FREEDOM’S ORPHANS: CONTEMPORARY LIBERALISM AND THE FATE OF AMERICAN CHILDREN. By David L. Tubbs. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. 2007. Pp. x, 233. $27.95. In the post–World War II era, evolving concepts of liberalism have sparked controversy about the rights of adult citizens to sexual privacy, to marriage with whom they want, and to freedom of expression. Professor David Tubbs’s thought-provoking new book argues that concern about the welfare of American children has been largely missing from these debates, and more generally from the project of leading theorists of liberalism such as Isaiah Berlin, Susan Okin, and Ronald Dworkin. The Supreme Court, too, is guilty of this omission: Professor Tubbs argues that the Court’s concentration on adult liberty has led it to strike down restrictions on the use of contraceptives while ignoring the role such restrictions can play in promoting goals such as traditional marriage and two-parent families. Likewise, the Court’s First Amendment jurisprudence has been insufficiently attuned to the impact of obscene speech on children. The trenchant questions that Freedom’s Orphans raises about contemporary liberalism’s potentially misplaced priorities are ones that readers of any political orientation would do well to consider.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PRIVATE SPHERE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY. Edited by Dawn Oliver and Jörg Fedtke. New York: Routledge-Cavendish. 2007. Pp. x, 594. $65.00. Globalization and the increasing power of private corporations over the past few decades pose challenging questions for the protection of human rights. As private entities grow in power, questions of horizontal rights protection — between non-state actors — become as important as traditional vertical protections — between citizens and the state. In Human Rights and the Private Sphere, Professors Dawn Oliver and Jörg Fedtke join a number of other scholars in presenting a detailed analysis of the legal mechanisms available in fourteen countries for protecting individual citizens’ civil and political rights against encroachment by private entities. Professors Oliver and Fedtke also provide a comparative analysis of the jurisdictions, and conclude that ordinary legislation protecting individual rights in the private sphere may be more effective than constitutions outlining broad schemes of rights protection. The book concludes with country-by-country charts outlining the effects in the private sphere of rights-protection mechanisms illustrated with a few examples from case law. With its rigorous analysis and interesting comparative framework, this book should be useful to scholars and practitioners alike as they engage with what is becoming an increasingly important area of human rights law.