

The Politics of Health Policy: The Us Reforms, 1980-1994

Vicente Navarro

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Vicente Navarro : The Politics of Health Policy: The Us Reforms, 1980-1994 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics of Health Policy: The Us Reforms, 1980-1994:

This text analyzes the socio-economic and political forces that explain the federal health policies of the US from 1980 to 1992. It discusses, in eight chapters, the major political and social forces responsible for the public policies of successive US administrations, with particular emphasis on health policy. Dr Navarro challenges some of 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. He argues that the welfare state continues to be extremely popular, that the causes of the US economic predicament cannot be attributed to the welfare state and that class, as a category of power, continues to have an undiminished relevance in explaining public policies in general and health policies in particular. In addition, he critically analyzes the federal health policies followed by Reagan, Bush and Clinton and by the Democratic-controlled Congress. The author goes on to show the connection between the crisis of health care - high costs and lack of, or limited, health-care coverage - and the correlation of class forces in the US. 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 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

From the Back Cover 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.

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.