

a history of private life

A History of Private Life: Unveiling the Evolution of Personal Intimacy

Author: Philippe Ariès, a renowned French historian specializing in social history and the history of childhood. His groundbreaking work on the family and the concept of childhood significantly shaped the field and provided a crucial foundation for understanding the evolution of private life. His expertise in demographic history and social structures allowed him to provide rich context for A History of Private Life.

Publisher: Harvard University Press. Harvard University Press is a highly reputable academic publisher known for its rigorous peer-review process and commitment to publishing scholarly works of the highest quality. Their publication of A History of Private Life cemented its status as a seminal text in the field, contributing to its wide acceptance and influence within academic circles.

Editor: While the exact editors for each volume of A History of Private Life might vary, the overall editorial oversight ensured a high standard of scholarship and consistency. Editors with expertise in history, social sciences, and cultural studies would have been essential to shaping the multiple volumes into a cohesive and compelling exploration of the subject. Their contribution to the clarity and accuracy of the work is crucial to its impact.

The Genesis of "A History of Private Life"

A History of Private Life, a multi-volume series, isn't a single, unified narrative but rather a collaborative exploration of how the concept of "private life" has evolved across different cultures and historical periods. It challenges simplistic notions of privacy as an unchanging concept, revealing its complex and often contradictory development. The series expertly demonstrates how "a history of private life" is interwoven with broader social, political, and economic changes.

Key Themes in "A History of Private Life"

The series delves into several pivotal themes, shedding light on the shifting boundaries between public and private spheres:

1. **The Transformation of the Family:** A History of Private Life meticulously examines the evolution of family structures and dynamics across different eras. Ariès's work, for instance, revolutionized our understanding of childhood, arguing that the concept of childhood as a distinct stage of life is a relatively recent social construct. This profoundly impacts our understanding of family intimacy and the private sphere within the home. The research extensively uses archival sources like letters, diaries, and legal documents to paint a vivid picture of family life across centuries.

1. **The Body and Sexuality:** The series tackles the complex and often taboo subject of the body and sexuality, demonstrating how societal attitudes and perceptions have dramatically shifted throughout history. The changing representations of nudity, modesty, and sexual behavior reveal much about the evolving boundaries of private life and social control. Data from art history, literature, and legal codes illuminates the societal regulation and the evolving perception of the body in the private realm.
1. **The Development of Personal Space:** A History of Private Life traces the gradual development of personal space and the concept of privacy itself. It shows how the physical environments—homes, bedrooms, etc.—shaped and were shaped by conceptions of privacy. Quantitative data on housing sizes and architectural changes across different social classes helps illustrate how access to privacy was (and continues to be) unevenly distributed.
1. **The Role of Technology and Communication:** The influence of technological advancements, from the printing press to the internet, on private life is explored in detail. The series highlights how new forms of communication and information dissemination impact the balance between public and private spheres, creating both opportunities and challenges for individual privacy. The analysis examines how technological innovations have altered social interactions and the accessibility of personal information.
1. **Gender and Privacy:** The series doesn't shy away from examining the uneven distribution of privacy across genders. It meticulously documents how societal norms and power dynamics have impacted men's and women's experiences of privacy throughout history. Qualitative data from historical accounts and personal narratives illustrates the differing constraints and freedoms experienced by men and women within the private and public spheres.

Research Methodology and Findings

A History of Private Life employs a diverse range of methodologies, drawing upon historical demography, social anthropology, literary criticism, and art history. The authors meticulously analyze a vast array of primary sources, including diaries, letters, legal documents, paintings, and architectural plans, to build a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of private life across different cultures and historical periods. Their findings challenge essentialist notions of privacy, demonstrating its contingency and variability across time and space. The series relies heavily on quantitative data, such as birth and death rates, marriage patterns, and housing statistics, to contextualize qualitative insights and provide a broader understanding of social trends.

Summary and Conclusions

A History of Private Life reaches several crucial conclusions:

Privacy is not a universal or timeless concept. Its meaning and significance have evolved dramatically throughout history, shaped by social, political, and economic forces.

The boundaries between public and private life are fluid and contested. They are constantly renegotiated across different social groups and cultural contexts.

Access to privacy has never been equally distributed. Power dynamics, class distinctions, and gender inequalities have consistently shaped individuals' experiences of privacy.

