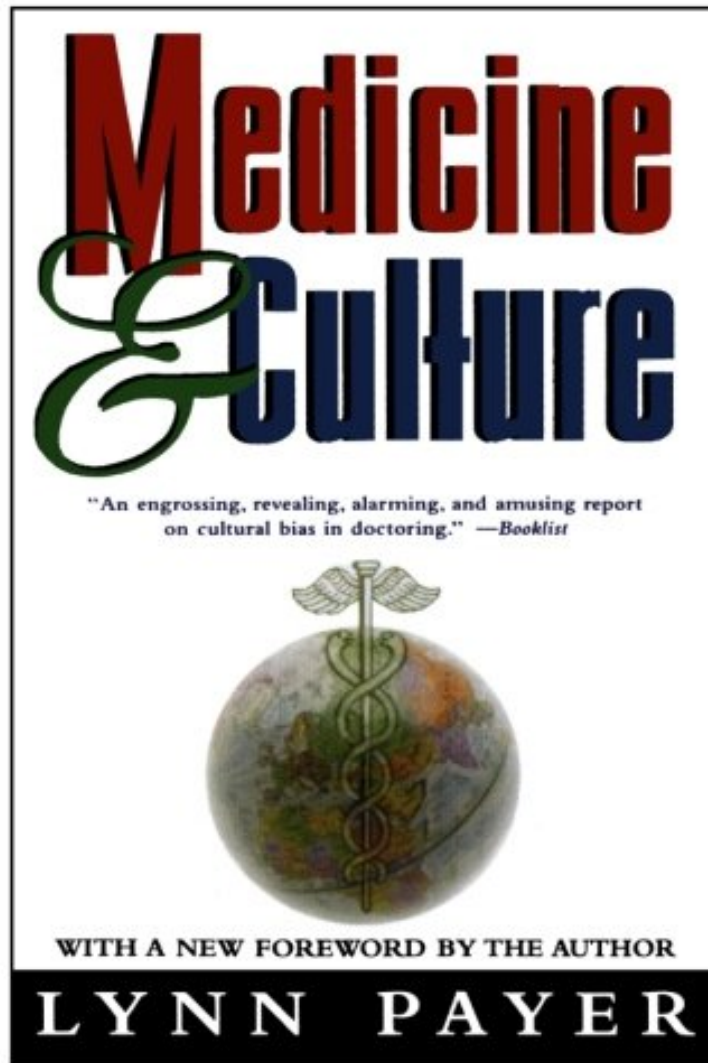


Medicine and Culture: Revised Edition

Lynn Payer

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Lynn Payer : Medicine and Culture: Revised Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Medicine and Culture: Revised Edition*:

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating anthropology of European and American medicineBy Herblady22While we may be used to looking at the anthropology of less developed countries, Lynn Payer turns her lens at European and American medicine. In England one keeps a stiff upper lip, as doctors give fewer tests, less medicine and lower doses, even when not rationed. West Germans use six times the number of heart drugs as the French or English, although the three countries have similar rates of heart disease, often using several at once due to

the attitudes towards the heart. France looks more at the terrain than the pathological organisms attacking it, strengthening the immunological system with techniques Americans would consider fringe medicine. And French doctors would use a hysterosalpingogram instead of the DC that German, English and Americans use to diagnose conditions because they are afraid of adhesions from surgery that might impair fertility. American doctors do excessive hysterectomies that would be considered unwarranted in England, France and Germany and, at least at the time of the book, radical mastectomies instead of lumpectomies. The book also looks at how medical compensation affects the way medicine is practiced. German and American doctors who are paid fees for each procedure use far more than English doctors who are paid a straight salary. American doctors may raise their fees when they want more compensation while French doctors would need to perform more operations. American doctors whose insurance companies would require them to perform a cesarean section after fibroid removal are more prone to remove the uterus than French doctors who have no such pressure and feel that a woman could have six myomectomies before a C-section would be required. And different organs are looked at as important. The French place great stress on the liver, its ability to process food and to regulate the body while the Germans focus on the heart. While we may consider medicine a science apart from cultural considerations, Payer shows us that the art of medicine is subject to cultural and economic biases even in the modern European-American context. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. specially for those who would like to learn more about the influence of culture and ...By TripleJumbo This is an interesting book, specially for those who would like to learn more about the influence of culture and social norms on the execution of medicine. However, as the foreword of the book indicates, there are instances where some of the content feels outdated. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating topic By Adam Wassermani like this book so much that I bought extra copies to loan out to patients. The idea that different cultures approach healthcare differently is both obvious and completely unthought of. Seeing that these varied approaches do not significantly alter outcomes provides tremendous insight into treating patients in alternative ways. I consider this a must read for any health professional and a fascinating read for anyone.

A classic comparative study of medicine and national culture, *Medicine and Culture* shows us that while doctors regard themselves as servants of science, they are often prisoners of custom.

From the Back Cover A classic comparative study of medicine and national culture, *Medicine and Culture* shows us that while doctors regard themselves as servants of science, they are often prisoners of custom. The United States, England, Germany, and France have equivalent life expectancy rates, yet medical treatment differs enormously from country to country. A new foreword by the author examines the trend toward evidence-based medicine and addresses the substantial changes in medical culture since 1988, including the proliferation of alternative medicine and the changing face of medicine in the European Community since the fall of Communism. About the Author Lynn Payer, a former editor for the *New York Times Good Health* magazine, writes extensively about medical issues for doctors as well as for the general public. She lives in New York City.