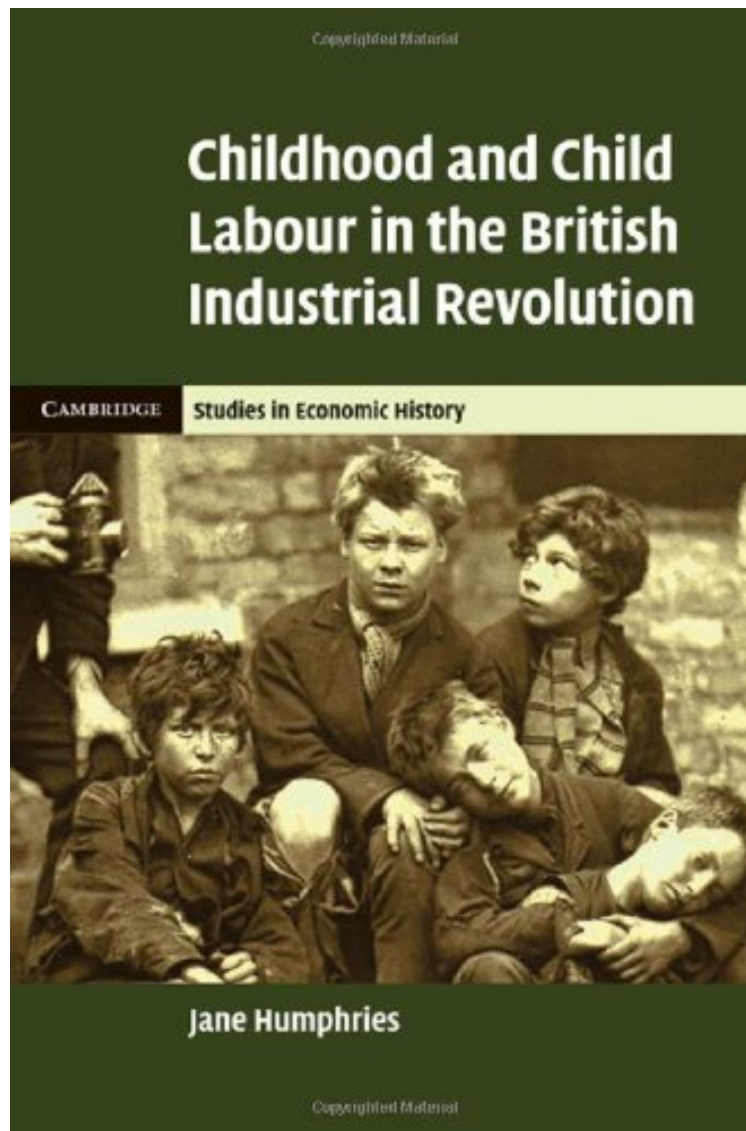


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Childhood and Child Labour in the British Industrial Revolution (Cambridge Studies in Economic History - Second Series)

Humphries

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Humphries : Childhood and Child Labour in the British Industrial Revolution (Cambridge Studies in Economic History - Second Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Childhood and Child Labour in the British Industrial Revolution (Cambridge Studies in Economic History - Second Series):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Food for the professional researcher and the casual learner By L.

Petroni This book contains a lot of dry scientific studies and results, which tend to make it somewhat boring. If you can get through all of that there are many narrative type parts that help give a real flavor of the times. Also there are many case studies which examine parts of individual children's lives which can also be fascinating. So this book has something for everyone; for the social or behavioral scientist who can pour over the graphs and facts and sundry other boring details, or for the more casual reader who may be interested in finding out more about children in the workplace. Another plus is there is a detailed reference section which can help the reader branch out into specific interests. This book was helpful to me in my casual research.

This is a unique account of working-class childhood during the British industrial revolution. Using more than 600 autobiographies written by working men of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Jane Humphries illuminates working-class childhood in contexts untouched by conventional sources and facilitates estimates of age at starting work, social mobility, the extent of apprenticeship, and the duration of schooling. The classic era of industrialization, 1790-1850, apparently saw an upsurge in child labour. While the memoirs implicate mechanization and the division of labour in this increase, they also show that fatherlessness and large sibsets, common in these turbulent, high-mortality, and high-fertility times, often cast children as partners and supports for mothers struggling to hold families together. The book offers unprecedented insights into child labour, family life, careers, and schooling. Its images of suffering, stoicism, and occasional childish pleasures put the humanity back into economic history and the trauma back into the industrial revolution.

"Recommended." -Choice "This is a large and important book ... It deserves to become not only a classic study of childhood, but also of the Industrial Revolution in Britain. As Humphries herself notes, it has been a long time coming, but for the reader it has been well worth the wait." -History Today "Childhood and Child Labour in the British Industrial Revolution is richly innovative in its marrying of economic data with life stories. The voices of the children - stoical, matter of fact, and moving in their ordinariness - jump off the page. There is no other historical study of British labour during the industrial revolution that so vividly brings to life the world of the working-class child." -History Workshop Journal About the Author Jane Humphries is Professor of Economic History and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford University.