Technological advancements have profoundly impacted the relationship between public and private life. These advancements have both expanded and eroded individual privacy in various ways.

The series's lasting impact lies in its ability to challenge conventional understandings of privacy and to reveal the complexities of personal experience within historical context. It offers a sophisticated and richly detailed narrative of how the concept of private life has emerged and transformed, showing its entanglement with broader social and cultural dynamics. It provides a vital framework for understanding contemporary debates about privacy in an increasingly interconnected world.

Conclusion

"A History of Private Life" stands as a monumental achievement in historical scholarship. Its multi-volume approach and interdisciplinary methodology offer an unprecedentedly rich and nuanced understanding of a concept central to human experience. The work's enduring relevance lies in its ability to illuminate the complexities of the private sphere and its continuous negotiation within the broader social landscape. The series serves as a crucial resource for anyone seeking to understand the historical roots of contemporary discussions about privacy, intimacy, and the evolving relationship between the individual and society.

FAQs

1. What is the main argument of "A History of Private Life"? The main argument is that the concept of private life is not static but has evolved significantly across history and varies across cultures, shaped by social, political, and economic forces.
1. What kind of sources does the book use? The book uses a diverse range of primary sources, including diaries, letters, legal documents, paintings, architectural plans, and quantitative data like birth and death rates.
1. How does the book define "private life"? The book avoids a singular definition, acknowledging the fluidity of the concept and emphasizing the different ways it has been understood and experienced across time and cultures.

1. What role does technology play in the book's narrative? Technology is presented as a key factor shaping the boundaries of private life, influencing communication, access to information, and the balance between public and private spheres.
1. How does the book address gender? The book explicitly addresses gender inequalities in access to and experience of privacy, highlighting the differing constraints and freedoms for men and women throughout history.
1. What is the significance of the book's interdisciplinary approach? The interdisciplinary approach, integrating history, anthropology, literary studies, and art history, allows for a richer and more nuanced understanding of the complexities of private life.
1. Who is the intended audience of "A History of Private Life"? The book is intended for a broad academic audience including historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and anyone interested in the history of social and cultural change.
1. What are the key criticisms of "A History of Private Life"? Some critics have questioned the book's scope and the generalization across vastly different cultures, calling for more nuanced regional analyses.
1. How is "A History of Private Life" relevant today? The book's insights remain incredibly relevant today, especially in the context of ongoing debates about digital privacy, surveillance, and the evolving relationship between the individual and the state.

Related Articles

1. "The History of Childhood" by Philippe Ariès: A seminal work exploring the evolution of childhood as a distinct social category and its impact on family structures and private life.
1. "The Private Lives of Public Figures" by [Insert relevant author]: An exploration of the tensions

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ancient city fully preserved, its urban design and domestic styles speaking across the ages. This richly illustrated book conducts us through the captured wonders of Pompeii, evoking at every turn the life of the city as it was 2,000 years ago. When Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D. its lava preserved not only the Pompeii of that time but a palimpsest of the city's history, visible traces of the different societies of Pompeii's past. Paul Zanker, a noted authority on Roman art and architecture, disentangles these tantalizing traces to show us the urban images that marked Pompeii's development from country town to Roman imperial city. Exploring Pompeii's public buildings, its streets and gathering places, we witness the impact of religious changes, the renovation of theaters and expansion of athletic facilities, and the influence of elite families on the city's appearance. Through these stages, Zanker adeptly conjures a sense of the political and social meanings in urban planning and public architecture. The private houses of Pompeii prove equally eloquent, their layout, decor, and architectural detail speaking volumes about the life, taste, and desires of their owners. At home or in public, at work or at ease, these Pompeians and their world come alive in Zanker's masterly rendering. A provocative and original reading of material culture, his work is an incomparable introduction to urban life in antiquity.

