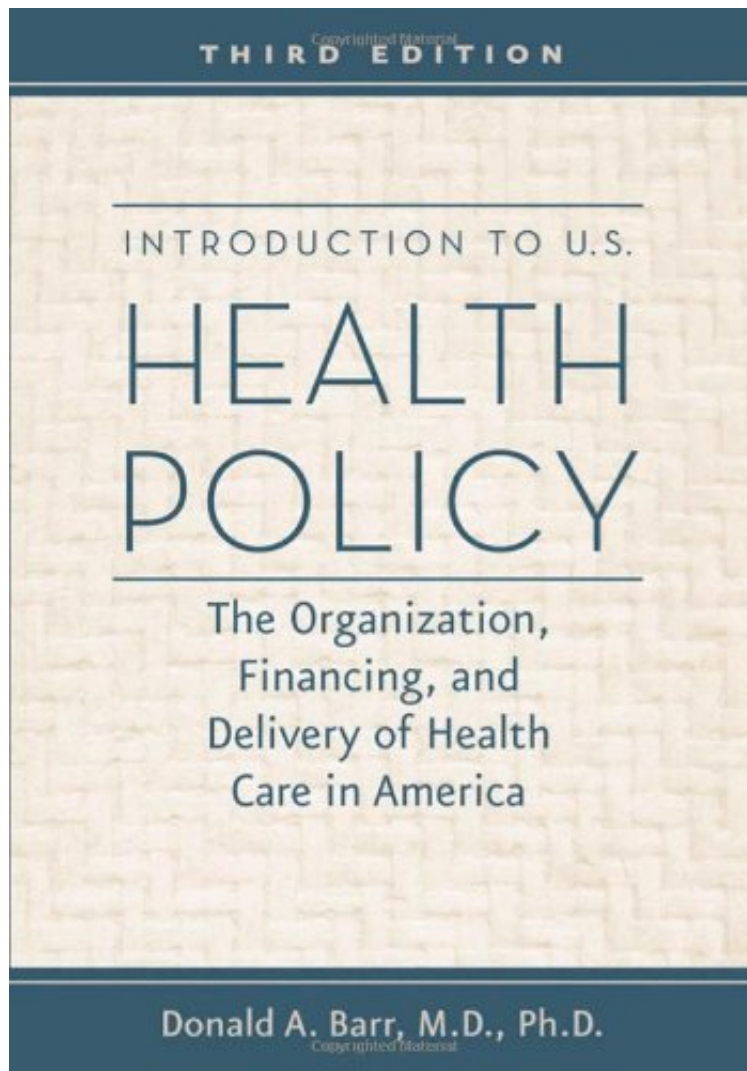


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Introduction to U.S. Health Policy: The Organization, Financing, and Delivery of Health Care in America

Donald A. Barr MD PhD

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This author may have some bias in his writing, however, he is extremely good at providing a historical account of the Health Policy system and offers great detailed examples from other countries than America. I appreciate the fact that I can learn a lot of the basic principles of health policy through this book. I recommend this book to people who don't know much about health policy because it definitely increased my understanding of the system.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a fascinating book about current health care delivery policy.
By Bill
Dr. Barr presents the subject of health care delivery in an engaging format and addresses the shortfalls of past policies. However, he presents the Affordable Care Act of 2010 in a comprehensive and understandable way so that all of us interested in pending changes to the manner in which health care is organized, financed, and delivered will be better able to deal with the Act's implementation. The book is highly recommended.

Health care reform has dominated public discourse over the past several years, and the recent passage of the Affordable Care Act, rather than quell the rhetoric, has sparked even more debate. Donald A. Barr reviews the current structure of the American health care system, describing the historical and political contexts in which it developed and the core policy issues that continue to confront us today. This comprehensive analysis introduces the various organizations and institutions that make the U.S. health care system work or fail to work, as the case may be. A principal message of the book is the seeming paradox of the quality of health care in this country on the one hand it is the best medical care system in the world, on the other it is one of the worst among developed countries because of how it is organized. Barr introduces readers to broad cultural issues surrounding health care policy, such as access, affordability, and quality. He discusses specific elements of U.S. health care, including insurance, especially Medicare and Medicaid, the shift to for-profit managed care, the pharmaceutical industry, issues of long-term care, the plight of the uninsured, medical errors, and nursing shortages. The latest edition of this widely adopted text updates the description and discussion of key sectors of America's health care system in light of the Affordable Care Act.

An excellent analysis and comprehensive study of the US health-care system. (Choice) Excellent starting point for exploring the complexities of U.S. healthcare. (Future Survey)
This book stands out for its emphasis on the historical roots of modern health care institutions... Barr's new book has much to recommend it. (JAMA)
A lucid and informative overview of the U.S. health system and the dilemmas policy makers currently face... Even those knowledgeable about the U.S. health care system are likely to find much to stimulate their thinking. (Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine)
From the Back Cover
Provides a clear description of all key aspects of the health care system to make it easier for the reader to evaluate the potential impact of proposals for health care reform. Using case studies and simplified presentations of major issues, this book gives the reader an appreciation of the dilemma confronting policy makers, providers, and patients: how to balance cost, quality, and access. It examines specific health care organization aspects such as the medical profession, hospitals, managed care organizations, and government health care programs. It also discusses policy changes that have had major impacts on American health care in the past decade. For health care providers, policy makers, consumers and others interested in health care in the U.S.