CONTENTS

Series Editors' Introduction ix

About This Volume x

CHAPTER 1

The Social Construction of Gender and Families 1

A Social Constructionist Approach 1
What Is Family? 3
What Is Gender? 7
Gender and Social Reproduction 7
Understanding Gender and Families 9
Using Gender as a Lens 9
Thinking for Yourself 9
Using Popular Culture 10
Family Rituals and the Construction of Reality 13
Home for the Holidays 13
Making Sense of the Thanksgiving Ritual 15
Rituals Reaffirm Family Ties 18
Family Rituals Reproduce Gender 19
Family Diversity 22
Organization of the Book 24

CHAPTER 2

Love, Sex, and Marriage 26

Love Advice in the 20th Century 26 Advice for the Lovelorn, 1900 to 1950 27

How to Win and Hold a Husband 27 "Fascinating Womanhood" in the 1960s and 1970s 30 The "Ideal Woman" From a Man's Point of View 30 Romance in the 1990s 32 Gender and Emotion Management 32 Contemporary Patterns of Flirting 33 Popular Images of Romantic Love 35 Love and Marriage in the Past 35 The Birth of Courtly Love 38 Sentimental Love and Modern Marriage 40 Sex as Marital Property 40 The Continuing Significance of Romantic Love 43 Love Matches and Marriage Markets 44 Sexual Exchanges 44 Dateline Personal Advertisements 46 Marriage Exchanges 47 Homogamy 49 Concluding Thoughts on Love, Sex, and Marriage 52

CHAPTER 3

Paid Work and Family Life 53

Chris and Pat's Activity Log 53
Work and Family Life 56
Separate Spheres: Myth or Reality? 57
From Home Production to a Market Economy 58
The Persistence of the Ideal of Separate Spheres 62
Separate Spheres and Gender Inequality 63
Modern Labor Market Trends 64
Work-Family Linkages 67
Job and Family Commitments 68
Who Does the Housework? 69
Stability and Change 71

CHAPTER 4

Mothers, Fathers, and Family Care 75

Letter From Mahatma Gandhi to His Son 75
Families and Care 77
Letter to an Unborn Child: Jessie Bernard
to Dorothy Lee 78

Gender and Care 81

Historical Views of Family Care 83
Shifting Images of Children 83
Shifting Images of Fathers 85
Shifting Images of Mothers 87
Moving Into the 1950s 89

Modern Parenting 90
Compulsory Motherhood 90
Recent Fertility Patterns 91
Realities of Parenthood 96
After the Baby Arrives 98
Bringing the Fathers Back In 102
Prospects for the Future 105

CHAPTER 5

Engendering Children 107

Images of Childhood Gender Difference 108
The World According to Mother Goose 108
Theories of Gender Socialization 110
Child Socialization 112
Separating Boys and Girls 114
Psychoanalytic Gender Theory 116
Cognitive Gender Theory 120
Patterns of Gender Socialization 123
Gender Differences in Treatment of Infants 124
Gender Differences in Treatment of Children 125
Boys and Masculinity 127
Parenting and Gender Inequality 129

CHAPTER 6

Regulating Families and Gender 132

Man Claims Right to Rape His Wife 132
Wife Killer Awarded Custody of Daughter 132
Abused Husband Denied Custody of Son 133
Gender, Family, and the Law 134
Family Policy and the State 135
Theories Linking State, Family, and Gender 140
Pluralist Theories 141

Conflict Theories 141 Class Conflict 141 Patriarchy 142 Family Law in Historical Perspective 143 The Legal Doctrine of Coverture 143 Husbands' Rights Over Wives 144 Nineteenth-Century Feminist Challenges to Coverture 146 Modern Vestiges of Marriage as Property 148 Marriage Customs and Laws Change Together 150 Government Child Support 151 Child Support and Child Custody Reforms 153 Gender Politics in Custody/Support Reforms 154 Should Laws and Policies Be Based on Gender Differences? 156 The Larger Social Context 158

CHAPTER 7

Where Do We Go From Here? 160

The Major Social Forces 162
Economic Trends 162
Social Trends 167
Demographic Trends 168
Political Trends 172
Putting It All Together 176

References 179 Index 207 About the Author 220