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essays in this volume, which lie at the intersection of the study of literature, social theory, and intellectual history, locate serious reflections on modernity's complexities in the vibrant currents of modern Indian literature, particularly in the realms of fiction, poetry, and autobiography. Sudipta Kaviraj shows that Indian writers did more than adopt new literary trends in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They deployed these innovations to interrogate fundamental philosophical questions of modernity. Issues central to modern European social theory grew into significant themes within Indian literary reflection, such as the influence of modernity on the nature of the self, the nature of historicity, the problem of evil, the character of power under the conditions of modern history, and the experience of power as felt by an individual subject of the modern state. How does modern politics affect the personality of a sensitive individual? Is love possible between intensely self-conscious people, and how do individuals cope with the transience of affections or the fragility of social ties? Kaviraj argues that these inquiries inform the heart of modern Indian literary tradition and that writers, such as Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, Rabindranath Tagore, and Sibnath Sastri, performed immeasurably important work helping readers to think through the predicament of modern times.

a history of private life: A Brief History of the Private Life of Elizabeth II Michael

Paterson, 2012-01-19 Elizabeth II is the longest-reigning British monarch. A personally quiet, modest and dutiful person, she is far better-informed about the lives of her subjects than they often realize. She has known every Prime Minister since Winston Churchill and every American President since Eisenhower. Yet what of the woman behind the crown? This book seeks to take a new look at this exhaustively-documented life and show how Queen Elizabeth became the person she is. Who, and what, have been the greatest influences upon her? What are her likes and dislikes? What are her hobbies? Who are her friends? What does she feel about the demands of duty and protocol? Is she really enjoying herself when she smiles during official events? How differently does she behave when out of the public eye? Examining the places in which she grew up or has lived, the training she received and her attitudes to significant events in national life, it presents a fresh view of one of recent history's most important figures. In recent years, Queen Elizabeth has become the longest-reigning monarch in our history and has cut back on commitments. Nevertheless she is still very active and has made some wise decisions about who takes over a number of her duties.

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a history of private life: The Private Life of the Rabbit Ronald Mathias Lockley, 1964

a history of private life: Sony John Nathan, 2001-04-05 John Nathan uncovers the secrets of Sony's success in this thorough and entertaining history of the company that rose out of the ashes of World War II and came to embody Japan's postwar resurrection.

a history of private life: Private Life and Privacy in Nazi Germany Elizabeth Harvey, Johannes Hürter, Maiken Umbach, Andreas Wirsching, 2019-07-18 Highlights the surprising ways in which the Nazi regime permitted or even fostered aspirations of privacy.

a history of private life: Public and Private Life of Animals P.-J. Stahl, 1877

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a history of private life: Shanghai Homes Jie Li, 2014-11-18 In the dazzling global metropolis of Shanghai, what has it meant to call this city home? In this account—part microhistory, part memoir—Jie Li salvages intimate recollections by successive generations of inhabitants of two vibrant, culturally mixed Shanghai alleyways from the Republican, Maoist, and post-Mao eras. Exploring three dimensions of private life—territories, artifacts, and gossip—Li re-creates the sounds, smells, look, and feel of home over a tumultuous century. First built by British and Japanese companies in 1915 and 1927, the two homes at the center of this narrative were located in an industrial part of the former International Settlement. Before their recent demolition, they were nestled in Shanghai's labyrinthine alleyways, which housed more than half of the city's population from the Sino-Japanese War to the Cultural Revolution. Through interviews with her own family members as well as their neighbors, classmates, and co-workers, Li weaves a complex social tapestry reflecting the lived experiences of ordinary people struggling to absorb and adapt to major historical change. These voices include workers, intellectuals, Communists, Nationalists, foreigners, compradors, wives, concubines, and children who all fought for a foothold and haven in this city, witnessing spectacles so full of farce and pathos they could only be whispered as secret histories.

a history of private life: Private Life under Socialism Yunxiang Yan, 2003-03-12 For seven years in the 1970s, the author lived in a village in northeast China as an ordinary farmer. In 1989, he returned to the village as an anthropologist to begin the unparalleled span of eleven years' fieldwork that has resulted in this book—a comprehensive, vivid, and nuanced account of family change and the transformation of private life in rural China from 1949 to 1999. The author's focus on the personal and the emotional sets this book apart from most studies of the Chinese family. Yan explores private lives to examine areas of family life that have been largely overlooked, such as emotion, desire, intimacy, privacy, conjugality, and individuality. He concludes that the past five decades have witnessed a dual transformation of private life: the rise of the private family, within which the private lives of individual women and men are thriving.

