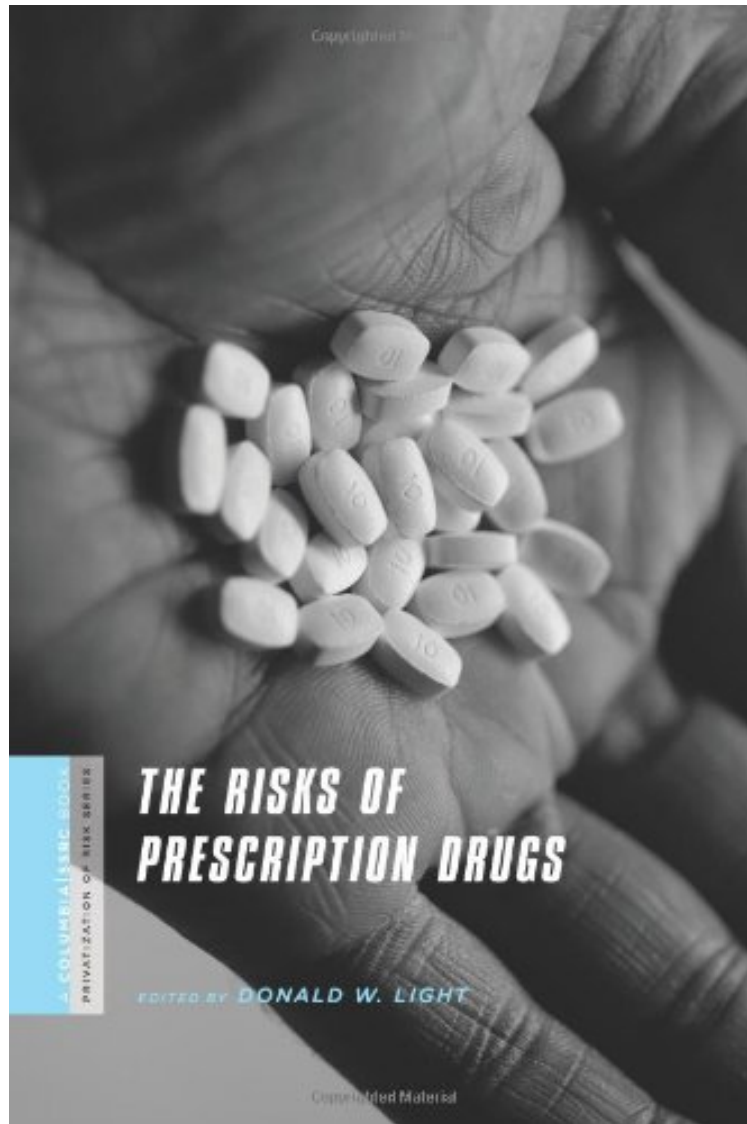


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From Columbia University Press : The Risks of Prescription Drugs (A Columbia / SSRC Book (Privatization of Risk)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Risks of Prescription Drugs (A Columbia / SSRC Book (Privatization of Risk)):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Review on The Risks of Prescription DrugsBy Healthcare AdvocateThe Risks of Prescription Drugs This book is a must-read for policymakers and all Americans wanting a

better understanding of continuing soaring drug costs, how many drugs of marginal benefit and potential harm are brought to market, how we are being victimized in our over-medicated society by an industry concerned mainly with its own profits, how many of our physicians are complicit with the industry's interests, and what we can do about it. This is the latest in a series of books published by the Columbia University Press and the Social Science Research Council that applies social science research to assess the impacts of privatization that has shifted the burden of risk from government and other institutions in earlier years to individuals and families today. This concise and well-written book gives us an in-depth view of how the pharmaceutical industry really works as it pursues its own self-interest and profits over the public interest. It is edited by Donald W. Light, Ph.D., medical and economic sociologist, professor of comparative health care at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, a founder of the Center for Bioethics, and author of *Benchmarks for Fairness of Health Care Reform*. He is joined by three other scholars as they together give us the inside story of how we as patients and families lose out to the exploitative and entrepreneurial behavior of a deregulated drug industry in the U.S.--John P. Geyman, M.D., Professor emeritus of Family Medicine, University of Washington, member Institute of Medicine, and author of *The Corporate Transformation of Medicine: Can the Public Interest Still Be Served?* and *The Corrosion of Medicine: Can the Profession Reclaim Its Moral Legacy?* 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. *The Risks of Prescription Drugs* By Mike Retter This publication should be mass produced and made freely available to all via schools, medical centres, It is real eye opener to dubious (possibly unscrupulous) world of corporate pharmaceutical companies and their greed at the expense of human lives! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The side-effects are almost always worse than the problem for which one is taking these ...By Judith L. Griffin Prescription drugs are nothing but poisons. The side-effects are almost always worse than the problem for which one is taking these poison chemicals. I DO NOT believe in prescription drugs, or over-the-counter drugs, for that matter.

