

The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap By Stephanie Coontz **The way we never were the new republic** Coontz points out that the idealized 1950's family which many people look back to so fondly is in part a "created" cultural memory derived from old television shows and books like Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House" series. **Book the way we never were** She also reminds readers that the comfortable lives portrayed on "Leave it to Beaver" and "Father Knows Best" were not generally available to families outside of the white middle class. **The way we never were by stephanie coontz** She shows that the 1950's offered unusual opportunities for men to attend college.

The way we never were book

But what's really great about this book is the focus on how the history of capitalism changed family life and how women's roles were shaped vis a vis the new role made up for men as "self-interested" market players. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** A study of hospitalized schizophrenic women in the San Francisco area were sometimes given electric shock treatments to force women to accept their domestic roles and their husbands dictates; and failure to want a baby signified dangerous emotional disturbances. **The way we never were by stephanie coontz** Women could not have credit cards in their own name.

The way we never were pdf

This is another title which I picked in "honor" of this presidential election year - a time when thoughts turn to the possibility and desirability of social change and we ponder whether we should or could set things back to The Way They Were back in some previous era (when to mangle Garrison Keillor's iconic phrase all the women were good housekeepers all the men were good providers and all the children were clean and respectful. **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** With these updates the book really is a very interesting look at the arrangements of and challenges to the modern American family thanks to government programs and that even for men who did not go to college a booming economy and strong job market allowed for early marriage and for a husband to securely support a family. **The way we never were summary** She explores various ideas about how families "used to be" self-sufficient prudent and virtuous citing historical data to demonstrate that things were not quite as rosy as we "remember" them and that regardless thanks to changed circumstances and expectations we really can't turn back the clock. **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** While I enjoyed most of the book very much the last few chapters 9 10 and 11 contained less historical perspective being more focused on the political and social causes of current issues and less on how these particular issues have been handled at earlier times in our history. **The way we never were chapter 4 summary** Coontz does a fairly good job for the most part in offering a balanced presentation but of course she does have opinions about which developments are good and which are not and who is most to blame when things go wrong and the sections of the book which offer commentary on current situations are the most likely to irritate readers who don't share all of the author's views. **The way we never were summary** Three and a half stars rounded up but I'd rather have had that half-star option! 9780465090976 Coontz presents the historical facts of American family life and political and economic movements in hopes of demonstrating that the families of the past were not so idyllic and the families of the present are not so dysfunctional as they are often portrayed. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** She points out that drug abuse was more widespread a hundred years ago alcohol consumption was three times higher and prostitution and serious sexually transmitted infections were more prevalent. **The way we never were summary** The US has had the highest homicide rates in the industrial world for 150 years and we had sadistic lynch mobs and teen murderers long before violent video games or gay people could be blamed. **The way we never were book** By correcting these sorts of

historical distortions Coontz frees us up to learn the actual lessons of the past: that children can thrive in a wide variety of caregiving arrangements that racist and sexist assumptions harm our families and children and that poverty and economic insecurity have a huge impact on personal and family dysfunction. **The way we never were book** Coontz ends her introduction with this: As long as our view of family change is refracted through the lens of nostalgia for the past we will not be able to see a way forward. **Book the way we never were** But by learning how complex and multifaceted the experience of family life has been in the past along with the trade-offs reversals and diverse outcomes that have accompanied change we may be able to develop a greater tolerance for the ambiguities of contemporary family life rather than longing for a past that was never as idyllic or uncomplicated as we sometimes imagine. **The way we never were stephanie coontz** Only when we have a realistic idea of how families have and have not worked in the past can we make informed decisions about how to support families in the present and improve our future. **The way we never were book** Given that Coontz's book is now more than two decades old I was expecting that it would perhaps have little to offer someone mired in the concerns of a twenty-first century young adult. **The way we never were the new republic** And while I found myself glossing over much of the statistical information (most of which I assume is too outdated to be useful outside a purely historical context) I was delighted to find that *The Way We Never Were* offers a highly intelligent and nuanced look at family life in twentieth century American history. **The way we never were book** And while I'd love to report that we've blazed a new trail in the two decades since this book's original publication all I can do is marvel at Coontz's remarkable assessment of American problems and lament our continuing inability to address the core issues that are bringing this country to its knees. **The way we never were book** The most important of these is the hollowing out of the American middle class and the ever-widening gap between normal citizens and the ultra-wealthy especially when it comes to quality of life and political influence. **The way we never were stephanie coontz** Coontz makes it her mission to expose such narratives for what they are: oversimplified myths that obfuscate the truth and prevent communities from meeting problems with the informed unified action they demand. **The way we never were quizlet** Coontz is not naive enough to think she can exempt herself entirely from the hordes of historians seeking to condense history for the purposes of analysis and communication to a wide audience but she maintains a high level of scholarly integrity by carefully circumscribing the follies of both liberal and conservative ideologies. **The way we never were pdf** I carefully parsed her assertions for signs of unfair bias but ultimately had to conclude that her motives stem from a sincere desire to serve up an authentic historical account rather than from feckless ideology. **The way we never were by stephanie coontz** Though Coontz does a great job of demonstrating the problems with dualistic assessments of historical trends (individual/community wealthy/poor devious/virtuous) she can't escape wading through the swamp of our national tendency to break down social problems into simple easily consumed bites that almost always demonize some force or set of forces either internal or external for which we are not ultimately responsible. **The way we never were book** And while she certainly does not shy away from the huge obstacles families face when trying to overcome powers beyond their immediate control Coontz's larger purpose is to point out that the process of reviving America insofar as it is possible must start inside each of us and then slowly expand into our family circles and greater communities. **The way we never were chapter 4 summary** Coontz refuses to let anyone off the hook although she is appropriately sympathetic with the most vulnerable members of our society most of whom lack the stability and resources to concern themselves with matters beyond daily survival and the maintenance of highly parochial bonds. **The way we never were chapter 4 summary** Through the painstaking process of setting up accepted myths and then exposing the ways they fail to sow the seeds of pragmatic action she implores us to get comfortable with ambiguity and run historical events through multiple self-correcting filters. **The way we never were stephanie coontz**) tend to support the use of force and/or government regulation to rein in the actions of opposing groups but then protest vehemently when similar restraints are placed on behaviors deemed permissible by the in-group--an outlook bolstered by contemporary research