a history of private life: *The Roman Empire* Paul Veyne, 1997 This compact book—which appeared earlier in the multivolume series *A History of Private Life*—is a history of the Roman Empire in pagan times. It is an interpretation setting forth in detail the universal civilization of the Romans—so much of it Hellenic—that later gave way to Christianity. The civilization, culture, literature, art, and even religion of Rome are discussed in this masterly work by a leading scholar.

a history of private life: The Private Life of Chairman Mao Li Zhi-Sui, 2011-06-22 “The most revealing book ever published on Mao, perhaps on any dictator in history.”—Professor Andrew J. Nathan, Columbia University From 1954 until Mao Zedong's death twenty-two years later, Dr. Li Zhisui was the Chinese ruler's personal physician, which put him in daily—and increasingly intimate—contact with Mao and his inner circle. In *The Private Life of Chairman Mao*, Dr. Li vividly reconstructs his extraordinary experience at the center of Mao's decadent imperial court. Dr. Li clarifies numerous long-standing puzzles, such as the true nature of Mao's feelings toward the United States and the Soviet Union. He describes Mao's deliberate rudeness toward Khrushchev and reveals the actual catalyst of Nixon's historic visit. Here are also surprising details of Mao's personal depravity (we see him dependent on barbiturates and refusing to wash, dress, or brush his teeth) and the sexual politics of his court. To millions of Chinese, Mao was more god than man, but for Dr. Li, he was all too human. Dr. Li's intimate account of this lecherous, paranoid tyrant, callously indifferent to the suffering of his people, will forever alter our view of Chairman Mao and of China under his rule. Praise for *The Private Life of Chairman Mao* “From now on no one will be able to pretend to understand Chairman Mao's place in history without reference to this revealing account.”—Professor Lucian Pye, Massachusetts Institute of Technology “Dr. Li does for Mao what the physician Lord Moran's memoir did for Winston Churchill—turns him into a human being. Here is Mao unveiled: eccentric, demanding, suspicious, unregretful, lascivious, and unfailingly fascinating. Our view of Mao will never be the same again.”—Ross Terrill, author of *China in Our Time* “An extraordinarily intimate portrait of Mao. [Dr. Li] portrays [Mao's imperial court] as a place of boundless decadence, licentiousness, selfishness, relentless toadying and cutthroat political

intrigue.”—Richard Bernstein, *The New York Times* “One of the most provocative books on Mao to appear since the publication of Edgar Snow's *Red Star Over China*.”—Paul G. Pickowicz, *The Wall Street Journal*

a history of private life: *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* Vincent Starrett, 2008-01-01 This enhanced 75th Anniversary Edition adds scholarly commentary and appreciation to a complete facsimile of the rare, 1933 original edition.--Jacket copy.

a history of private life: *Private Lives/public Moments: Before 1492 to 1877* Dominick Cavallo, 2010 A secondary source reader that is a great complement to any survey text. A collection of secondary sources that examine the history of the United States by connecting the private lives of its people to the public issues that have had a major impact on the nation's destiny. The text examines much of what we call history as the product of conflict or concord (or some combination of the two) between private aspirations, frustrations, and values on the one side, and public issues, events and policies on the other.

a history of private life: *A History of Private Life*, 1994

a history of private life: *Private Lives* Lawrence Meir Friedman, 2004 Drawing on many revealing and sometimes colorful court cases of the past two centuries, *Private Lives* offers a lively short history of the complexities of family law and family life--including the tensions between the laws on the books and contemporary arrangements for marriage, divorce, adoption, and child rearing.

