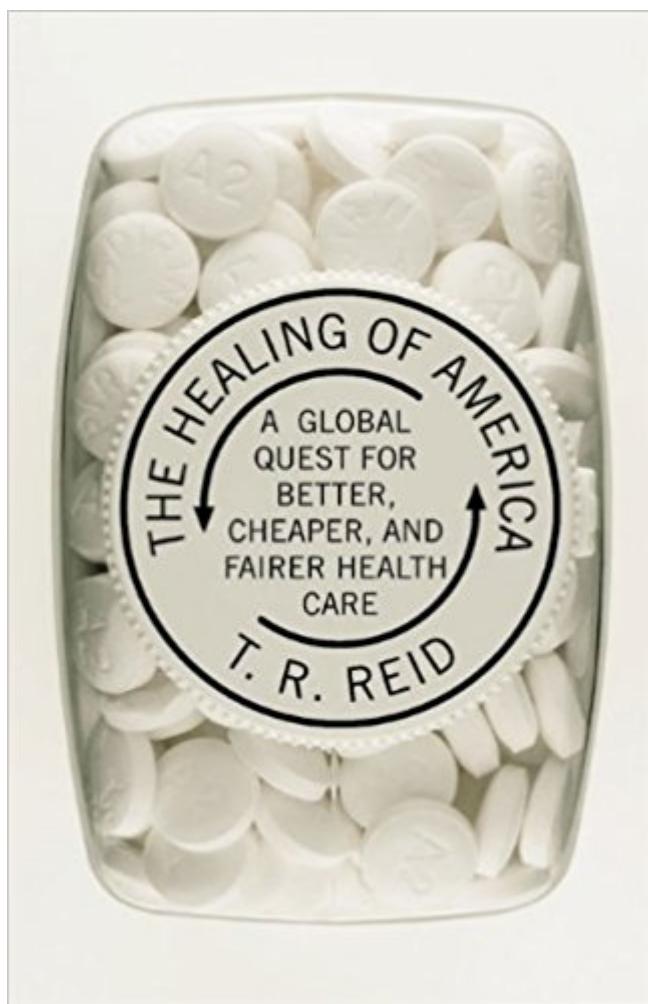


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# The Healing Of America: A Global Quest For Better, Cheaper, And Fairer Health Care



## Synopsis

Bestselling author T. R. Reid guides a whirlwind tour of successful health care systems worldwide, revealing possible paths toward U.S. reform. In *The Healing of America*, New York Times bestselling author T. R. Reid shows how all the other industrialized democracies have achieved something the United States can't seem to do: provide health care for everybody at a reasonable cost. In his global quest to find a possible prescription, Reid visits wealthy, free market, industrialized democracies like our own—including France, Germany, Japan, the U.K., and Canada—where he finds inspiration in example. Reid shares evidence from doctors, government officials, health care experts, and patients the world over, finding that foreign health care systems give everybody quality care at an affordable cost. And that dreaded monster “socialized medicine” turns out to be a myth. Many developed countries provide universal coverage with private doctors, private hospitals, and private insurance. In addition to long-established systems, Reid also studies countries that have carried out major health care reform. The first question facing these countries—and the United States, for that matter—is an ethical issue: Is health care a human right? Most countries have already answered with a resolute yes, leaving the United States in the murky moral backwater with nations we typically think of as far less just than our own. *The Healing of America* lays bare the moral question at the heart of our troubled system, dissecting the misleading rhetoric surrounding the health care debate. Reid sees problems elsewhere, too: He finds poorly paid doctors in Japan, endless lines in Canada, mistreated patients in Britain, spartan facilities in France. Still, all the other rich countries operate at a lower cost, produce better health statistics, and cover everybody. In the end, *The Healing of America* is a good news book: It finds models around the world that Americans can borrow to guarantee health care for everybody who needs it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Washington Post correspondent Reid (The United States of Europe) explores health-care systems around the world in an effort to understand why the U.S. remains the only first world nation to refuse its citizens universal health care. Neither financial prudence nor concern for the commonweal explains the American position, according to Reid, whose findings divulge that the U.S. not only spends more money on health care than any other nation but also leaves 45 million residents uninsured, allowing about 22,000 to die from easily treatable diseases. Seeking treatment for the flareup of an old shoulder injury, he visits doctors in the U.S., France, Germany, Japan and England—•with a stint in an Ayurvedic clinic in India—•in a quest for treatment that dovetails with his search for a cure for America's health-care crisis, a narrative device that sometimes feels contrived, but allows him valuable firsthand experience. For all the scope of his research and his ability to mint neat rebuttals to the common American misconception that universal health care is socialized medicine, Reid neglects to address the elephant in the room: just how are we to sell these changes to the mighty providers and insurers? (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Important and powerful... a rich tour of health care around the world." --Nicholas Kristof, The New York Times "You don't necessarily realize it while you're reading, but you're talking Comparative Health Economics 101. With a really fun professor." --Daily Kos "Not many writers of any ilk... can match T.R. Reid's ability to bring a light, witty touch to really serious topics--like health policy around the globe." --New America Foundation

