Pricing the priceless Child

Today it is taken for granted that the thing that harms child or children are evil, and the purpose of society is in large part to create a safe environment in which to bring up children. In fact we measure societies by how they treat their children. It is considered bad to massacre adults but far worse to massacre "innocent" (that word is usually used) and defenseless children. Putting children in danger, killing them is often considered the greatest evil. Not true of other societies where kids do not have such a high value.

The child's value has been contested. For much of human history the child was considered primarily in terms of cost. They were useful because they could work and help in the house. The dominant ideology was not child centered, and most children were not perceived as having a social, spiritual or economic value. Until the end of the 19th century. The children had a high rate of mortality, were expected to do chores to pay for their upkeep. Though undoubtedly there were exceptions. The human social worlds did not revolve around around conceptions of what was good for the children. Children fit into the adult world, and as they lost their economic value they began to gain a spiritual value. There were severe conflicts around how to value children, but they were considered, generally, a cost rather than a benefit. Hey went from (chapter subtitles with explanation)

2-Capitalism and industrial society measure things increasingly by their commodity value. Value is something to be numbered and measured. Fetishism of commodities- various relationships among humans reduced to a commodity value. Eventually relationship with children is one of the few things that escapes this.

3-Words increasingly words come to be censored, so bad thought become the equivalent of bad actions. Thought crimes. There are bad words, bad thoughts, but they are usually not crimes. Sometimes there are wicked words - words themselves that harm (blasphemy) but the list of words that are bad in themselves ad will be punished by a wrathful God have shrunk. Mostly words are punished when they lead to action.

Probably no one of these in isolation could explain the increasing attempt to suppress a broader and broader definition of cp. But in contrast to other sexual areas, the sensitivity to cp had increased, the definitions have gotten broader. The penalties have gotten far more severe, in part because there are very few people that are willing to argue that they don't make any sense. Most conversation ends at that point, like if one says that they are a Nazi. It is beyond the realm of polite conversation. Different attitudes towards children evident in the way other cultures use child soldiers (no attempt the part of west to understand that the evaluation of the practice depends on cultural norms. Not natural. Also little attempt on part of west to understand the different definitions of erotic. In many cultures the boy's body is considered beautiful. And often erotic. In our culture it is largely forbidden. Not natural. but cultural. Even forbidden for kids to see each others bodies.
Another factor would be the changing role of women as they are less tied down by domestic chores. Women also use the importance of childhood in enhancing their own roles.

Does this explain conflict between ethnic groups in U.S.?

Pictures of children, nude, used to be holy and cute. Now they are obscene. Touching a child used to be a sign of affection. Now grooming.

Average sentence for possessing cp is now 119 months (New Yorker) which is about same as average punishment for physical sex abuse. CP not a federal priority until mid 1990s. A child abused in production was reason for exception. Feds has no business monitoring. Fear is that fantasy will lead to action. Re-arrest rate is lower than that for any violent crime except murder.