

[PDF] The Riddle of Malnutrition: The Long Arc of Biomedical and Public Health Interventions in Uganda (Perspectives on Global Health)

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Jennifer Tappan

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Jennifer Tappan : The Riddle of Malnutrition: The Long Arc of Biomedical and Public Health Interventions in Uganda (Perspectives on Global Health) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Riddle of Malnutrition: The Long Arc of Biomedical and Public Health Interventions in

Uganda (Perspectives on Global Health):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic, readable, and important
By Kate P
This is a fantastic, readable book. The Washington Post featured it today (8/11/17), saying "Tappan's excellent and deeply researched book reads almost like a novel: At the end of each chapter, I needed to keep going to learn what happened next." I heartily agree. Great and much-needed history.

More than ten million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition globally each year. In Uganda, longstanding efforts to understand, treat, and then prevent the condition initially served to medicalize it, in the eyes of both biomedical personnel and Ugandans who brought their children to the hospital for treatment and care. Medicalization meant malnutrition came to be seen as a disease—as a medical emergency—not a preventable condition, further compromising nutritional health in Uganda. Rather than rely on a foreign-led model, physicians in Uganda responded to this failure by developing a novel public health program known as Mwanamugimu. The new approach prioritized local expertise and empowering Ugandan women, blending biomedical knowledge with African sensibilities and cultural competencies. In *The Riddle of Malnutrition*, Jennifer Tappan examines how over the course of half a century Mwanamugimu tackled the most fatal form of childhood malnutrition—kwashiorkor—and promoted nutritional health in the midst of postcolonial violence, political upheaval, and neoliberal resource constraints. She draws on a diverse array of sources to illuminate the interplay between colonialism, the production of scientific knowledge, and the delivery of health services in contemporary Africa.

"Tappan's rich study explores how complex health issues in Africa and other regions of the global south have been falsely constructed as problems that can be easily addressed through the application of externally derived biomedical technologies. A must read for public health scholars and practitioners."—Randall M. Packard, author of *A History of Global Health: Interventions into the Lives of Other Peoples*