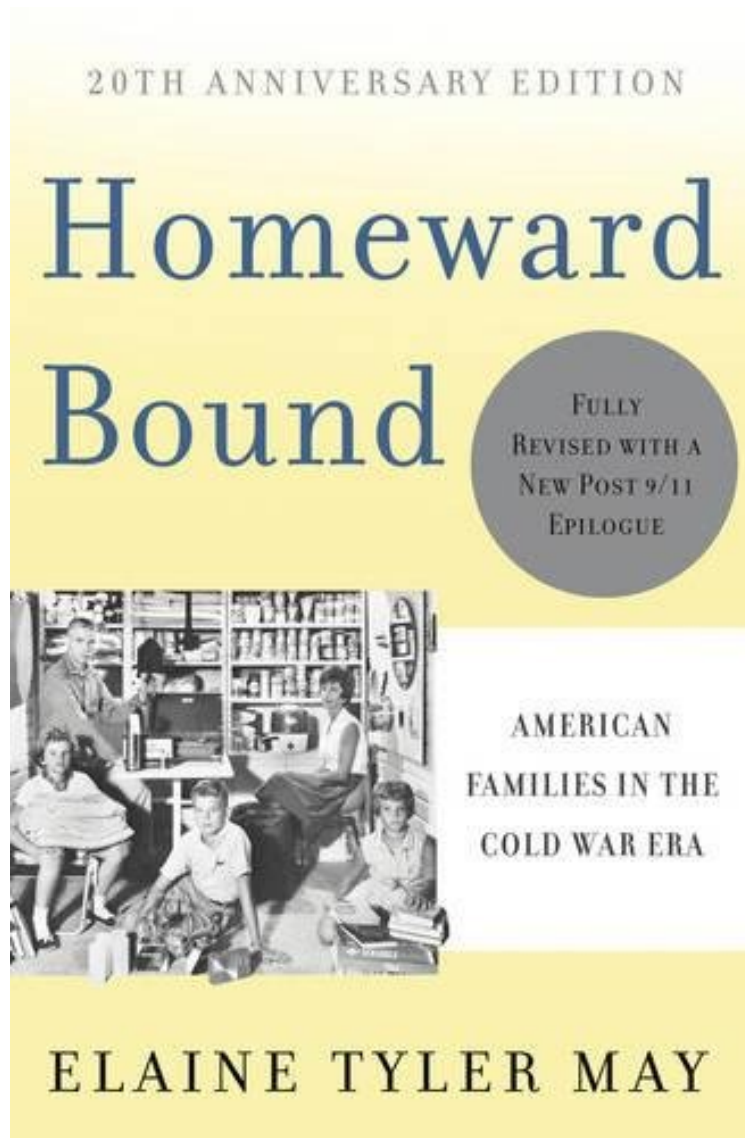


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Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era

Elaine Tyler May

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Elaine Tyler May : Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Maybe Home Bound?By parallelOther reviewers complained that this wasn't history. If by that they meant it wasn't the nostalgia-soaked 1950s as Leave It To Beaver and Happy Days, they're right. It is, however, a well-researched and cogently presented window into the hidden marriage life of the

time. This is a difficult view to find but Dr. May is able to mine the data and arrive at a more well-developed and complex vision of family life of the 50s. In effect, she shows how the dream of security, a husband and children were presented as the prize to be won, but once won often created a sense of loss that even the women that lived it had a hard time understanding. She is equally able in presenting the conflict and confusion men experienced. Particularly interesting was how she was able to compare views of individual husbands and wives using a 300 person anonymous study. The only complaint I had was the clunky last chapter which had virtually nothing to do with the topic and instead was a polemic on 9/11. Fortunately, it was short and didn't wash out the positive experience of the other 90% of the book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent snapshots of American Life, esp from the 40's thru the 70's By Beavis Original book written prior to 9/11 (2001). This is basically the same book with the addition of another chapter covering the 9/11 events and bringing the book more up to date and is considered the 20th Anniversary issue. Book was well researched with Appendix as well as detailed NOTES section - I would highly recommend reading this book for those who want a look behind the scenes of American Life, in detail, especially covering from WWII thru the 70's - eye opener. A lot of stats, lot of research, lot of analysis and well told (not boring!). 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I feel like I already knew all this. By The Sassy Countess So, apparently if I have seen something, then I still have to cite it from this era. Weird, because I saw all of this on television and read it in the magazines. If you have lived through this era, or even born in this era (like me), don't waste your money if you don't have to. However, if you don't know anything about this era, then this is the book for you.

