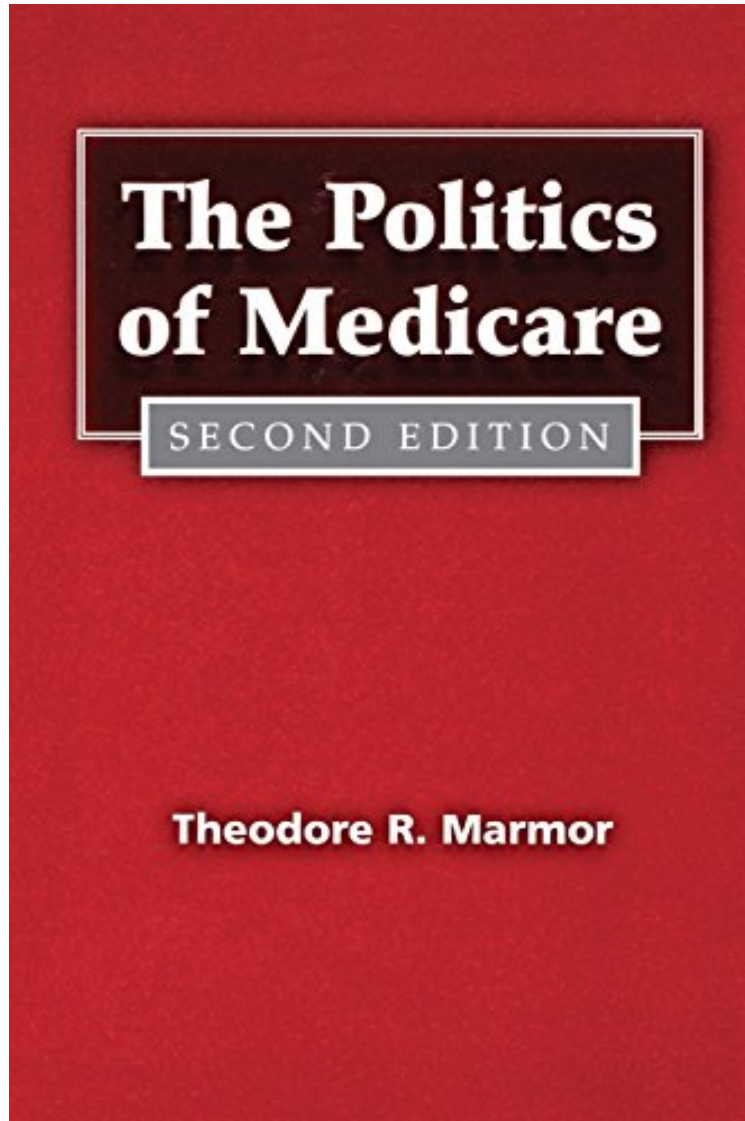


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The Politics of Medicare (Social Institutions and Social Change)

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From Routledge : **The Politics of Medicare (Social Institutions and Social Change)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **The Politics of Medicare (Social Institutions and Social Change)**:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Is Medicare a prognostic for health-care reform?By Craig BolonTheodore R. Marmor's book, **The Politics of Medicare**, 1970, second edition, 2000, is in some ways complementary to Jonathan Oberlander's book, **The Political Life of Medicare**, 2003. Prof. Marmor, at Yale, supervised the graduate studies of Prof. Oberlander of the University of North Carolina. The Marmor book gives a

briefer treatment of the political disputes over Medicare during the 1980s and 1990s but a fuller treatment of the development and enactment of Medicare. Both books consider the Clinton administration's attempt at health care reform in 1993 and 1994 and the Medicare cuts in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Both stop short of prescription drug coverage in 2003 and Congressional postponements of Medicare cuts in 2003 through 2008 (once each), 2009 (twice) and 2010 (once so far). Neither book analyzes the arbitrary structure of the cuts nor predicts their postponement. Prof. Marmor explains Medicare, in comparison with other national health-care programs, through determination to structure earned benefits rather than social welfare: limited to people aged 65 and over but without a means test and financed by regressive payroll taxes. He shows how critical features such as lack of cost controls were political adaptations. The primary architects, Rep. Wilbur Mills and Wilbur Cohen, later HEW Secretary, believed that use of payroll taxes rather than general revenue would counter inflationary pressures. Perhaps they did over some years, but Prof. Marmor shows that hospital charges, already rising rapidly, quickly took an even steeper course (Figure 6.1). Of interest in the aftermath of 2010 health-care reform is Prof. Marmor's picture of the months after Medicare enactment. He shows opponents failed to sustain their focus. Medical professionals became absorbed in details of organizing the program. That is unlikely to be the pattern for 2010, when implementation of care was largely delayed four years. Once again the structure of a health-care program was dominated by politics: the delay was critical to lower costs in early years, a concern without parallel in Medicare. Medical professionals became deeply concerned over pending cuts in payments, also without parallel. Political potentials following enactment of 2010 health-care reform therefore differ substantially from those in 1965. Other comparisons are noted by Don Wolfensberger, Health care reform and the Medicare analogy, Woodrow Wilson Center, September, 2009, at [...]. Profs. Marmor and Oberlander also published an outline of recent prospects for health-care reform [Health reform: the fateful moment, New York Review, August, 2009, at [...]]. Perhaps after the many controversies over 2010 health-care reform settle, Prof. Marmor will write a sequel to his 1970 book, taking advantage of his deep knowledge about how Medicare developed and evolved.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent
 By Victor J. Manuele MDA well written synopsis of the actors involved in the time leading up to the Passage of the medicare and medicaid acts. Great historical perspective and as it was written over 40 years ago it has lots of first hand insight and knowledge of the persons involved in the decision making
 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous gadget.
 By Customer I find it very easy to operate and as commodity description. I am satisfied with it, I will recommend to friends! Special design, perfect quality, nice appearance. I couldn't deny such a good product. It's work properly, exactly according to the description. They are much prettier than I expected. I am very pleased and would definitely recommend this product! These are lovely!!

