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Article Review III

Introduction to the Family

By Richie Heinlein

Bartholet, Elizabeth (2001). Blood Knots:

Adoption, Reproduction, and the Politics

Of Family. In Andrew J. Cherlin (Ed.) Public and Private Families: A Reader,

2nd Ed. New York: McGraw-Hill

Elizabeth Bartholet claims in her essay “Blood Knots: Adoption, Reproduction, and the Politics of Family” that the adoption process is probably doing more harm than good. She backs this up with documented evidence consisting of her personal experience and historic evidence of the expense and the hassle that the adoption process has therein. She wants her readers, which in this case, are policy makers to reform the adoption process and make more options available to all people.

The author’s most convincing argument came when she claimed that it does not matter whether the child is adopted or not. This, because the love needed to be a parent is virtually (if not) the same. However, she explained the con side very convincingly. She claims that people who would be good parents otherwise, don’t get good choices because of money and the flawed screening process. People, because of money or personality issues lie sometimes about themselves in order to get the child of their dreams. If the system were better there would be more incentives for some or all of the would-be good parents to come forward with the truth or needed information. This might include a not so automatic denial if some negative information were talked about. Negative information, the author says, is very much needed sometimes.

To be honest, I don’t agree or disagree with the author’s thesis. The author’s points are mainly hassle and expense of the adoption process. Although the expense should probably be less somehow, the screenings may have to be that strict in order to give as many children a happy home as possible. For example, if money were the big problem, denial might happen because there may not be

enough of it to support the adult and child both. However on the other side, if depression were the cause of a denial, a child might be just the thing the prospective parent needs. In some cases, the strictness may be good. By the same token, the same strictness may be very bad. So, as I stated before, I can't agree or disagree with the author's thesis or article.