Review

"The Politics of Health Policy constitutes an important contribution to the debate of a crucial issue. However, the reach of Professor Navarro's book goes well beyond health policy: it is also a powerful and well-documented rebuttal of the many obfuscations which mask the reality of politics in the United States. It offers a sustained and effective challenge to conventional thinking and deserves very close attention." Ralph Miliband

"This book should become a very interesting reference in the growing literature of the welfare state. Navarro's way of analyzing health and social policy issues, while well accepted in Europe, is not frequently heard in the US. His is a strong voice of a committed social reformer speaking with the force of an empirical scientist." Professor Goran Therborn, Gothenburg University

Product Description

This book analyzes the federal health policies followed by Reagan, Bush, and Clinton and by the Democratic-controlled Congress. The book shows the connection between the crisis of health care and the correlation of class forces in America. He also explains and evaluates the health care reforms put forward by the Clinton administration, describing the political process and forces behind those reforms.

The book challenges the major positions held in the social and political sciences regarding the nature of power in western capitalist developed countries and its impact on public policy. In great detail and with extensive documentation, the text shows how the welfare state continues to be extremely popular, that the causes of our economic predicament cannot be attributed to the welfare state and that class, continues to have an undiminished relevance in explaining public policies in general and health policies in particular.

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Vicente Navarro is a Professor of Health Policy, Sociology and Policy Studies at the Johns Hopkins University and is founder and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Health Services. He has been president of the International Association of Health Policy, and consultant to many governments and international agencies such as the United Nations, UNICEF and WHO. He has received many awards for his scholarship, including the John Kosa Memorial prize.
Editorial Reviews. Review. "The Politics of Health Policy constitutes an important contribution to the debate of a crucial issue. However, the reach of Professor Navarro's book goes well beyond health policy: it is also a powerful and well-documented rebuttal of the many obfuscations which mask the reality of politics in the United States. It offers a sustained and effective challenge to conventional thinking and deserves very close attention." Ralph Miliband. "This book should become a very interesting reference in the growing literature of the welfare state. Navarro' Policy-makers, whether politicians or bureau- crats, are acutely aware that reforms are often unpopular and can cause significant social in- stability. They may be reluctant to push through reforms, even when part of loan agreements.Â From the late 1980s economists and political scientists argued that complex economic reforms which had immediate and major distributional (and often drastic) effects on populations, and where benefits were long term (and major doubts existed on the extent of benefit), could not be treated as technical policies that would be automatically implemented.Â The changing political economy had repercussions for health policy and facilitated the idea of reforming the health sector. US circa 1883-1912, including Reformers and the Progressive Era: What was the US doing during this period of the late 1800â€™s to 1912? The government took no actions to subsidize voluntary funds or make sick insurance compulsory; essentially the federal government left matters to the states and states left them to private and voluntary programs. The US did have some voluntary funds that provided for their members in the case of sickness or death, but there were no legislative or public programs during the late 19th or early 20th century.Â Rothman, David J. â€œA Century of Failure: Health Care Reform in Americaâ€, Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Lawâ€, Vol. 18, No. 2, Summer 1993. Rubinow, Isaac Max. Recent papers in Health Reforms And Health Politics.Â Health sector reforms have also brought about significant implications for the health of populations within India- particularly the poorest sections. The introduction of user fees alongside the privatisation of healthcare affects access to services and also increases the risks of poverty as household resources are increasingly diverted away from basic needs towards the purchase of vital healthcare and treatment.Â Scholars of Latin America disagree about the effects on equity of social policy reforms of the 1980s and 1990s. Those who see negative or no effects blame reforms, while those who believe welfare regimes have become more equitable more. About this work. Publication/Creation. Oxford : Blackwell, [1994]. Physical description. xiv, 231 pages ; 24 cm.Â Weâ€™re improving the information on this page. Find out more. Wellcome collection.