On July 30, 1965, President Johnson flew to Independence, Missouri to sign the Medicare bill. The new statute included two related insurance programs to finance substantial portions of the hospital and physician expenses incurred by Americans over the age of sixty-five. Public attempts to improve American health standards have typically precipitated bitter debate, even as the issue has shifted from the professional and legal status of physicians to the availability of hospital care and public health programs. In *The Politics of Medicare*, Marmor helps the reader understand Medicare's origins, and he interprets the history of the program and explores what happened to Medicare politically as it turned from a legislative act in the mid-1960s to a major program of American government in the three decades since. This is a vibrant study of an important piece of legislation that asks and answers several questions: How could the American political system yield a policy that simultaneously appeased anti-governmental biases and used the federal government to provide a major entitlement? How was the American Medical Association legally overcome yet placated enough to participate in the program? And how did the Medicare law emerge so enlarged from earlier proposals that themselves had caused so much controversy?

"[A] cogent, compelling, and still largely uncontested account of the passage of America's largest and most politically salient government health program." —Jacob S. Hacker, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (symposium of reviews) "The Politics of Medicare . . . can be rightly viewed as a founding book in the study of health politics. . . . The second edition of Marmor's book provides a glimpse of what an alternative view of Medicare — one more informed by political science than economic theory — would look like. . . . The Politics of Medicare is free of the thick language, models, and formal theory that make so much of contemporary political science unreadable and frequently unintelligible." —Jonathan Oberlander, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (symposium of reviews) "I do not believe . . . that there is any other single publication on this subject that has endured as well as The Politics of Medicare, or that prompted an invitation to revise an original volume so many years after its inception." —Mark A. Peterson, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (symposium of reviews) "[T]he second edition of The Politics of Medicare is a model of clarity, concision, and . . . accuracy." —Bruce C. Vladeck, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* (symposium of reviews) "The substance of policies that are enacted is also shaped profoundly by politics and, in turn, shapes politics. Marmor's recognizes this fundamental point and seeks

to illuminate how the character of the program [Medicare] has followed so directly from its politics. . . . [W]hat will determine whether Congress changes Medicare [...]? The answer is the politics of Medicare; to which there is no better guide than Marmor's book." nbsp; mdash; Journal of the American Medical Association "This new edition makes an extraordinary contribution to the literature of public policy and political science. ... [T]his book provides invaluable insights for anyone interested in legislative initiatives, especially in domestic policy, but also in foreign affairs. In sum: an extraordinary achievement." mdash; Graham Allison, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University "Using the past to illuminate the present, Ted Marmor has produced an elegant, precise, and scholarly accounting of Medicare's tangled politics. Appearing at the dawn of the new century, this is a wise and important book that will perform an invaluable service in helping America to confront its demographic future." mdash; Finlay Lewis, Economics Correspondent, Copley News Service

From the Inside Flap This new edition makes an extraordinary contribution to the literature of public policy and political science. The four entirely new chapters provide more content than in any stand-alone book I know on the topics covered. By treating the politics of Medicare as an exemplary, major initiative in public policy, this book provides invaluable insights for anyone interested in legislative initiatives, especially in domestic policy, but also in foreign affairs. The final chapters' reflections on puzzles and patterns has even broader implications valuable to readers interested in state, local, and national governments, both foreign and American. In sum: an extraordinary achievement. -- Graham Allison, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Scholars have long regarded the first edition of *The Politics of Medicare* as the definitive analysis of the political forces, interactions, and ideas that created Medicare. The second edition promises to assume the same stature as an analysis of the political evolution of Medicare since its inception. This book will be greatly appreciated by students of political science as a case study of the political structures, alignments, and ideologies that have shaped one of our government's largest and most popular social programs. It deserves a much wider audience, however, because it challenges many of the ideological assumptions that have supported proposals to reform Medicare over the past decade. By debunking these assumptions -- that Medicare could ever become insolvent or that it needs to be updated as a managed competition-based program, for example -- Ted Marmor succeeds not only in helping us understand where Medicare has come from, but also in illuminating where Medicare policy should be going. -- Timothy Stoltzfus Jost, Newton D. Baker Professor of Law and of Medicine and Public Health, Ohio State University

Using the past to illuminate the present, Ted Marmor has produced an elegant, precise and scholarly accounting of Medicare's tangled politics. As usual, Marmor is on top of the news. Fresh struggles loom over not just health care for the elderly but over the role of medicine in society generally. Appearing at the dawn of new century, this is a wise and important book that will perform an invaluable service in helping America to confront its demographic future. -- Finlay Lewis, Economics Correspondent, Copley News Service

About the Author Theodore R. Marmor nbsp; is professor of public policy and management and professor of political science at Yale School of Management. He currently sits on the editorial board of both nbsp; *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice* and *Journal of Health, Politics, Policy, and Law* nbsp; as well as on the international advisory board of the London School of Economics (Health and Social Care). He is an author or co-author of numerous books and author of over a hundred scholarly articles.