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# Fads, Fallacies And Foolishness in Medical Care Management And Policy

*Theodore R. Marmor*

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## Fads, Fallacies and Foolishness in Medical Care Management and Policy

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**Theodore R. Marmor : Fads, Fallacies And Foolishness in Medical Care Management And Policy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fads, Fallacies And Foolishness in Medical Care Management And Policy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Superb writing on major issuesBy Bruce\_in\_LAMarmor is a bit

iconoclastic - instead of promoting a specific policy for US healthcare, he points out how vaporous or inept many of the current dialogs are. His point is a bit like Al Gore in "Assault on Reason" - the level of dialog and clear thinking is too insufficient to make progress on major health care problems. This is a book of several essays, most printed in the last few years in health policy academic journals. He also fits in a priceless sense of humor. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read  
By Fernand Turcotte  
This is an essential read for anyone interested in the organization of health services. The authors cut through all the myths and lies that make it impossible to understand why there are so many things that are so bizarre in the health services. At last, a breeze of well established common sense!  
1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Voice of Reason  
By MJS  
Few subjects bring about more nonsensical discussion than America's health care system. In this volume of fine essays, Marmor cuts through cant and describes the realities of health care delivery in this country. He clearly and concisely portrays the characteristics that have made America's system the most inefficient and expensive in the world.

This collection of articles takes up a key set of what the author regards as particularly misleading fads and fashions developments that produce a startling degree of foolishness in contemporary discussions of how to organize, deliver, finance, pay for and regulate medical care services in modern industrial democracies. The policy fads addressed include the celebration of explicit rationing as a major cost control instrument, the belief in a "basic package" of health insurance benefits to constrain costs, the faith that contemporary cross-national research can deliver a large number of transferable models, and the notion that broadening the definition of what is meant by health will constitute some sort of useful advance in practice.

Although Marmor's essays offer brilliant insights into the rhetoric of health policy, they also provide clear descriptions of how health care systems actually work and the problems they face. The essay on 'How Not To Think About Managed Care' offers an excellent analysis of how managed care plans in fact function. It is particularly useful for helping students understand this complex subject. --Timothy Stoltzfus Jost, Washington and Lee University School of Law  
Marmor is committed to universal access to quality care and has great sympathy for those who work in health systems. He is also a great skeptic, an essential characteristic of good public servants. He provides practical guidance, particularly to public service advisers, and also to health managers, professional service providers and media commentators. He encourages all to test the claims of the reform advocates, to consider the political and other interests involved, and to take into account the context in which different national health systems operate, and their distinct histories and cultures. --Andrew Podger, National President, Institute of Public Administration Australia  
This collection of essays showcases Marmor at his most trenchant and irreverent best; skewering sacred cows, debunking health care fads, and exposing the shallowness of managerial jargon indiscriminately applied to health care. Only one whose sharp eye has been trained for years on the way health care delivery has and hasn't worked all over the world would have enough perspective to write this book. Marmor's sharp eye is matched by a sharp intellect and tongue, and the result is not only illuminating, but pure pleasure to read. --Frances Miller, Boston University School of Law  
Marmor is committed to universal access to quality care and has great sympathy for those who work in health systems. He is also a great skeptic, an essential characteristic of good public servants. He provides practical guidance, particularly to public service advisers, and also to health managers, professional service providers and media commentators. He encourages all to test the claims of the `reform' advocates, to consider the political and other interests involved, and to take into account the context in which different national health systems operate, and their distinct histories and cultures.  
His latest book is refreshingly candid in exposing policy contradictions and irrationalities, and it is well worth a read ... The relevance of the arguments presented is now almost greater than before ... One thing that strikes me is how well Marmor's arguments stand the test of time.  
His latest book is refreshingly candid in exposing policy contradictions and irrationalities, and it is well worth a read ... The relevance of the arguments presented is now almost greater than before ... One thing that strikes me is how well Marmor's arguments stand the test of time. This latest collection of essays is a buoyant and welcome antidote to the historically amnesiac, often po-faced and `politically correct' faddist tendency in health policy ... One of Marmor's most invaluable themes in the book concerns how `market solutions' in healthcare depend upon `perfect' conditions -- not just the technical prerequisites stipulated by neo-classical economists for competition in markets, but the political conditions which allow markets to function as intended.