

Excerpted Comments on Infanticide

From reviews of *Infanticide: Comparative and Evolutionary Perspectives*, edited By Glenn Hausfater and Sarah Blaffer Hrdy

Selected by Choice as one of the 1984-1985 "Outstanding Academic Books"

"The book is eloquent testimony to the invigorating effect that Hrdy's....classification of infanticide according to natural selectionist principles has had on the study of a phenomenon that previously had been primarily considered as the pathological consequences of overcrowding or other disturbing influences....it should convince even the most doubtful that, in most instances, infanticide is a natural behavior that can be interpreted in the context of modern evolutionary theory."

Gail Michener in *Science*

"The first systematic attempt to review what is known about infanticide and to place this knowledge in selectionist perspective... a stunning achievement."

Don Symons in *American Journal of Primatology*

Infanticide: Comparative and Evolutionary Perspectives focuses on an issue of central importance to the behavioral sciences and is packed with useful information. For those interested in the mechanisms and evolution of behavior and in possible links between human and nonhuman species, it cannot be recommended too strongly."

Robert Seyfarth in *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*

"Given the quality of the papers (and) the excellent editing...this volume is overall one of the best to come out of any publisher in a long time."

M. Estelle Smith in *The Annals of the American Academy*

"The strength of this book is the breadth of its taxonomic coverage. The reader is left with an appreciation of the widespread occurrence of infanticide in organisms ranging from invertebrates to humans...It is a must read for anyone interested in the mechanisms and evolutionary development of behavior."

Ken Glander in *American Anthropologist*

"*Infanticide* will be the major source of comparative and theoretical perspective on this subject for some time to come... highly recommended..."

Eugenie Scott in *The Quarterly Review of Biology*

"The uniqueness of this book lies in its extensive treatment of the problems of infanticide, both theoretical and empirical, over a wide range of taxa including humans... (it) will clearly serve as an encyclopedia of infanticide for many years to come."

Mariko Hiraiwa-Hasegawa in *Primates*

"this volume... may become a classic in the field. It is a remarkable demonstration of how our concepts of behavior continue to be challenged in the context of

modern evolutionary biology.”

David Gubernick in *Contemporary Psychology*

“In some ways, the most striking conclusion that emerges from this book is the depth of human denial and refusal to consider infanticide, despite evidence of its frequency...Yet we persist in teaching family sociology courses in which the unconditional good will of parents towards offspring is taken for granted and exceptions are treated as deviants. Evolutionary theory provides a basis for a more realistic view of human nature, both in the impulses of parents to be selective in their investments, and in the moral-ethical-aesthetic tendencies that lead us to evaluate infanticide as repugnant and to reject and deny its existence. Few sociologists will find their assumptions unchallenged and their theoretical framework unimproved in its precision by an acquaintance with the contents of this book.”

Nancy Howell in *Contemporary Sociology*

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