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# THE STRANGE CHILD



EDUCATION AND THE  
PSYCHOLOGY OF PATRIOTISM  
IN RECESSIONARY JAPAN

# Resumo de The Strange Child: Education and the Psychology of Patriotism in Recessionary Japan

"The Strange Child" examines how the Japanese financial crisis of the 1990s gave rise to "the child problem," a powerful discourse of social anxiety that refocused concerns about precarious economic futures and shifting ideologies of national identity onto the young.

Andrea Arai's ethnography details the different forms of social and cultural dislocation that erupted in Japan starting in the late 1990s. Arai reveals the effects of shifting educational practices; increased privatization of social services; recessionary vocabulary of self-development and independence; and the neoliberalization of patriotism.

Arai argues that the child problem and the social unease out of which it emerged provided a rationale for reimagining governance in education, liberalizing the job market, and a new role for psychology in the overturning of national-cultural ideologies.

"The Strange Child" uncovers the state of nationalism in contemporary Japan, the politics of distraction around the child, and the altered life conditions of and alternatives created by the recessionary generation."

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