



Identity and the Life Cycle

Erik H. Erikson, George S. Klein (Editor), David Rapaport (Introduction)

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Identity and the Life Cycle Erik H. Erikson , George S. Klein (Editor) , David Rapaport (Introduction) Erik H. Erikson's remarkable insights into the relationship of life history and history began with observations on a central stage of life: identity development in adolescence. This book collects three early papers that—along with *Childhood and Society*—many consider the best introduction to Erikson's theories. "Ego Development and Historical Change" is a selection of extensive notes in which Erikson first undertook to relate to each other observations on groups studied on field trips and on children studied longitudinally and clinically. These notes are representative of the source material used for *Childhood and Society*. "Growth and Crises of the Healthy Personality" takes Erikson beyond adolescence, into the critical stages of the whole life cycle. In the third and last essay, Erikson deals with "The Problem of Ego Identity" successively from biographical, clinical, and social points of view—all dimensions later pursued separately in his work.

Identity and the Life Cycle Details

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From Reader Review Identity and the Life Cycle for online ebook

Arkadiy Volkov says

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Aaron says

A good read, if at times technical, and a good introduction to Erikson. This book provides an accessible overview of his theory of psychosocial development first proposed in *Childhood and Society*, without getting into much detail or illustration for the stages. Afterwards it explores in detail the stage of Ego Identity vs. Role Confusion, marked by Erikson's concept of the (now common term) Identity Crisis. Erikson illustrates this stage in great detail.

This book is notable for its detailed exploration of that one stage, which by extension applies to the rest of his proposed stages. For a more detailed work on the theory as a whole, read *Childhood in Society*.

Joshua says

Erickson is gifted. I'm writing this review 11 years after reading it. I'm just looking at a note I put in the book after I read it.

So my reviews are a bit 'stale'...

Maira says

i thought this book would never end.

Catherine Woodman says

the classic text on the eight stages of man, which I use every week in the teaching of residents

Hyland says

This is an amazing book. It's one that works best when read during college, so that you can understand what is happening to you in the midst of what EE calls the "identity crisis." But the book even has a healing effect when read forty years late.

Liam says

"In general, the concept of the ego was first delineated by previous definitions of its better-known opposites, the biological id and the sociological 'masses': the ego, the individual center of organized experience and reasonable planning, stood endangered by both the anarchy of the primeval instincts and the lawlessness of the group spirit." (18-9)

"Freud was once asked what he thought a normal person should be able to do well. The questioner probably expected a complicated, a 'deep' answer. But Freud simply said, 'Lieben and arbeiten' ('to love and to work')." (102)

Karen Floyd says

I found this difficult to read but worth it. The writing was dense and I had to go back and re-read sections to understand them, and even get out the dictionary. All, those psychological terms! There was also an assumption that the reader was familiar with the theories of Freud and Jung and other lesser known psychological figures. That made it harder to follow, but the book is based on papers read to colleagues, not necessarily for the general reading public. Valuable insights and theories. Several times I felt as though I was meeting people I know!

Vanita says

Leicht zu lesendes Buch über Eriksons Theorie der Identitätsentwicklung.
