



The book was found

# Health Care In America: A History



## Synopsis

In *Health Care in America*, historian John C. Burnham describes changes over four centuries of medicine and public health in America. Beginning with seventeenth-century concerns over personal and neighborhood illnesses, Burnham concludes with the arrival of a new epoch in American medicine and health care at the turn of the twenty-first century. From the 1600s through the 1990s, Americans turned to a variety of healers, practices, and institutions in their efforts to prevent and survive epidemics of smallpox, yellow fever, cholera, influenza, polio, and AIDS. Health care workers in all periods attended births and deaths and cared for people who had injuries, disabilities, and chronic diseases. Drawing on primary sources, classic scholarship, and a vast body of recent literature in the history of medicine and public health, Burnham finds that traditional healing, care, and medicine dominated the United States until the late nineteenth century, when antiseptic/aseptic surgery and germ theory initiated an intellectual, social, and technical transformation. He divides the age of modern medicine into several eras: physiological medicine (1910s–1930s), antibiotics (1930s–1950s), technology (1950s–1960s), environmental medicine (1970s–1980s), and, beginning around 1990, genetic medicine. The cumulating developments in each era led to today's radically altered doctor-patient relationship and the insistent questions that swirl around the financial cost of health care. Burnham's sweeping narrative makes sense of medical practice, medical research, and human frailties and foibles, opening the door to a new understanding of our current concerns.

## Book Information

Paperback: 616 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press; 1 edition (April 9, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1421416085

ISBN-13: 978-1421416083

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #195,332 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > Textbooks >](#)

[Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Special Topics > History](#) #272 in [Books > Medical](#)

[Books > History](#) #324 in [Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Administration & Policy > Public Health](#)

## Customer Reviews

"A synthetic work that enlightens a complex historical subject, *Health Care in America* is logical, coherent, and very well-written. There are many books that touch upon the American health care system, but none that provide a comprehensive overview that covers the span of American history. This book, which represents the thinking of a mature and distinguished intellectual, will be of interest to scholars, students, and laypeople in history, medicine, policy studies, and the social sciences." (Gerald N. Grob, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, author of *Aging Bones: A Short History of Osteoporosis*) "Burnham's book writes for a broad audience, and the prose is easily accessible to undergraduates." (Choice) "Captivating and enjoyable." (Stanford Magazine) "Burnham's thematic analysis of more than four hundred years of history is clearly presented, and his sweeping survey is illustrated with detailed stories and evocative images. *Health Care in America* is grand narrative in its finest form." "This book will be most useful for advanced undergraduates, particularly students interested in the health-related disciplines, as well as graduate students interested in the long history of medicine. Burnham provides a great starting point for scholars interested in the broad meaning of medicine and the questions associated with health and healing." (Journal of the History of Medicine) "Burnham accomplishes exactly what the general synthesis should: providing the reader with all of the basic, essential information, while simultaneously provoking questions addressed in more specialized texts. On that score, Burnham performs quite admirably, and, as such, I heartily recommend *Health Care in America*." (British Journal for the History of Science) "Burnham's volume will rightfully find a wide readership among historians and lay readers alike, and this ambitious, thoughtful, sweeping synthesis of the history of American health care is a welcome addition to the historiography of medicine in the United States." (Isis) "... [Burnham] concentrates not so much on medical, surgical, or even administrative innovations, but on the social, political, religious, and economic reactions to these innovations. By thus seeing the development of American medicine in this broad context, he brings into sharp relief the interaction between the health care enterprise and those who either cannot afford health care or have inadequate access to it." (Watermark)

John C. Burnham is a research professor of history at the Ohio State University, where he is also an associated scholar in the Medical Heritage Center. His most recent books include *What Is Medical History?* and *Accident Prone: A History of Technology, Psychology, and Misfits of the Machine Age*.

A masterpiece written by one of the few true scholars still researching & writing in Fifth Column

America. Not infected by the current ignorance that claims nothing written is 100% free of personal opinion or judgement (bias) therefore let my Progressive Bias run free of the "evidence" Sewer logic it is. No different than an insurgent group of Sewer surgeons who decide that surgery cannot be performed 100% germ free therefore they will do it in a sewer. Burnham goes where the facts & evidence lead him & conclude what logic seems to support based on the facts. If you wish to read a valuable social history of American health & Medicine I strongly recommend this book. It is a much needed update to Duffy's work.

everything as expected

I wasn't happy with the information in the book. I have read a great deal about the history of medicine. This book prints a rosy picture of the great American Health Care System. I unfortunately think there is more to the story which is untold in this book

The late John C. Burnham (1929-2017) was 86 when this fine synthesis of American medical history was published, and it is easy for a sympathetic reader to appreciate why he wrote it in what critics have called a "triumphalist" mode. Burnham personally witnessed enough medical advances to fill half the book. Though Burnham was the master of a vast body of primary and secondary scholarship, he wrote the book in a lucid (if not flashy) style, which is able, along with his fine examples and apt illustrations, to take a general reader through nearly 500 pages of text. Burnham is careful and temperate, but he does have opinions, even putting in something of a good word for bloodletting and referring to medical marijuana as "oxymoronic."

[Download to continue reading...](#)

CAT CARE: BEGINNERS GUIDE TO KITTEN CARE AND TRAINING TIPS (Cat care, cat care books, cat care manual, cat care products, cat care kit, cat care supplies) Public Health Nursing - Revised Reprint: Population-Centered Health Care in the Community, 8e (Public Health Nursing: Population-Centered Health Care in the Community) Orchids Care Bundle 3 in 1, THE NEW EDITION: Orchids + Orchids Care For Hobbyists + Phalaenopsis Orchids Care (Orchids Care, House Plants Care, Gardening Techniques Book 4) Health Communication: From Theory to Practice (J-B Public Health/Health Services Text) - Key words: health communication, public health, health behavior, behavior change communications World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. ( world

history) Hair Loss: 5 Easy Steps To Stop and Prevent Hair Loss (hair loss, hair care, bald, beauty care, personal hygiene, natural health remedies, personal health care) Nursing against the Odds: How Health Care Cost Cutting, Media Stereotypes, and Medical Hubris Undermine Nurses and Patient Care (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work) Essential Oil Beauty Secrets: Make Beauty Products at Home for Skin Care, Hair Care, Lip Care, Nail Care and Body Massage for Glowing, Radiant Skin and Shiny Hairs Cat Training: The Ultimate Cat Training Guide - Learn How To Train Your Cat And Solve Behavior Problems (Cats Care & Health, Kitten Care, Animal Care) Maternity and Women's Health Care, 11e (Maternity & Women's Health Care) Health Care Information Systems: A Practical Approach for Health Care Management Health Care Finance: Basic Tools for Nonfinancial Managers (Health Care Finance (Baker)) Curing Medicare: A Doctor's View on How Our Health Care System Is Failing Older Americans and How We Can Fix It (The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work) Global Health Care: Issues and Policies (Holtz, Global Health Care) Transplanting Care: Shifting Commitments in Health and Care in the United States (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine) Principles Of Health Care Management: Foundations For A Changing Health Care System The Health Care Handbook: A Clear and Concise Guide to the United States Health Care System, 2nd Edition The Field Staff Crash Course for Hospice and Home Health Care Nurses: If you've never worked Hospice or Home Health Care before, you NEED this information... Neinstein's Adolescent and Young Adult Health Care: A Practical Guide (Adolescent Health Care a Practical Guide) Study Guide for Maternity & Women's Health Care, 11e (Maternity and Women's Health Care Study Guide)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)