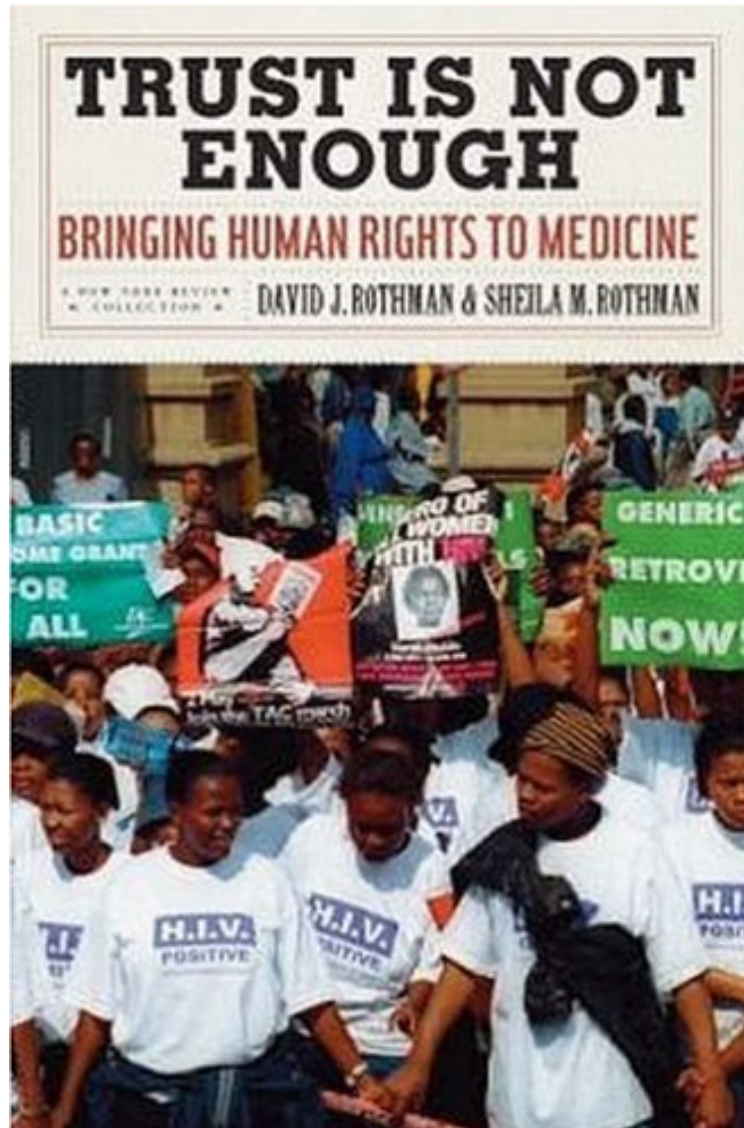


Trust is Not Enough: Bringing Human Rights to Medicine

David J. Rothman, Sheila M. Rothman
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David J. Rothman, Sheila M. Rothman : Trust is Not Enough: Bringing Human Rights to Medicine before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trust is Not Enough: Bringing Human Rights to Medicine:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Biased Account of Interesting Issues By Customer The authors take extremely complex issues and unfortunately present only one side of the debate. The writing style is actually insulting to the reader and does not give the reader any room to make up his or her own opinion. Even the chapter titles tell the reader, in advance, where the authors stand on the issues (i.e. "The Shame of Medical Research," "Rationing Life").

Many of the quotations and references are presented without enough information to allow the reader to form an opinion and see both sides of these interesting ethical dilemmas. If you want to read about social justice and human rights, read Paul Farmer and skip the contemptuous stories delivered by the Rothmans.

Addresses the issues at the heart of international medicine and social responsibility. During the last half-century many international declarations have proclaimed health care to be a fundamental human right. But high aspirations repeatedly confront harsh realities, in societies both rich and poor. To illustrate this disparity, David and Sheila Rothman bring together stories from their investigations around the world into medical abuses. A central theme runs through their account: how the principles of human rights, including bodily integrity, informed consent, and freedom from coercion, should guide physicians and governments in dealing with patients and health care. Over the past two decades, the Rothmans have visited post-Ceausescu Romania, where they uncovered the primitive medical practices that together with state oppression caused hundreds of orphans to develop AIDS. They have monitored the exploitative international traffic in organs in India, China, Singapore, and the Philippines. One of the most controversial questions they explore is experimentation on human beings, whether in studies of the effects of radioactive iron on pregnant women in 1940s Tennessee or in contemporary trials of AIDS drugs in the third world. And they examine a number of rulings by South Africa's Constitutional Court that have suggested practical ways of reconciling the right to health care with its society's limited resources. Whether discussing the training of young doctors in the US, the effects of segregation on medicine in Zimbabwe, or proposals for rationing health care, David and Sheila Rothman conclude that an ethical and professional concern for observing medicine's oldest commandment—do no harm—must be joined with a profound commitment to protecting human rights.

About the Author David J. Rothman is Bernard Schoenberg Professor of Social Medicine and History at Columbia University. Sheila M. Rothman is Professor of Public Health at Columbia University. Their books written together include *The Willowbrook Wars: A Decade of Struggle for Social Justice* and *The Pursuit of Perfection: The Promise and Perils of Medical Enhancement*. They live in New York City.