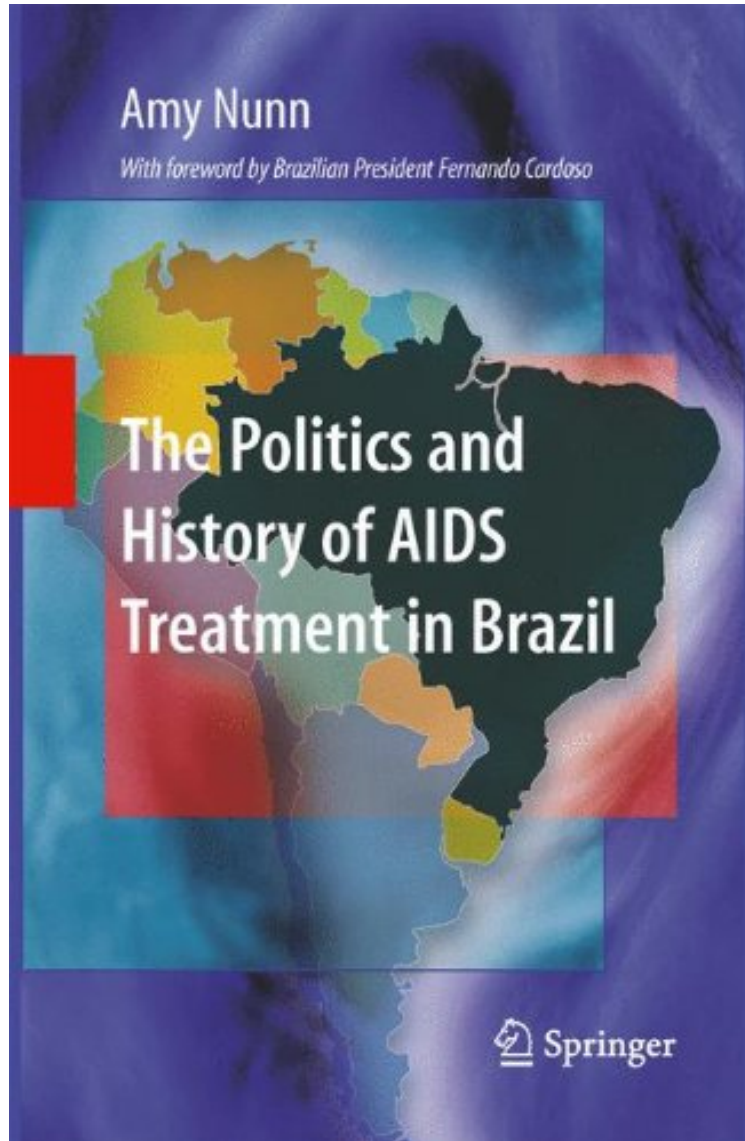


The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil

Amy Nunn

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#4042364 in Books Amy Nunn 2008-12-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 .60 x 6.10 x 9.10l, .90 #File Name: 0387096175186 pages The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil | File size: 49.Mb

Amy Nunn : The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent analysis of the evolution of AIDS treatment policy in Brazil By Emily Myers The development of Brazil's AIDS treatment institutions over the past two decades has shifted global thinking on health care policy and access to essential medicines in poor countries. Moreover, it has paved the way for the current dramatic expansion of anti-retroviral therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS throughout the

developing world. In "The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil," Amy Nunn adeptly explores the historical and institutional forces which shaped Brazil's pioneering treatment initiative. This carefully researched account illuminates the complex political, social, and economic factors that influenced AIDS treatment policy in Brazil, and highlights key turning points. The picture that emerges is one in which political entrepreneurialism, civil society activism, international economic politicking, and chance all play defining roles. Particularly fascinating is Nunn's analysis of the symbiotic interplay between progressive policymakers and enterprising social movements. Also interesting given current trends in social policy is the contrast between the success of Brazil's centralized AIDS program and the challenges faced by other, decentralized health initiatives. Nunn also brings attention to the looming institutional and financial challenges that Brazil will face in maintaining and improving AIDS treatment in the future. Thoroughly researched, clearly written, and engaging, this book provides important insight into a policy process of historical significance. Brazil's AIDS treatment program is a major policy success achieved in the context of an otherwise weak institutional environment. Good studies of such achievements are hard to find, and Nunn's account is a valuable contribution to the literature.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting recap, could use some editing more context