Few people realize that prescription drugs have become a leading cause of death, disease, and disability. Adverse reactions to widely used drugs, such as psychotropics and birth control pills, as well as biologicals, result in FDA warnings against adverse reactions. *The Risks of Prescription Drugs* describes how most drugs approved by the FDA are under-tested for adverse drug reactions, yet offer few new benefits. Drugs cause more than 2.2 million hospitalizations and 110,000 hospital-based deaths a year. Serious drug reactions at home or in nursing homes would significantly raise the total. Women, older people, and people with disabilities are least used in clinical trials and most affected. Health policy experts Donald Light, Howard Brody, Peter Conrad, Allan Horwitz, and Cheryl Stults describe how current regulations reward drug companies to expand clinical risks and create new diseases so millions of patients are exposed to unnecessary risks, especially women and the elderly. They reward developing marginally better drugs rather than discovering breakthrough, life-saving drugs. *The Risks of Prescription Drugs* tackles critical questions about the pharmaceutical industry and the privatization of risk. To what extent does the FDA protect the public from serious side effects and disasters? What is the effect of giving the private sector and markets a greater role and reducing public oversight? This volume considers whether current rules and incentives put patients' health at greater risk, the effect of the expansion of disease categories, the industry's justification of high U.S. prices, and the underlying shifts in the burden of risk borne by individuals in the world of pharmaceuticals. Chapters cover risks of statins for high cholesterol, SSRI drugs for depression and anxiety, and hormone replacement therapy for menopause. A final chapter outlines six changes to make drugs safer and more effective. Suitable for courses on health and aging, gender, disability, and minority studies, this book identifies the Risk Proliferation Syndrome that maximizes the number of people exposed to these risks. Additional Columbia / SSRC books on the privatization of risk and its implications for Americans: *Bailouts: Public Money, Private Profit* Edited by Robert E. Wright *Disaster and the Politics of Intervention* Edited by Andrew Lakoff *Health at Risk: America's Ailing Health System-and How to Heal It* Edited by Jacob S. Hacker *Laid Off, Laid Low: Political and Economic Consequences of Employment Insecurity* Edited by Katherine S. Newman *Pensions, Social Security, and the Privatization of Risk* Edited by Mitchell A. Orenstein

The Risks of Prescription Drugs explains in clear, concise, and unflinching language the consequences of ignoring the discrepancy between the drug industry's private interests and the public service we hope and naively expect from them. This book provides consumers with tools for self-defense and concerned citizens with a road map for rebalancing American medicine. (John Abramson, Harvard Medical School, author of *Overdosed America: The Broken Promise of American Medicine*) This volume introduces important debates on pharmaceutical promotion and marketing, needed drug evaluation and regulation, professional conflicts of interest, and increased medicalization of behavior. It explores important trends and policy questions that all engaged citizens should consider. (David Mechanic, Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research, and author of *The Truth About Health Care: Why Reform Is Not Working in America*) This is a sensible, readable and constructive book that could in various respects open the reader's eyes, and then lead him, with his eyes wide open, along the road to a healthier world. (M.N.G. Dukes International Journal of Risk and Safety in Medicine) This well-referenced title will be of particular interest to prescribers, but I recommend it to all healthcare professionals. (Roger Evans Nursing Standard) About the Author Donald W. Light is

professor of social medicine and comparative health care at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and a senior visiting researcher at Princeton.