

*The Road to Whatever: Middle-Class Culture and the Crisis of Adolescence [Elliott Currie] on blog.quintoapp.com
FREE shipping on qualifying offers. An energetic, provocative, and much-needed investigation of the root causes of the epidemic of drug abuse.*

Elliott Currie, an American academic with a Pulitzer Prize-nominated pedigree, proves that he is not afraid to leave the comfort of the lecture hall to meet alienated, rejected young people across America in an attempt to explain a very contemporary phenomenon: The implications are chilling. Currie is also eloquent on the paradox of public perceptions about why teenagers behave so badly across much of comfortable, suburban America, and the reality of how they are being brought up. The media, for instance, has tended to focus on a familiar list of suspects: Currie then states how these popular diagnoses are strangely at odds with the truth: He then explains how he is going to explore the troubles of American youth in this Darwinian context, based on lengthy, recurring interviews with white, middle class, young men and women who are either currently in trouble or have just emerged from the hell of a desperately unhappy adolescence. Currie concedes that they do not represent a systematic sample, but he does say that they all display compelling examples of the sort of behaviour that troubles us most; and all describe a world far removed from the kind of cosseted, indulgent environments we assume they inhabit. Here, possibly, the neutral observer might quibble with the broad sweep of his findings. His target audience has not been selected scientifically or subjected to comparison and scrutiny via a control group. Occasionally it is unavoidable to escape the feeling that only one voice is being heard each time. For instance, Currie spends much of his time exploring the answer to the question why most of his subjects shoot heroin, drive cars dangerously, cut themselves etc. Currie discovers that they have trouble being clear or specific. At the core of this state of mind is a general feeling of not caring what happens, to them or anyone else. Sometimes this state of apathy was reached after a long build-up over time, and in other cases it was sudden, explosive. But whatever the case, the lack of caring was total “about what people think of them, what the physical consequences might be, or what the official consequences may be. Frighteningly, Currie suggests that there are now many more risky opportunities available to adolescents, especially with drugs and cars and bikes, and that long term worries become replaced in many of their minds by the immediate, practical need to get high and have a laugh. And he returns again and again to the middle class conundrum. Surely they have more to lose? Yes, they agree, we do, but we carry on anyway. At the extreme, some of his interviewees actually embraced the consequences.

Chapter 2 : The Road to Whatever | Books2Search

Elliott Currie is the author of The Road to Whatever, Confronting Crime, Reckoning, and Crime and Punishment in America. An internationally recognized authority on youth and crime, he is a professor of criminology, law, and society at the University of California, Irvine.

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Chapter 3 : THE ROAD TO WHATEVER: Middle-Class Culture and the Crisis of Adolescence

So there is more than one road to 'Whatever'; but there are common themes and remarkably similar experiences, chief of which is that life in mainstream America is much harder, more unforgiving and precarious than the conventional picture would have us believe.

Statistically and anecdotally, it seems that alienation, desperation, and violence have slowly crept into the one demographic that has always appeared safe. Currie argues that zero-tolerance policies, pressure to succeed, and lack of social services has exacerbated this crisis. In the decade since publication, however, the U. Anecdotal evidence is not enough to indicate a trend, let alone a crisis, but according to Currie, white youth are at measurably high levels of risk for suicide, traffic accidents, drug abuse, and binge drinking compared to youth in other racial and ethnic categories. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC, however, homicide rates among African-American males years of age far exceed those of white males in the same age group. Currie argues that denial, incomprehension, or demonization has characterized our response to this crisis. Parents, politicians, and pundits often blame factors like the erosion of discipline, growing leniency and indulgence, and weakened authority of parents and schools for this violence. That blame is misplaced, according to Currie, because rather than being more lenient, schools and courts have become much harsher and less forgiving of youthful indiscretions. Zero-tolerance policies have criminalized even acts as simple as carrying Advil in school. If lack of a government support system is to blame, for instance, why would these problems be more prevalent today than in the past, when there were fewer social services? Furthermore, why is this crisis afflicting white middle class youth, who have typically been in less need of those services than other demographics? Also, *The Road to Whatever* lacks an explanation for high profile acts of school violence in other industrialized nations, such as Germany and Finland, that possess such public support services. Sociologists like Elliot Currie tend to exaggerate social problems in order to influence the public to adopt their reforms. As mentioned earlier, teen pregnancy rates and drug use among all demographics are on the decline. teen pregnancy in the U. Dewey Cornell, a clinical psychologist and education professor at the University of Virginia, told NPR that despite high profile acts of school violence, school is actually the safest place for students to be. It comes as no surprise that Francis Fox Piven, coauthor of the Cloward-Piven strategy, would give this book a ringing endorsement on the back cover. Piven, a socialist and New Left activist of the 60s, advocated overloading the U. This is unfortunate, because his ideological blinders weaken what could have otherwise been an interesting look at white, middle class youth in crisis. Susan Garner I had to read this book for a class I am taking and it was very interesting. These are kids who have lived in crack houses and on the streets after being tossed out by their parents at ages 14 and up. These are middle-class youth who supposedly had all the advantages to excel in life but derailed into a world most of us would like to believe will never touch us or those we love. If you work with youth or are raising children, I would recommend that you read this. Dec 31, Carrie rated it liked it Read this for class. May 15, Jen rated it did not like it The author missed one important fact when dealing with addiction. Apr 08, Joel Bruns rated it really liked it Recommends it for:

