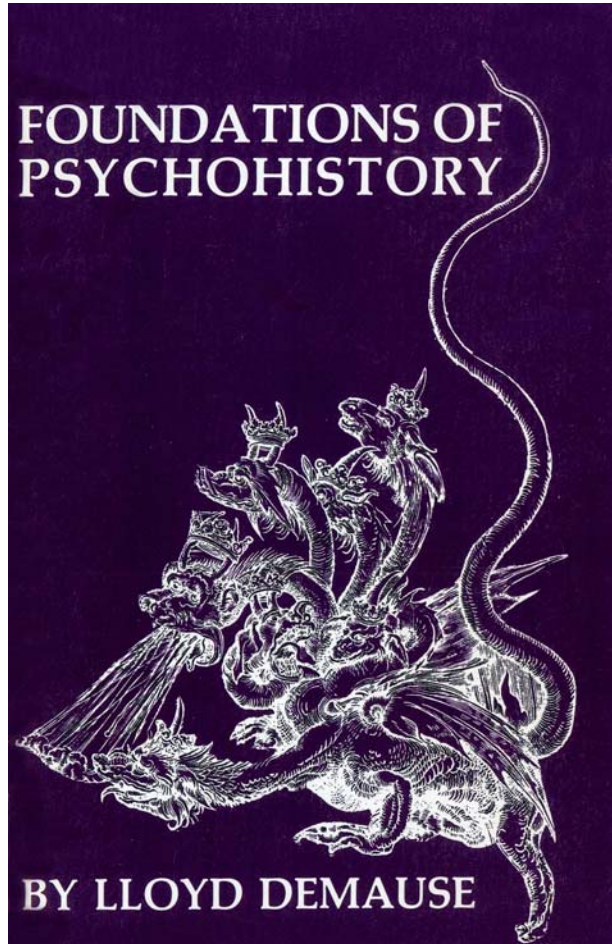


## Book of The Century



**Lloyd deMause (1982).  
*Foundations of Psychohistory*,  
Creative Roots, Inc. New York.**

An extraordinary review of the psychohistorical roots of human pathology from the perspective of psychoanalytic thinking. The Child is, indeed, the father of man, the mother of culture and the future of humanity. This writer, however, disagrees with his sweeping statement that "all contemporary hunter-gatherers, is in the infanticidal mode, p.273)

### Additional Commentary

This writer, however, strongly disagrees with deMause (1982) on his conclusions that hunter-gatherer's are in the infanticide mode, which is not supported by the quantitative cross-cultural data reviewed herein.

To begin with, the childhood of Australian aborigines, like that of all contemporary hunter-gatherers, is in the infanticidal mode. That is, they not only kill a large proportion of their newborns without remorse, but also treat those they do bring up with a combination of severe neglect, physical and emotional abuse, and symbiotic clinging (emphasis added, 1982, p.273). and

The conclusions of anthropologists like Whiting, Child, Bacon and others that hunting groups have a wide range of child-rearing modes from poor to good are--unfortunately, in my opinion (see footnote 107)--based on wholly inadequate anthropological field evidence. We started *The Journal of Psychological Anthropology* precisely to counter this condition and to give psychoanalytically-trained anthropologists a chance to restudy these groups. Whatever reliable evidence does exist, however, confirms the infanticidal basis of their parenting, and the mistake of previous anthropologists of labeling neglect "permissiveness" and symbiotic clinging "warmth" (1982, Footnote #112, p.325).