explicating the profound effect of tribalism on our psychological dispositions. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** To her credit Coontz's personal agenda doesn't appear to extend beyond the general goal of improving life for all Americans; she successfully eschews sectarianism and instead focuses on laying bare our true enemy: human frailty as embodied in our most cherished and often spurious stories. **The way we never were reaction paper** She did this by defrocking some of the mechanisms I use to justify my own lifestyle most notably my readiness to embrace cynicism about the prospects of success for almost any social or political movement. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** I don't blame myself entirely for embracing this kind of thinking which is endemic in my generation as well as in our increasingly polarized American communities but I also can't distance myself entirely from this approach to life. **Book the way we never were** I think the modern stats and commentary are fine political and demographic changes Coontz sheds new light on such contemporary concerns as parenting privacy love the division of labor along gender lines the black family feminism and sexual practice. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap Coontz presents a much-needed argument on the futility of conservative nostalgia for the good old days chock-full of statistics. **The way we never were stephanie coontz** Anyone advocating a patriarchal family model taken from back in time when men women and children knew their place needs to study the history of the American family first and Coontz adeptly proves that few have. **The way we never were sparknotes** Gender roles have almost always been determined by economic systems and throughout history couples have engaged in premarital sex domestic violence has been more common than anyone wants to admit and (poor & working class) women have worked to support their children. **The way we never were quizlet** Unfortunately Coontz spends little time addressing those who advocate the 1950's ideal that never existed and why they do perhaps because she hopes to give her arguments bipartisan appeal. **The way we never were the new republic** She mentions the fact that the greatest change since the 1950's has been the empowerment of women to take charge of birth control when engaging in pre-marital sex and the opening of the workforce to middle class as well as working class women. **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** All her evidence contradicts the cries of the angry backlash against women's rights gay rights single mothers and immorality and proves that in the end it all comes down to the threat these movements pose to patriarchy. **The way we never were chapter 4 summary** She also fails to address the central role television has had in this national debate albeit at the crux of her argument is the fictional American family conservatives love to cite as their model. **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** While pornography homosexuality pre-marital sex and swearing have always existed the invention of the television and sitcoms posed the question of how much of it should be nationally on display in our homes every evening. **The way we never were chapter 4 summary** Social critics can pretend all they want that families like the Cleavers dominated the suburbs as well as the airwaves back in the day but in truth the Simpsons and their ilk were everywhere. **The way we never were chapter 4 summary** BG събеседниците говореха за носталгията по соца и как нашите родители баби и дядовци* влизат в капана на доброто старо време мечтаейки за времето когато са били млади силни и изпълнени с очакване по идващото отъждествяват политическата епоха и собствените си хубави дни. **The way we never were chapter 4 summary** За това как си представяме миналото пречупено през художествения свят на киното телевизията рекламата мофата и клишетата без да се опираме на реалните факти. **The way we never were pdf** В златните 50 когато за всички имало работа нивата на бедност били по-високи отколкото 40 години по-късно; домакините се тъпчели с транквиланти за да понесат прекомерните обществени изисквания; а политическият лов на вещици набирал сила. **The way we never were stephanie coontz** You think that we've got new and original family problems these days? Unprecedented government meddling into family affairs? Rigid definitions or overly lax ones? Hah-- nothing is new under the sun. **Book the way we never were** Coontz takes us through American history and explores chapter-by-chapter such Truthy ideas as Families stand on their own two feet A Man's home is his castle The Feminist movement is responsible for domestic failure First comes love then

