
The social sciences have long examined the role that values play in social change and social maintenance. Few studies, however, have been as extensive as the book under review, *Globalization, Value Change, and Generations*, edited by Peter Ester, Michael Braun, and Peter Mohler. This is the 10th volume in a series on European values which presents findings from a cross-national team of value specialists who utilized the European Values Study (EVS), a large-scale cross-national and longitudinal research project on fundamental values in Western societies, as the foundation of their research. While emphasis is primarily on European countries, the United States is also included to ascertain if findings are consistent on both sides of the Atlantic.

Ester, Braun, and Mohler have brought together a compelling compilation of essays that analyze the dichotomy between value acquisition, value demonstration, and socio-cultural change. Each chapter addresses three primary themes: a) whether value convergence or divergence has occurred; b) whether traditional values, as predicted by so many globalization theorists, are indeed diminishing, and c) whether the younger generation continues to play a vanguard role in culture shifts. Through these discussions, each chapter emphasizes if the consequences of globalization have indeed dissolved national values or if noted changes are simply a result of generational renewal, which is grounded in local culture. The combined chapters provide a cohesive and in-depth examination of how personal and socio-cultural values help to define a common European past and foretell a common future.

The book is composed of twelve chapters in two sections plus an introduction by the editors. The first part explores the creation, transition, and socialization of a variety of values, including religion, family and political values, values that support a stratified society, and the values of volunteering as an indicator of social action. Chapter 1, *Values and the Social Sciences: A Global World of Global Values?* by Peter Ester, Peter Mohler, and Henk Vinken, provides a history of the ZUMA project and introduces the three themes that are found in subsequent chapters. Chapter 2, *A Decline of Religious Values?* by Loek Halman and Thorleif Pettersson exam-
ines a change of religious values towards those of secularization. Chapter 3, *Individualization of Family Values?* by Jacqueline Scott and Michael Braun illustrates the shift of family values, especially in younger generation, from communal to more self-expressive values. Chapter 4, *Eroding Work Values?* by Peter Ester, Michael Baun, and Henk Vinken depicts how changing orientation towards work values is directly related to European economic productivity. Chapter 5, *The End of Traditional Political Values?* by Odd-bjorn Knutsen shows how youth are embracing political values, but not necessarily in a conventional manner. Chapter 6, *Is the West Becoming More Tolerant?* by Nina Rother and Juan Diez Medrano illustrates how the increasingly multicultural and globalizing European nations are creating a new sense of values that are both harmonious and individualistic in orientation and yet continue to reflect the changing dynamics of our current world. Chapter 7, *Is Volunteering Going Down?* by Paul Dekker and Andries Van den Broek explore the domain of volunteering as a crucial indicator of civil-society participation and the role of youth in making this activity more popular than it ever has been. Finally, chapter 8, *Decreasing Desires for Income Inequality?* by Stephen Fisher and Anthony Heath compares the values of social equality with how the younger generation addresses social stratification.

Part two includes chapters that emphasize domain-specific value, how those values relate to personality and value typologies and whether or not classic academic interpretations of eroding values has relevance in today's Europe. Chapter 9, *Values, Personalities, and Generations* by Henk Vinken and Beatrice Rammstedt compares the various multi-level dimensions of the “Big Three” of value research (Hofstede, Schwartz, and Inglehart) and the “Big Five” dimensions of personality traits (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness to experience). Chapter 10, *The Great Value Divide – Testing Hofstede’s Convergence Assumption* by Peter Mohler, Beatrice Rammstedt, and Katrin Wohin examines the stated theory on a representative sample of Germans. Chapter 11, *The Power of Values, Personalities and Generations* by Michael Baun and Henk Vinken delineates the relative explanatory power of the value and personality-traits dimension on key variables from pervious chapters. The final Chapter, *Values, Value Change, and Generations: Grand Picture and Summarizing Perspective* by Peter Ester, Michael Braun, and Peter Mohler reiterates European value change and role that generational change has played in the process.