By Richard A. Jenkins

Nunn provides a recap of the steps that led to Brazil's successful implementation of universal treatment for people living with HIV. Like many successes in public health, it represented a fortunate alignment and convergence of various forces that occurred in a series of important but rather serendipitous moments. HIV in Brazil has received less ink than the well characterized epidemic in Thailand and the large African epidemics. It's instructive that HIV in Brazil once made up a much larger proportion of the global epidemic. Her documentation of the internal politics of HIV, the international politicking on intellectual property and the role of the World Bank are all useful contributions to the literature. Several factors, though, knocked off a couple stars. The writing is often tedious and repetitive, and some key points beg for elaboration such as a brief review of how the epidemic evolved in different segments of the population and the role of specific NGOs in these populations. The NGO sector is treated as a bloc and there is little attention to the dynamics of these organizations (e.g., their reliance on charismatic leadership, their jockeying for position, and their relationships to other civil society players and to the political system). Only near the end of the book is there any comparison with other countries and even this is deficient. For example, Thailand, like Brazil, made an early commitment to AZT; however, the cost and limited efficacy of AZT led to a very cautious course with embracing more effective drugs, post-Vancouver. The book looks like a Fulbright progress report or a policy dissertation that has been padded out to a book length. It will be most easily read and used by experienced HIV researchers and policy people who have at least cursory knowledge of HIV in Brazil, although gaps around description of the NGO sector may be problematic. People with less international knowledge or more recent entry into the field will find the book more challenging and frustrating because of its lack of context, despite the large number of reference citations.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. AIDS Policy

By Elize M. Fonseca

Brazil's AIDS program is world-renowned for its policy of providing free and universal access to AIDS treatment, successful civil society partnerships and prevention programs. This book, grounded in extensive qualitative, quantitative and historical research, and is an exceptional work that explains how Brazil improved access to AIDS treatment at both domestic and international levels. Amy Nunn begins with an excellent overview of the AIDS epidemic and genesis of AIDS treatment in Brazil. She then demonstrates how Brazil strategically used World Bank loans, public production of AIDS drugs, collaboration with international agencies, and strategic engagement with the media and global social movements to support its controversial, if highly successful, AIDS policies. This book is suitable for a wide audience and should be considered essential reading for anyone interested in AIDS policy and global health.

Brazil's public policy response to the AIDS epidemic preceded those of many developing countries. During my tenure as President, in 1996, Brazil adopted a law guaranteeing free and universal access to AIDS treatment for all people living with HIV/AIDS. Brazil became the first developing country to provide publicly-financed AIDS treatment for all people living with HIV/AIDS. We now have one of the world's most successful AIDS programs that is considered a model for other developing countries. Today, 185,000 people receive life-saving AIDS cocktails in Brazil, and thousands of lives have been saved. But this was not an easy battle. There were many challenges along the way. Twenty years ago, Brazil's achievements today might have seemed impossible. During the 1980s, in Brazil, as elsewhere, there was overwhelming stigma associated with AIDS; people living with HIV often lost their jobs and died quickly before the advent of life-saving antiretroviral drugs. Brazil's AIDS movement was extraordinarily important in promoting progressive AIDS policies; associations of people living with HIV were the first to denounce pervasive AIDS-related discrimination and called public attention to the importance of AIDS. Activists protested in the streets for over a decade, engaged the media, and framed AIDS as a human rights issue.