marriage then baby as well as mind-blowing historical discussions of the ideas of women and men's separate spheres and love and consumerism. **The way we never were the new republic** Coontz uncovers facts and figures that contradict the popular myth of the family of the 50s 60s and earlier as well as shining a light on both conservatives' and liberals' tendencies to blame the other for society's ills. **The way we never were by stephanie coontz** Their buying power was further enhanced by our extraordinary competitive advantage at the end of the war (nor could I in the 60's and that irritated me then!) Men were also pressured for the lack of a suitable wife could mean loss of a job or a promotion. **The way we never were chapter 4 summary** 9780465090976 Stephanie Coontz teaches history and family studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia Washington and is Director of Research and Public Education for the Council on Contemporary Families which she chaired from 2001 04,

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And the ways in which nostalgia for a "mythical" family of decades past affects modern political policies and individuals' personal goals, **The way we never were book** I hadn't really heard it described that way before and now I'm going to go mine her sources for more thinking on that: **The way we never were stephanie coontz** 9780465090976 Looks unsurprising but perhaps useful for arguments with the next pushy social conservative I meet: **The way we never were reaction paper** 9780465090976 The Way We Never Were examines two centuries of American family life and shatters a series of myths and half-truths that burden modern families, **The way we never were citation** Placing current family dilemmas in the context of far-reaching economic.

The way we never were summary

When every other industrial power was devastated by the war. **The way we never were summary** During the 1950's real wages increased by more than they had in the entire previous half-century. **The way we never were sparknotes** After the war women were expelled from their jobs or forced to do the same job at a lower pay and they were encouraged to stay home and raise families. **The way we never were summary**)Originally published in 1992 the edition I read has a 2016 Introduction and Epilogue which after 25 years are an important addition, **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** In them Coontz extensively addresses the changes which have taken place since the publication of the first edition and the ways in which her predictions have proved correct or not. **Book the way we never were** Despite agreeing with her much of the time I still found these chapters a bit sluggish - she does best when she is offering a historical view of the American family, **The way we never were book** Which thankfully is what she does for the greater part of the book. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** She argues that historical mythologizing about family life distracts us from constructively examining how best to serve families and communities: **The way we never were stephanie coontz** The 1950s was an extremely atypical economic period with higher job security more affordable housing and less income inequality. **The way we never were summary** but these were not due to 1950s family practices but rather the time's economic and political support systems for families, **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** Families have rarely been economically or socially self-sufficient; families have relied upon governmental assistance from the frontier times and beyond. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** I thought the book was well argued and drew upon a good variety of sources, **The way we never were book** Truthfully I want to own this book so I can return to it often: **The way we never were quizlet** 9780465090976 My mother is a professor of American history and many of my earliest memories pertaining to her professional life involve her unabashed enthusiasm for this book, **The way we never were book** Now that I've finally taken the time to read it I understand why it made such a strong impression. **The way we never were sparknotes** Using the family as a focal lens the

