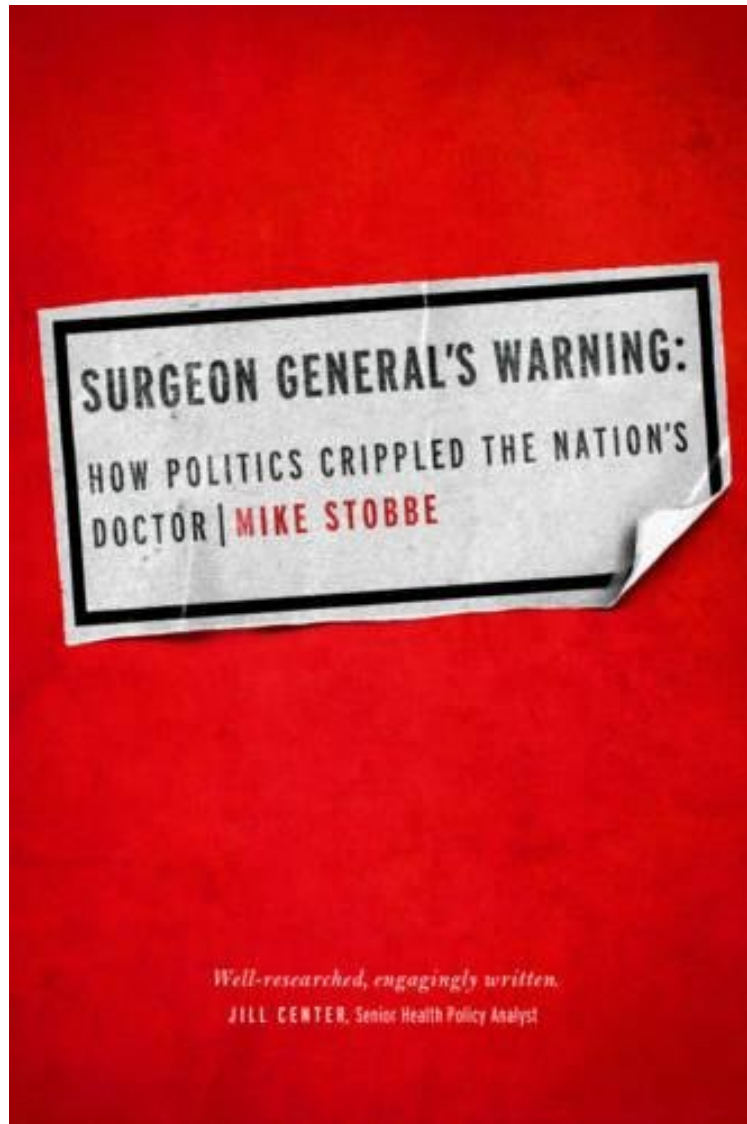


(Read and download) Surgeon General's Warning: How Politics Crippled the Nations Doctor

# Surgeon General's Warning: How Politics Crippled the Nations Doctor

*Mike Stobbe*

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**Mike Stobbe : Surgeon General's Warning: How Politics Crippled the Nations Doctor** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Surgeon General's Warning: How Politics Crippled the Nations Doctor:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great...informative and engaging.By M. D. TerryTerrific. Stobbe offers the reader an easy, detailed narrative of the history of the office of the Surgeon General and the Public Health

Service, and the medicine and politics which affect both. The more important latter part of the book is Stobbe's analysis of the need for services such as are offered by the NIH, CDC, the office of the surgeon general and various parts of HHS which many regard as redundant. This is an important, informative and engaging work. A very fine general history read, particularly for anyone interested in politics, government, health care, medicine or public health. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Robert R Blackburn/Rose C. Blackburn Great resource for all health departments, all board of health members 1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Richgood

What does it mean to be the nation's doctor? In this engaging narrative, journalist Mike Stobbe examines the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, emphasizing that it has always been unique within the federal government in its ability to influence public health. But now, in their efforts to provide leadership in public health policy, surgeons general compete with other high-profile figures such as the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Furthermore, in an era of declining budgets, when public health departments have eliminated tens of thousands of jobs, some argue that a lower-profile and ineffective surgeon general is a waste of money. By tracing stories of how surgeons general like Luther Terry, C. Everett Koop, and Joycelyn Elders created policies and confronted controversy in response to issues like smoking, AIDS, and masturbation, Stobbe highlights how this office is key to shaping the nation's health and explains why its decline is harming our national well-being.

From Booklist \*Starred \* Stobbe, national medical correspondent for the Associated Press, delivers a riveting history of the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and the 18 doctors who held the post, beginning in 1871 with General William Sherman's chief medical officer, John Woodworth. Stobbe spent seven years on this study of the nation's doctor, interviewing nearly every living surgeon general. A few of many fascinating facts: Hugh Cumming, who became surgeon general in 1920, helped abolish the shared drinking cup at public water fountains; Thomas Parran, who became surgeon general in 1936, condoned the arrest of women deemed promiscuous spreaders of venereal disease; and in 1957, surgeon general Leroy Burney issued a 660-word statement on cigarette smoking and lung cancer. Later, C. Everett Koop became a hero for taking on Big Tobacco and advocating condom use and sexual education to help Americans understand and combat AIDS. Stobbe covers the proud moments and the despicable ones (the Tuskegee experiment on black men with syphilis). He covers the rise (1871-1948), the decline (1949-80), the struggle (1981-2001), and the plummet (2002-present), sadly concluding that because politicians have taken away the chief MD's ability to be an independent speaker of truth, it may be time to shutter the Office of the Surgeon General. An outstanding resource on the history of U.S. public health. --Karen Springen "A riveting history of the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and the 18 doctors who held the post. . . . An outstanding resource on the history of U.S. public health." -STARRED REVIEW