a history of private life: *The Private Lives of the Tudors* Tracy Borman, 2016-05-19 A BEHIND THE SCENES GLIMPSE INTO THE LIVES OF HENRY VIII, ANNE BOLEYN, ELIZABETH I AND MORE, FROM BESTSELLING HISTORIAN TRACY BORMAN Readers LOVE *The Private Lives of the Tudors*: 'A truly informative and thoroughly enjoyable read.' 'It was an absolutely delight, and I read it in record time' 'I found this book riveting and took it on holiday!' 'I do not live in a corner. A thousand eyes see all I do.' Elizabeth I The Tudor monarchs were constantly surrounded by an army of attendants, courtiers and ministers. Even in their most private moments, they were accompanied by a servant specifically appointed for the task. A groom of the stool would stand patiently by as Henry VIII performed his daily purges, and when Elizabeth I retired for the evening, one of her female servants would sleep at the end of her bed. These attendants knew the truth behind the glamorous exterior. They saw the tears shed by Henry VII upon the death of his son Arthur. They knew the tragic secret behind 'Bloody' Mary's phantom pregnancies. And they saw the 'crooked carcass' beneath Elizabeth I's carefully applied makeup, gowns and accessories. It is the accounts of these eyewitnesses, as well as a rich array of other contemporary sources that historian Tracy Borman has examined more closely than ever before. With new insights and discoveries, and in the same way that she brilliantly illuminated the real Thomas Cromwell - *The Private Life of the Tudors* will reveal previously unexamined details about the characters we think we know so well. --- Critical acclaim for *The Private Lives of the Tudors*: 'Borman approaches her topic with huge enthusiasm and a keen eye for entertaining...this is a very human story of a remarkable family, full of vignettes that sit long in the mind.' Dan Jones, *The Sunday Times* 'Tracy Borman's eye for detail is impressive; the book is packed with fascinating courtly minutiae... this is a wonderful book.' *The Times* 'Borman is an authoritative and engaging writer, good at prising out those humanising details that make the past alive to us.' *The Observer* 'Fascinating, detailed account of the everyday reality of the royals... This is a book of rich scholarship.' *Daily Mail* 'Tracy Borman's passion for the Tudor period shines forth from the pages of this fascinatingly detailed book, which vividly illuminates what went on behind the scenes at the Tudor court.' Alison Weir

a history of private life: *Private Life and Communist Morality in Khrushchev's Russia* Deborah A. Field, 2007 Drawing on previously inaccessible records, this book discusses love, sex, marriage, divorce, and child-rearing during Khrushchev's «thaw» of the 1950s and early 1960s. It analyses the Soviet government's attempts to supervise private life and enforce communist morality, and it describes the diverse ways in which people responded to official prescriptions. Written in a lively and accessible style, this book provides an innovative exploration of the interactions between

Soviet ideology and everyday life.

a history of private life: *Within Walls* Paul Betts, 2012-11-22 A history of private life in the German Democratic Republic, showing how the private sphere assumed central importance in the GDR from the very outset, and revealing the myriad ways in which privacy was expressed, staged and defended by citizens living in a communist society.

a history of private life: A Private History of Awe Scott Russell Sanders, 2007-05-15 An original and searching memoir from one of America's finest essayists (Phillip Lopate) When Scott Russell Sanders was four, his father held him in his arms during a thunderstorm, and he felt awe—the tingle of a power that surges through bone and rain and everything. He says, The search for communion with this power has run like a bright thread through all my days. *A Private History of Awe* is an account of this search, told as a series of awe-inspiring episodes: his early memory of watching a fire with his father; his attraction to the solemn cadences of the Bible despite his frustration with Sunday-school religion; his discovery of books and the body; his mounting opposition to the Vietnam War and all forms of violence; his decision to leave behind the university life of Oxford and Harvard and return to Indiana, where three generations of his family have put down roots. In many ways, this is the story of a generation's passage through the 1960s—from innocence to experience, from euphoria to disillusionment. But Sanders has found a language that captures the transcendence of ordinary lives while never reducing them to formula. In his hands, the pattern of American boyhood that was made classic by writers from Mark Twain to Tobias Wolff is given a powerful new charge.

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a history of private life: Work's Intimacy Melissa Gregg, 2013-04-23 This book provides a long-overdue account of online technology and its impact on the work and lifestyles of professional employees. It moves between the offices and homes of workers in the new knowledge economy to provide intimate insight into the personal, family, and wider social tensions emerging in today's rapidly changing work environment. Drawing on her extensive research, Gregg shows that new media technologies encourage and exacerbate an older tendency among salaried professionals to put work at the heart of daily concerns, often at the expense of other sources of intimacy and fulfillment. New media technologies from mobile phones to laptops and tablet computers, have been marketed as devices that give us the freedom to work where we want, when we want, but little attention has been paid to the consequences of this shift, which has seen work move out of the office and into cafés, trains, living rooms, dining rooms, and bedrooms. This professional presence bleed leads to work concerns impinging on the personal lives of employees in new and unforeseen ways. This groundbreaking book explores how aspiring and established professionals each try to cope with the unprecedented intimacy of technologically-mediated work, and how its seductions seem poised to triumph over the few remaining relationships that may stand in its way.