From the reviews: "Amy Nunn's book *The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil* maps the political landscape that led to this landmark in public health policy, and the subsequent growth of Brazil's AIDS treatment programme into one of the largest and most equitable in the world. ...the story Nunn tells is absolutely fascinating." -

Elizabeth Pisani, *The Lancet*, Vol 374 "This is an exceptional academic work, one that deserves to be widely read, and that in my opinion will come to be considered the leading historical study on the social and policy response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Brazil and one of the major policy studies on the response to the AIDS epidemic anywhere in the world." -Richard Parker, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

The historical accuracy and completeness of the material presented is exceptional. The general lines of argument and analyses are insightful, and the quality of the historical data overall is outstanding. The *Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil* deserves to be read by scholars in fields ranging from public health to international relations, development studies, the history of medicine and similar fields. It is a book that cuts across disciplinary divides and provides new insight into the social and political history of Brazil. (Richard Parker, *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, Vol. 30 (4), 2011)

From the Back Cover

The *Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil* Amy Nunn, Center for AIDS Research, Brown University Medical School, Providence

In 1992, the World Bank warned that Brazil would face enormous challenges confronting the AIDS crisis, and forecast that Brazil would have 1.2 million people living with HIV by the year 2000. Today, AIDS prevalence in Brazil is approximately 660,000, and Brazil is home to the oldest and one of the largest public AIDS treatment programs in the developing world. Challenging the conventional wisdom that AIDS treatment was infeasible in developing countries, Brazil has halved AIDS-related deaths and dramatically reduced AIDS-related morbidity. Today, Brazils AIDS program is considered a global model. The first book to narrate Brazils complex and inspiring history, *The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil* traces development of Brazils AIDS treatment policies during the countrys tumultuous path to democracy as its government redefined access to health care as a basic right. Meticulously researched, and drawing on dozens of interviews with politicians, activists, people living with HIV/AIDS, pharmaceutical executives and health care providers, this profound volume explains the key role of Brazil in raising global AIDS consciousness. *The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil* also explores the global implications of Brazils program and identifies the challenges ahead for addressing HIV/AIDS in the developing world. In clear, accessible detail, *The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil* examines: Brazils long history of AIDS treatment in the context of progressive social movements. The coalition-building between politicians, activists and government agencies in developing the countrys National AIDS Program. The role of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government in promoting access to drugs for AIDS treatment in Brazil. The governments controversial decisions to produce generic AIDS drugs and challenge multinational pharmaceutical corporations regarding AIDS drug prices. Brazils ongoing efforts to promote global access to AIDS treatment and the countrys contributions to international health, human rights, and trade law related to access to medicines. The impact of the Brazilian experience on global AIDS drug prices and global AIDS treatment policy. *The Politics and History of AIDS Treatment in Brazil* contains invaluable lessons for readers across disciplines, particularly researchers and practitioners in health policy, global health, HIV/AIDS, political science, and Latin American studies. "This is an exceptional academic work, one that deserves to be widely read, and that in my opinion will come to be considered the leading historical study on the social and policy response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Brazil and one of the major policy studies on the response to the AIDS epidemic anywhere in the world." Richard Parker, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

With foreword by former Brazilian President Fernando Cardoso.

About the Author

Dr. Amy Nunn is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Brown Medical School where she conducts research on HIV testing, HIV risk behaviors, and how to best link people living with HIV/AIDS to treatment and care services. A social scientist by training, Dr. Nunn has worked in several countries where she conducted domestic and international research on a variety of health policy topics including HIV/AIDS, patient safety, access to reproductive health services, and family planning. Her current HIV/AIDS research is financed by the National Institutes of Health and the Brown University Center for AIDS Research. She has received research grants from Harvard University, the US Department of Defense, and the US Department of Education. Dr. Nunn holds masters and doctoral degrees from the Harvard School of Public Health and is a Fulbright Scholar.