When *Homeward Bound* first appeared in 1988, it forever changed how we understand Cold War America. Elaine Tyler May demonstrated that the Atomic Age and the Cold War shaped American life not just in national politics, but at every level of society, from the boardroom to the bedroom. Her notion of "domestic containment" is now the standard interpretation of the era, and *Homeward Bound* has become a classic. This new edition includes an updated introduction and a new epilogue examining the legacy of Cold War obsessions with personal and family security in the present day.

From *Library Journal* May (history, Minnesota) seeks to reconcile two prevailing but contradictory images of the 1950s: the notion of domestic tranquility and happiness amidst the fears and tensions of the Cold War. She does so by locating American family life within the larger political culture and by arguing that the retreat to the privacy and security of the home was a response to the era's political insecurities. Drawing on a wide range of sources, including data on 300 couples, she finds ideological connections between Cold War policies and conservative social "norms." A provocative thesis that will stir debate. Marie Marmo Mullaney, Caldwell Coll., N.J. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A major addition to the literature on the history of the family [that] significantly enhances our understanding of American society in the 1950s." -New York Times "As Elaine Tyler May...has explained, marriage was not necessarily a positive expression of love or family values in the '50s; it was also an expedient means of 'containing' sex among the young." -Frank Rich, New Republic "Skillfully piecing together a social history of sex roles and mores governing data, parenting, birth control, consumerism, and divorce from the Depression to the late '60s, May supports her thesis with a wide range of unusual evidence, from Hollywood scripts and movie magazines to opinion surveys, economic studies, and federal employment and civil defense policies." -Constance Perin, Los Angeles Times Book "May sets a new standard for social history by linking intimate family life of the 1950s with the larger imperatives of the Cold War. *Homeward Bound* should lay to rest forever the notion that the '50s represent some sort of benchmark for 'traditional values'...a fascinating look at this unique, even aberrant, decade." -Barbara Ehrenreich, author of *Dancing in the Streets* "Elaine Tyler May's *Homeward Bound* is a revelatory and path-breaking work, a brilliant excavation of the gender bedrock beneath the surreal landscape of Cold War American life. By connecting the bomb and the bedroom, the fallout shelter and the nuclear family, May links the personal with the political on profound new levels." -Susan Faludi, author of *The Terror Dream* "A provocative, always entertaining description of the interconnections between the Cold War anticommunism of post-World War II America and the domestic ideology that Betty Friedan unmasked..." -Signs "A provocative thesis that will stir debate." -Library Journal "This book helps the Baby Boom generation understand its genesis." -Booklist "May offers a sensitive, nuanced reading of domestic ideology, judging but never blaming. Her men are not oppressors, her women not betrayers....History has a long-and often dark-shadow in this book." -Beth Bailey, author of *Sex in the Heartland* "Particularly refreshing is May's superb use of images taken from Civil Defense publications....May's scholarship is superb." -Joseph M. Hawes, *Journal of American History* "May is fundamentally correct...that something was cooking under the surface of those placid 1950s families with their station wagons and their bomb shelters." -Eric Black, *Minneapolis Star Tribune* "Homeward Bound comes as a timely antidote to any nostalgia for the 'affluent' '50s or a revival of its domestic ideology." -Rochelle Gatlin, *San Francisco Chronicle* "This fascinating book shows us that the Cold War took place in kitchens, bedrooms and family rooms, as well as in the Pentagon. This is not just for historians-it's a good read for everyone." -Linda Gordon, *New York University* "Required reading for anyone who wants to understand how the upheavals in family

life of recent years could have happened so quickly after the baby-boom era of togetherness and stability."-Arlene Skolnick, University of California, Berkeley "A provocative, challenging, persuasive interpretation of the internal dynamics that shaped America family life in the postwar years." -William Chafe, author of *Never Stop Running About the Author* Elaine Tyler May is the Regents Professor in the Departments of American Studies and History at the University of Minnesota. She is the author books including *America and the Pill*, *Homeward Bound*, and *Barren in the Promised Land*, which received Honorable Mention for the William J. Goode Book Award. The former president of the American Studies Association and the Organization of American Historians, May has contributed to *Ms.*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, among other publications.