Should be required reading for anyone talking repeal, replace, or enhancing the ACA. Learn the facts about how our expensive healthcare system stacks up against others world wide. You will come away with facts to shape your own opinion about if healthcare should be an American right?, Do doctors make too much money in the US?, Are pharmaceutical companies the problem or the solution? Are insurance companies the key to reigning in costs? It's an easy read but it's filled with facts that can help you decide on one of the most important issues facing America... what should

our healthcare system look like moving forward

The crux of the matter, quoted from p. 171: " . . . the U.S. health care system doesn't work for everybody. American health care is not really a system at all. It's a market. In a market, people with money can buy what they want and many people are left out." Reid does a superb job of making the case that the principle of health insurance and the pursuit of profit, in today's world, are inherently conflicted. Many U.S. citizens are unaware that its country is the only one of the developed nations that doesn't offer universal coverage to its citizens. The U.K., France, Japan, Germany, Canada, and Australia are among those nations that care for all of its citizens - regardless of income and wealth status. Reid documents the U.S. health care system's unfortunate inefficiencies and wastes: we spend the most on health care per GDP, spend more on administration costs, and our fragmented system lacks the decisive incentive to encourage long-term preventative care. Whereas we have some 700,000 citizens annually declare bankruptcy due to health care costs, other countries (Britain, France, Germany, Japan) have none who do so. For those under the impression that the "free market" truly is the mechanism to cure all of our ills (pun intended), Reid's presentation strongly argues to the contrary. Reid encourages (and I agree) that America go forward in health care by doing what it has done many times before: to pragmatically look around (in this case, to other nations) to see what works best and to incorporate those traits and practices to make our own system - which is the best in the world for a small majority of us - much better for all Americans. Reid calls it a moral and ethical obligation, and reminds us that we are better off when all of us - not just some - have access to good care. I write this a few weeks after a man of color with no health insurance - Thomas Eric Duncan - was erroneously sent home from a Dallas hospital, assured that he did not have ebola . . .

T.R. Reid reminds us that society should take care of its own; our own does not include for-profit insurance companies unless of course one feels beholden to those who take our premiums then find ways not to cover the Doctors, hospitalization and medicines. The political right, in association with the insurance industry have been insisting that national insurance needs more study for the last 60 years in-spite of the fact that Americans when asked what kind of insurance they would want have consistently defined the plan put forward by Hillary Clinton. Reid evaluates all other industrialized nation's approach demonstrating how Americans come up short on health coverage for 30 to 50 percent more money. If politics is more important than quality care at a lot less money then vote for "more study" and put off moving forward for another 60 years. If you

would like better health care at less cost then vote for national health care. Read and learn from T.R. Reid: The Healing of America

Everyone should read Mr. Reid's book, an early take on what is now a "major attention" issue, the cost, quality and access to healthcare around the world, providing food for thought on our own healthcare system. The same subject was covered in a PBS documentary with a similar name, that he appeared in and narrated. No one should miss the "bitter pill" article in Time magazine from a couple of years ago either. I do hope everyone will bear in mind that there are both good guys and bad guys in the healthcare system, we just need help in figuring out who is who to achieve real reform.

Rarely do we have an opportunity to learn unbiased facts and information on a controversial topic. The author simply presents his experiences with medical systems he used while residing in several foreign countries. In addition, I learned more about the operations of our own Medicare, Medicaid, and VA systems in these 250+ pages than I have during years of reading newspapers and watching news programs. The author's compare and contrast methodology is helpful and easy to understand. No "spin" here! By the last chapter, I came to believe that if we Americans are as smart as we like to think we are, we should be able to cherry pick the best features of these foreign plans to create what we think we will work best for us. As with any new program, we will not reach perfection with our first version; there will be a learning curve, and societal needs will change over time. The end result will be a kinder nation with significantly lower health care costs and better health for all. Laura

EVERY thinking person should read this book. The title says it ALL. THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS BROKEN. T.R. Reid spells out in detail how the system should/could be fixed. America spends 9 times more than the next developed country in the world (Germany) on health care and rates on the WHO list 37th of countries in outcomes, costs and people with health care coverage. This is ABOMINABLE!! The richest most powerful country ranks 37th?????

An amazing read. Written in a style similar to John McPhee and EB White. The extensive research and understanding brought to these critical concerns are well-documented, easily understood and applicable to the dialogue that so dominates our current public conscience.

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