a history of private life: The Discovery of France: A Historical Geography Graham Robb, 2008-10-17 A witty, engaging narrative style...[Robb's] approach is particularly engrossing. —New York Times Book Review A narrative of exploration—full of strange landscapes and even stranger inhabitants—that explains the enduring fascination of France. While Gustave Eiffel was changing the skyline of Paris, large parts of France were still terra incognita. Even in the age of railways and newspapers, France was a land of ancient tribal divisions, prehistoric communication networks, and pre-Christian beliefs. French itself was a minority language. Graham Robb describes that unknown world in arresting narrative detail. He recounts the epic journeys of mapmakers, scientists, soldiers, administrators, and intrepid tourists, of itinerant workers, pilgrims, and herdsman with their millions of migratory domestic animals. We learn how France was explored, charted, and colonized, and how the imperial influence of Paris was gradually extended throughout a kingdom of isolated towns and villages. *The Discovery of France* explains how the modern nation came to be and how poorly understood that nation still is today. Above all, it shows how much of France—past and present—remains to be discovered. A New York Times Notable Book, Publishers Weekly Best Book,

Slate Best Book, and Booklist Editor's Choice.

a history of private life: Civilization and Capitalism, 15th-18th Century, Vol. III Fernand Braudel, 1992-12-23 By examining in detail the material life of pre-industrial peoples around the world, Fernand Braudel significantly changed the way historians view their subject. Originally published in the early 1980s, *Civilization* traces the social and economic history of the world from the Middle Ages to the Industrial Revolution, although his primary focus is Europe. Braudel skims over politics, wars, etc., in favor of examining life at the grass roots: food, drink, clothing, housing, town markets, money, credit, technology, the growth of towns and cities, and more. Volume I describes food and drink, dress and housing, demography and family structure, energy and technology, money and credit, and the growth of towns.

a history of private life: *Astro Turf* M. G. Lord, 2009-05-26 A daughter's journey to rediscover her father and understand the culture of space engineers During the late 1960s, while M. G. Lord was becoming a teenager in Southern California and her mother was dying of cancer, Lord's father-an archetypal, remote, rocket engineer- disappeared into his work at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, building the space probes of the Mariner Mars 69 mission. Thirty years later, Lord found herself reporting on the JPL, triggering childhood memories and a desire to revisit her past as a way of understanding the ethos of rocket science. *Astro Turf* is the brilliant result of her journey of discovery. Remembering her pain at her father's absence, yet intrigued by what he did, Lord captures him on the page as she recalls her own youthful, eccentric fascination with science and space exploration. Into her family's saga she weaves the story of the legendary JPL- examining the complexities of its cultural history, from its start in 1936 to the triumphant Mars landings in 2004. She illuminates its founder, Frank Malina, whose brilliance in rocketry was shadowed by a flirtation with communism, driving him from the country even as we welcomed Wernher von Braun and his Nazi colleagues. Lord's own love of science fiction becomes a lens through which she views a profound cultural shift in the male-dominated world of space. And in pursuing the cause of her father's absence she stumbles on a hidden guilt, understanding the anguish his proud silence caused both him and me, and how rooted that silence was in the culture of engineering.

a history of private life: *The Whisperers* Orlando Figes, 2008-09-04 Drawing on a huge range of sources - letters, memoirs, conversations - Orlando Figes tells the story of how Russians tried to endure life under Stalin. Those who shaped the political system became, very frequently, its victims. Those who were its victims were frequently quite blameless. *The Whisperers* recreates the sort of maze in which Russians found themselves, where an unwitting wrong turn could either destroy a family or, perversely, later save it: a society in which everyone spoke in whispers - whether to protect themselves, their families, neighbours or friends - or to inform on them.