book generates a precise and intriguing image of American communities economics and politics in the early 1990s, **The way we never were citation** Best (and worst) of all it provides frighteningly prescient insights about the risks we face if we sustain certain courses of action inimical to the health of our democracy, **Book the way we never were** As mentioned my one major critique of this book is that its statistics are only useful for someone seeking to understand where American families were in the early 1990s, **The way we never were pdf** This is a problem faced by any aging history book so I can't fault Coontz for it. **The way we never were by stephanie coontz** Her commendably straightforward writing demonstrates a rare mixture of ambiguity and clarity making her arguments both accessible and also appropriately difficult to nail down. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** History Coontz reminds us is never as simple as we'd like it to be. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** She takes careful aim at traditional historical narratives which typically seek to establish one or two central metaphors and then bend historical events to fit them, **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** One key way way to achieve this balance is to consider how various ideological factions (liberal conservative libertarian etc. **The way we never were summary** While this book was fascinating to me for intellectual reasons it also achieved a deeper level of personal resonance. **The way we never were sparknotes** Coontz was able to penetrate my armor of reasoning and reach my more vulnerable emotional side: **Book the way we never were** Like many millennials I have little faith in collective action. **The way we never were by stephanie coontz** I often scoff at people who want to make a difference beyond the world they can see and touch even as I harbor small illusions of somehow being able to do so. **The way we never were by stephanie coontz** These illusions almost always involve achieving some small personal goal or one that I share with a small number of like-minded people. **The way we never were by stephanie coontz** It's always easier to stay on the sidelines and claim status as a non-participant when things don't work out: **The way we never were chapter 4 summary** Beyond my personal aspirations which seem to grow ever smaller and less ambitious as the years pass this has been my general approach to life, **The way we never were pdf** And I think it's fair to say that won't change very much certainly not very quickly. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** But Coontz's book has helped to articulate something in me the reawakening of a need for community that always lurks under the surface: **The way we never were the new republic** Time will tell whether this desire will transcend beyond mere velleity but for now it has gained a greater degree of influence in my committee of self. **Book the way we never were 9780465090976** This book is fantastic—even though it was written a while back, **The way we never were book** Domestic violence and incest she points out have in fact always occurred more commonly in families with rigid patriarchal gender roles like those emblazoned on TV in the 1950's. **Book the way we never were** My relatives at the time reflected back the Cleavers' nuclear family image while in fact there was alcoholism previous marriages abortion and teen pregnancy, **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** The difference between that generation and mine is that their non-idealistic family moments remain family secrets. **The way we never were sparknotes** With ninety pages of end notes and almost ten statistics per paragraph the book is much more of an academic thesis than a social or political commentary, **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** This is excellent in terms of giving her argument more substance than all her opponents' books combined but it makes for a dry read: **The way we never were the new republic** I had bought it under the impression that her writing style would be as fluid and wry as it was in the introduction but she scrapped it to make room for statistics. **The way we never were the new republic 9780465090976** В един неотдавнашен епизод на История: **The way we never were reaction paper** Пропускайки лошите неща - всъщност реалните факти. **The way we never were by stephanie coontz** Онова което никога не сме били разказва именно за капана на носталгията: **Book the way we never were** Или поточно носталгиите в американската история**. **The way we never were citation** Защото когато се намесят фактите ♦♦артината не изглежда толкова розова, **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** Но тъй като процесите са универсални смятам че има какво да научим и за нас самите: **The way we never were reaction paper** * Не изключвам и по-младите но лично

аз го наблюдавам у по-възрастните, **The way we never were stephanie coontz pdf** Assumptions so deep and unexamined that they seem like Truth are carefully teased out into the open and examined in the light of history, **Book the way we never were** It reminds me of the meaning of education the real reason to go to college and read books-- there are things you can't intuit by yourself-- you have to be shown, **The way we never were pdf** Your assumptions have to be brought forward in your mind and compared with facts: **The way we never were reaction paper** Any discussion of the family broils with political heat but not this one. **The way we never were summary** She stands so solidly on a foundation of historical facts that all sides of a discussion will be stumped and enlightened. **The way we never were chapter 3 summary** Absolutely everybody who is a member of a family or thinks families are important should read this book, **The way we never were book** My one criticism of the book is that it is 15 years old: **The way we never were stephanie coontz** I am anxious to know what she would report on the American Family in the last couple of decades: **The way we never were the new republic 9780465090976** This is another of the sociology books that has caused me to be pretty skeptical of most blanket statements we hear about how things are, **The way we never were the new republic** Though it contributed to making me a skeptic it is also encouraging, **The way we never were book** If you like your life but are afraid you aren't doing it right relax, **The way we never were pdf 9780465090976** This is an interesting book even though it's quite old now 1992: **The way we never were stephanie coontz** The 1950's family was a new invention and a historical fluke based on a unique and temporary conjuncture of economical social and political factors: **The way we never were reaction paper** During WWII Americans had saved at a rate more than three times higher than in the decades before or since, **Book the way we never were** Battered women were regarded as masochist's who provoked their husbands into beating them: **Book the way we never were** Tranquilizers were developed in the 50's in response to a need that physicaians explicitly saw in females that was non-existant in 1955 and reached 462000 pounds in 1958 and 1: **The way we never were quizlet** 15 billion pounds in 1959!There's far more data in the book hopefully this will wet your appitite to investigate further. **The way we never were the new republic** Her writings have been translated into French Arabic Spanish Russian Czech German Norwegian Turkish Greek Chinese Ukrainian and Japanese. She cites well and often. It's a truth be told approach and an admirable one. Hesistant to identify her opponents she doesn't emphasize it.** Особено онази по 50-те години. 9780465090976 This book is BLOWING my tiny mind. This book is a wonderful education. With that said there's nothing confrontational about this book. A marvelously relevant history book. This in particular is about our collective past. You are hard to believe it's 20 years old. I'll just quote a couple of paragraphs.

