis in American life - the chronic tension between work and family that confronts tens of millions of working parents. For all Americans, this book shows the high social costs of raising children with a workforce of dual career families or single parents in an outdated economic system that presumes a strike of stay-at-home moms. It presents a compelling case for fundamental changes in how we organize work to strike a better balance between job and home. It offers an agenda for reforming public policy and tells why all of us have a stake in reform." - Hedrick Smith, Executive Producer, PBS "Juggling Work and Family"*

**Taking Parenting Public** calls for a new investment - both personal and public - into the work of raising children. Essays by prominent academics, policy experts and business leaders - Enola Aird, Allan Carlson, David Elkind, Bill Galston, Sylvia Ann Hewlett, Jody Heymann, Wade Horn, Bernice Kanner, Nancy Rankin, Juliet Schor, Raymond Seidelman, Theda Skocpol, Ruy Teixeira, Cornel West, Peter Winn, Edward Wolff, and Ruth Wooden - look at the state of parenting at the close of the twentieth century. They examine the evidence that social and economic forces have significantly undermined parenting in contemporary American life. The authors, who span the spectrum from progressive to conservative, offer new data and fresh insights on familiar problems of work-family tensions, the time crunch, and the impact of public policy on families. They propose strategies for building public will and political power to help mothers and fathers succeed in the unpaid work of raising the next generation - an enterprise in which we are all "stockholders." Read an Excerpt [[LINK to Excerpt, publications\\_Taking Parenting Public – Excerpt](#)]

### ***Highlights***

- Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Cornel West examine the erosion of the parental role over the last thirty years. They question a society that expects parents to do a stellar job without the benefits of a living wage, medical coverage, or time off to meet family responsibilities. Hewlett and West address the challenge of how to give new support and honor to parents.
- Jody Heymann, author of *The Widening Gap*, looks at the working conditions of low-income parents and finds that their workplace supports - in particular, access to workplace flexibility and availability of paid leave for sickness and vacation - fall short.
- Harvard professor Theda Skocpol looks back at our country's history to discover the common elements that underpin the social policy achievements of public schools, veteran's benefits and Social Security. She makes a strong case for a popularly rooted citizens' movement on behalf of parents.
- Wade Horn argues that the unprecedented rise of fatherlessness in America is a crisis with profound, harmful consequences for children. Acknowledging the formation of fatherhood groups around the country, he examines whether a united movement can be forged out of these efforts.
- "The Parent Vote" presents data from a series of focus groups and nationwide surveys conducted by the Center for Work-Life Policy/National Parenting Association. The surveys explored the attitudes of American parents on a wide range of issues from improving public schools, to balancing family and work and stemming gun violence.
- In "Fixing Social Insecurity," policy analyst Nancy Rankin offers an innovative proposal for using social security to finance extended paid leave for working parents.

- Social marketing expert Ruth Wooden explains what it means to "take parenting public" and why it's necessary. Wooden suggests that it will require both human and financial investments to help parents and support the well-being of our nations' children.

### **SPECIAL OFFER - 20% DISCOUNT**

**Taking Parenting Public: The Case for a New Social Movement**, edited by Sylvia Ann Hewlett, Nancy Rankin and Cornel West, is available in paperback from Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (320 pages, ISBN 0-7425-2110-9, \$22.95 list price).

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