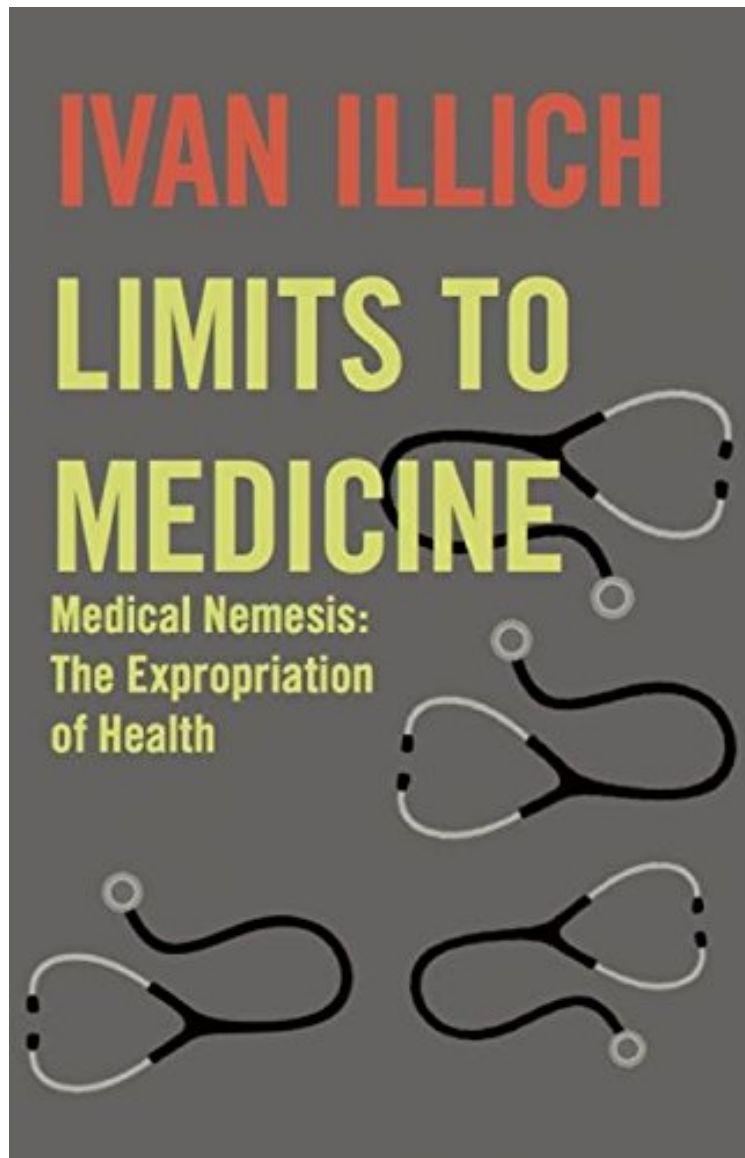


(Read now) Limits to Medicine: Medical Nemesis, the Expropriation of Health

Limits to Medicine: Medical Nemesis, the Expropriation of Health

Ivan Illich

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Ivan Illich : Limits to Medicine: Medical Nemesis, the Expropriation of Health before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Limits to Medicine: Medical Nemesis, the Expropriation of Health:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Opinionated and Offensively Antiquated Book By JDI chose to stop reading this book upon getting 14% of the way through when the author criticizes the use of oral contraception when

referring to how medicine is trying to change nature and normal occurrences, illustrating how opinionated and antiquated his means of seeing the world is. While this is perhaps a progressive bias of mine, he used such language with medicine in general, including reference to life-saving and life-prolonging treatments. While perhaps one could say that an old person getting sick and dying is a natural occurrence, this does not reflect on the significant emotional effects this event has on others and how if a loved one was around longer, how that could affect a family's happiness or permit closure as with being able to say goodbye to a loved one rather than them being one day and gone the next. The same argument with children who develop leukemia. I am a medical student so I already had issues reading his book where he focuses entirely on the negative aspects of medicine when as with anything, medicine has shades of gray. The author can only see black and white based on his language and choice of section titles such as "Useless Medicine." It is understandable that the author and individuals have concerns about medical treatment as sometimes treatment does not always work or presents with issues. What is not understandable is how the author did not present a balanced view of medicine as while medications can cause side effects as he repeatedly re-iterated, he lacked demonstration of how medications can prolong life and provide people with comfort, such as with pain-medication following a bone fracture. I got the impression the author never actually talked with a Western physician as he suggested that medications are administered haphazardly when in fact they are very carefully prescribed if and only if they have a greater chance of helping rather than harming the patient (based on data collected from treatments provided to thousands of patients in controlled settings). Physicians do not push treatments on their patients today, patients are the ones who can choose what happens to them legally. True, medications can come with side effects (this happens when one takes too much of a prescription, which is protected against by physicians constantly calculating how much would maximize beneficial effects and minimize those adverse events), though most are well tolerated as many of us can testify to regarding aspirin for example. Even treatments that are less tolerated (such as chemotherapy and associated nausea) are only used when and how long as absolutely needed for the patient's benefit, not for some monetary gain for the physician that the author consistently suggests. Medical ethics codes (and legal codes) dictate that my actions must provide the patient with a net benefit, they must not be based on any sort of maleficence, they must support the community, and they must respect the patient's ability to make an informed choice regarding what they want to be done to them.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A forgotten genius
By erA genius in systematic analysis of the medical field. Health as an out of control self-perpetuating industrial monster. He was the first to point out the early excess in hysterectomies for the only purpose, the enrichment of doctors at the expense of woman

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Robert S. Dotson
Superb - prophetic. Took me 20+ years to figure it out...

A reasoned attack upon the mythic prestige of contemporary medicines, examining the customs and rituals conducted by the medical profession. Illich proves the impotence of medical services to change life expectancy, and examines the clinical and social reality of personal health, and argues for individuals to regain the integrity of their bodies and lives.

About the Author
Ivan Illich is the author of Celebration of Awareness, Tools for Conviviality, The Right to Useful Unemployment, Energy and Equity, Limits to Medicine, Shadow Work, Gender, H2O and the Waters of Forgetfulness, ABC: The Alphabetization of the Popular Mind, Disabling Professions, Deschooling Society and In the Mirror of the Past: Lectures and Addresses 1978-1990.