Chapter 4 : The road to whatever (edition) | Open Library

The Road to Whatever: Middle-Class Culture and the Crisis of Adolescence - Kindle edition by Elliott Currie. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets.

The evening news tells us they are influential in terms of style and spending power, and their options for the future are generally bright. The reality, however, may be different. Underneath the MTV-inspired view of teens lays a world where many have become disaffected and feel rejected, pushing them to take a "whatever" view to their present and future. *Middle-Class Culture and the Crisis of Adolescence* explores these teens through a series of interviews that investigates their personal problems -- drug abuse, criminal activity, poor parenting, unresponsive schools and a society that takes little notice. Although typically presented as an oasis of stability, Currie argues that middle-class families are being subjected to powerful economic and societal forces out of their control. Taking the brunt of these forces is what Currie refers to as non-conformist teens, punished by parents, school and society for what are often relatively minor transgressions. Currie argues that these teens are blamed for their problems instead of receiving support and are sometimes ejected -- sometimes figuratively, all too often literally -- from their homes, schools and mainstream society. Forced to make their way in the world, these teens often flounder and pursue a self-destructive course. Against all odds, however, many of them ultimately discover an internal strength that allows them to piece together their shattered lives and become productive members of society. While many of their stories have positive outcomes, Currie decries a competitive society that causes these problems in the first place. Teens are thrown into a market-driven society that gives them only two options: Schools punish anyone challenging or may challenge authority. Mental health professionals prescribe pills instead of addressing the root issues. Exacerbating all of these problems, argues Currie, is the era of cutbacks inaugurated during the Reagan years, eviscerating the government programs that many relied on. America, he argues, needs to create more family friendly government programs -- such as universal health care and "generous" paid parental leaves. The mental health community must respect its charges and offer credible treatment, not simply blame the victim and offer poorly monitored pharmaceutical strategies. *The Road to Whatever* is not without some serious problems even if you agree with its conclusions. That may speak to the converted, but those who demand a more clinical treatment will likely regard the book as adding little to the body of knowledge on the subject. Currie has essentially offered up a series of anecdotes that he has tied together into a polemical effort aimed at what he refers to as excessive individualism and a society unwilling to care for many of its children. He may be right but what his book offers us is opinion that is largely backed up by his "informants," not objective data. Individualism is a good thing but many of us may be throwing our children into the crucible at too early an age. Steven Martinovich is a freelance writer in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. Buy *The Road to Whatever*:

Chapter 5 : The Road to Whatever By Elliott Currie

The Road To Whatever is a book that could contain answers for parents and teens alike to get onto the road of not only recovery, but a better understanding of their problems. Guest More than 1 year ago.

Chapter 6 : BookLoons Reviews - Road to Whatever by Elliott Currie

The Road to Whatever Middle-Class Culture and the Crisis of Adolescence. By Elliott Currie "The new Darwinism is not only tough but also distinctly uncaring and irresponsible; under its sway, we have become a society that is often self-righteously hard on children but simultaneously unwilling to accept the responsibility of actually bringing them up."

Chapter 7 : The Road to Whatever: Middle-Class Culture and the | eBay

Vivid, compelling, and deeply empathetic, The Road to Whatever is a profound investigation of what has gone wrong for

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so many American teenagers and a stark indictment of a society that has lost the will-or the capacity-to care.

Chapter 8 : The road to whatever : Elliott Currie : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

Harsh criticism of middle-class American culture, one pervaded by a new form of social Darwinism that places its youth at increasingly high risk for the ills long associated with disadvantaged adolescents. Sociologist Currie (Criminology, Law, and Society/Univ. of California, Irvine; Reckoning,

Chapter 9 : [PDF/ePub Download] the road to whatever eBook

Popularly deemed a problem of the minority poor, adolescent crime is also an issue of the suburban middle class, argues sociologist Currie (Crime and Punishment in America) in his close look at.