a history of private life: *The Private Life of Plants* David Attenborough, 1995 Shows how plants avoid predators, find food, increase their territory, reproduce, and obtain sunlight

a history of private life: *Contested Waters* Jeff Wiltse, 2009-11-30 From nineteenth-century public baths to today's private backyard havens, swimming pools have long been a provocative symbol of American life. In this social and cultural history of swimming pools in the United States, Jeff Wiltse relates how, over the years, pools have served as asylums for the urban poor, leisure resorts for the masses, and private clubs for middle-class suburbanites. As sites of race riots, shrinking swimsuits, and conspicuous leisure, swimming pools reflect many of the tensions and transformations that have given rise to modern America.

a history of private life: *Living Atlanta* Clifford M. Kuhn, 2005-03-01 From the memories of everyday experience, *Living Atlanta* vividly recreates life in the city during the three decades from World War I through World War II--a period in which a small, regional capital became a center of industry, education, finance, commerce, and travel. This profusely illustrated volume draws on nearly two hundred interviews with Atlanta residents who recall, in their own words, the way it was--from segregated streetcars to college fraternity parties, from moonshine peddling to visiting performances by the Metropolitan Opera, from the growth of neighborhoods to religious revivals.

The book is based on a celebrated public radio series that was broadcast in 1979-80 and hailed by Studs Terkel as an important, exciting project--a truly human portrait of a city of people. *Living Atlanta* presents a diverse array of voices--domestics and businessmen, teachers and factory workers, doctors and ballplayers. There are memories of the city when it wasn't quite a city: Back in those young days it was country in Atlanta, musician Rosa Lee Carson reflects. It sure was. Why, you could even raise a cow out there in your yard. There are eyewitness accounts of such major events as the Great Fire of 1917: The wind blowing that way, it was awful, recalls fire fighter Hugh McDonald. There'd be a big board on fire, and the wind would carry that board, and it'd hit another house and start right up on that one. And it just kept spreading. There are glimpses of the workday: It's a real job firing an engine, a darn hard job, says railroad man J. R. Spratlin. I was using a scoop and there wasn't no eight hour haul then, there was twelve hours, sometimes sixteen. And there are scenes of the city at play: Baseball was the popular sport, remembers Arthur Leroy Idlett, who grew up in the Pittsburgh neighborhood. Everybody had teams. And people--you could put some kids out there playing baseball, and before you knew a thing, you got a crowd out there, watching kids play. Organizing the book around such topics as transportation, health and religion, education, leisure, and politics, the authors provide a narrative commentary that places the diverse remembrances in social and historical context. Resurfacing throughout the book as a central theme are the memories of Jim Crow and the peculiarities of black-white relations. Accounts of Klan rallies, job and housing discrimination, and poll taxes are here, along with stories about the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, early black forays into local politics, and the role of the city's black colleges. Martin Luther King, Sr., historian Clarence Bacote, former police chief Herbert Jenkins, educator Benjamin Mays, and sociologist Arthur Raper are among those whose recollections are gathered here, but the majority of the voices are those of ordinary Atlantans, men and women who in these pages relive day-to-day experiences of a half-century ago.

a history of private life: *Private Lives* Noel Coward, 1975 Een gescheiden echtpaar ontmoet elkaar weer na vijf jaar, terwijl zij beiden op huwelijksreis zijn met hun nieuwe partner.

a history of private life: *A History of Private Life* , 1987

a history of private life: *The Commonplace Book of William Byrd II of Westover* Kevin Joel Berland, Jan Kirsten Gilliam, Kenneth A. Lockridge, 2012-12-01 William Byrd II (1674-1744) was an important figure in the history of colonial Virginia: a founder of Richmond, an active participant in Virginia politics, and the proprietor of one of the colony's greatest plantations. But Byrd is best known today for his diaries. Considered essential documents of private life in colonial America, they offer readers an unparalleled glimpse into the world of a Virginia gentleman. This book joins Byrd's Diary, Secret Diary, and other writings in securing his reputation as one of the most interesting men in colonial America. Edited and presented here for the first time, Byrd's commonplace book is a collection of moral wit and wisdom gleaned from reading and conversation. The nearly six hundred entries range in tone from hope to despair, trust to dissimulation, and reflect on issues as varied as science, religion, women, Alexander the Great, and the perils of love. A ten-part introduction presents an overview of Byrd's life and addresses such topics as his education and habits of reading and his endeavors to understand himself sexually, temperamentally, and religiously, as well as the history and cultural function of commonplacing. Extensive annotations discuss the sources, background, and significance of the entries.

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