

Why Borders Matter

Parents' failure to enforce boundaries and unwillingness to chastise children has led to a generation of 'infantilized millennials', according to a sociology professor.

In his book, "**Why Borders Matter**," Frank Furedi, emeritus professor of sociology at Kent University, says a lack of clear boundaries has created a childlike generation. Not chastising children or using moral-based judgments 'deprives them of a natural process' of fighting against parental rules and boundaries, according to Furedi.

He says children develop by pushing against boundaries given to them by parents and society, and over three or four generations those parameters have weakened.

This has led to millennials in their twenties acting the way they did in their teenage years and refusing to embrace adulthood, he explains in his book.

Millennials were born between 1980 and 1994, so the oldest of the generation are now 40 and the youngest are in their mid-twenties. The book, *Why Borders Matter*, was inspired in part by the response to Donald Trump's 2016 'Build the Wall' campaign slogan.

Furedi said there was an extreme response from some communities, who painted the idea of national borders as 'oppressive, discriminatory, exploitative and violent'.

While preparing for a talk on borders, the sociologist was researching identity crisis in children and realized a lack of boundaries could be why children are increasingly behaving in a confused and defensive way.

This prevailing anti-border narrative appears to have a link to a wider change in society over the past few decades, and that is what he set out to study.

Millennials, born between 1980 and 1994, and GenZ, born 1995 to 2010, are hitting key life milestones later than any other generation before them.

The Office For National Statistics (ONS) examined data on milestones between 1997 and 2017.

Age 19: Start full-time work

More than half of people start full-time work at 19 but 20 years ago this happened at 16 or 17 and is the result of people staying in school longer.

Age 23: Move out of parents house

People are moving into their own homes later - now it isn't until age 23 that over half are out on their own.

It was 21-years-old two decades ago.

Age 27: Moving in with a partner

More than 50 per cent of 27 year olds are living with a partner and this has stayed relatively static over 20 years.

Age 29: Having a baby

The age women have their first child has increased over the past 40 years.

It has gone from 27 in 1997 to 29 in 2017 when the latest stats were compiled and shared by the ONS.

Age 32: Getting married

People are now getting married much later, going up to 32 from 27 over the past two decades.

Age 34: Own your own home

It isn't until the age of 34 that more than half of people own their own property, ONS data revealed.

This has gone up by eight years from 26 two decades ago.

The ONS found that millennials and Gen Z were doing most things later in life, putting key milestones off.

This also included the point when they become financially independent and start thinking about retirement.

'Every single boundary that used to give meaning to life was being called into question by the same people who hated national borders,' he told MailOnline.