

Hill, Kim and Hurtado, A. Magdalena (1996). *Ache Life History: The Ecology and Demography of a Foraging People*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter.

This book covers a broad section of the many aspects of the anthropology of children as seen in the Ache people of Eastern Paraguay. The Ache are an indigenous people who live in sub-tropical forests and practice a hunter-gatherer lifestyle. The book is a unique view of this people who have a completely different culture and lifestyle than the typical Western society. The authors lived among the people during a ten-year period and carefully monitored and documented their culture. The book discusses the way of life of this people. The incredibly small amount of contact the Ache have had with outside society makes the large amount of research and material particularly valuable and interesting as a case study of different way in which children live and are viewed by the society.

The material varies from the methods of delivery of children at birth and infanticide practices to children roles in hunting and gathering. Particularly interesting is the observation of the effect of the importance of a father for children in the society. In the Ache culture the men hunt for food and provide almost all of the food for the family. Therefore if there is a child without a father it means that the child will be without a provider and likely die or be killed by members of the group. This leads to the interesting result of females having many sex partners in order assure that the child will have a father. This gives the woman the ability to choose whom she wants to be the father and assures that there will be a male to take care of her children. It is a good example of how one aspect of a society has direct influence on other parts of the society and shows the cause and effect in latent sociological issues.

The book has many good observations of issues that are relevant to questions pertaining to the anthropology of children. It discusses how the society views children, importance of children, worth of children, and how the children are treated in the society. It talks about sexual issues such as when the children begin to have sex and how many sex partners are allowed. It discusses differences in treatment and roles of different genders. I think it is a great book that introduces a completely different cultures ways of seeing and treating children.