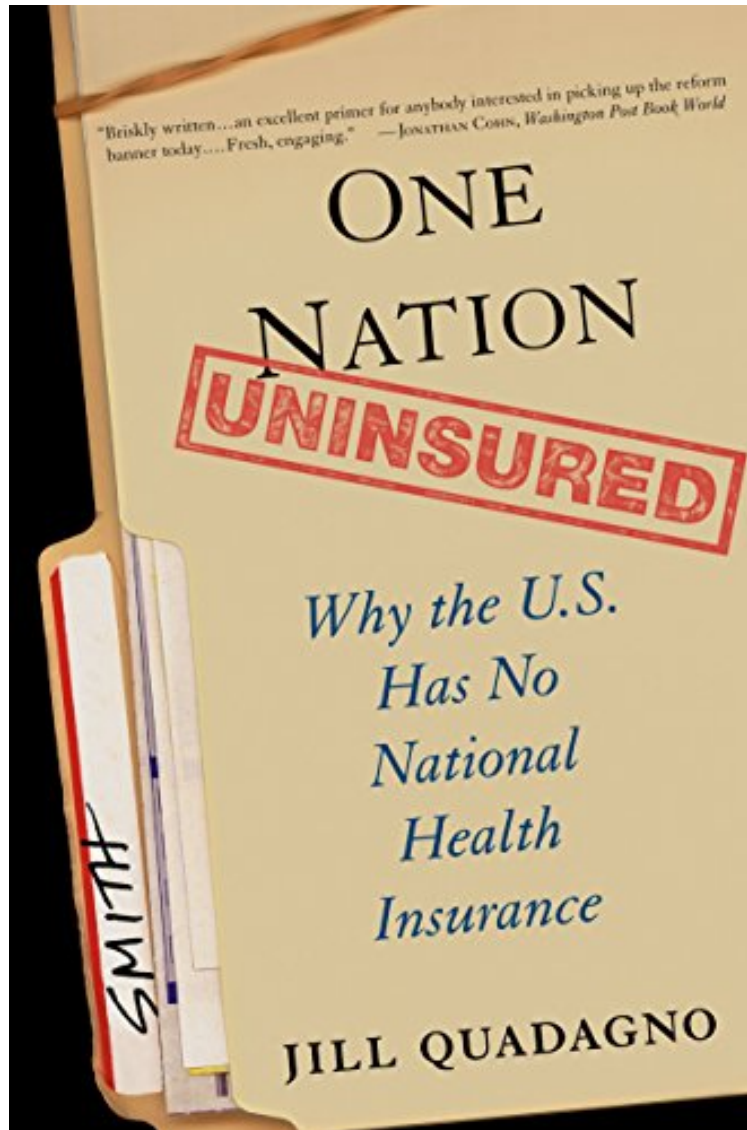


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One Nation, Uninsured: Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance

Jill Quadagno

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Jill Quadagno : One Nation, Uninsured: Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Nation, Uninsured: Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance:

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people found the following review helpful. RADICAL READBy daphne naborsRadical book, good book, formed the backbone for many essays i have written since6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly interesting and readable primer on such a complex issueBy CustomerOne Nation Uninsured is brought to life in a fresh way by various first-hand recollections that are peppered throughout detailed, academic sketches of the major historical episodes that failed to produce national health insurance. Instead of reading like another dry textbook, this book provides an informative, intimate, and plausible narrative of why many of the major players did what they did in light of their different circumstances, motivations, and temperaments. Particular attention is also paid to other important non-health care events, such as the Red Scare, Brown v. Board of Education, Watergate, and Iran-Contra, as they indirectly affected the political will to mobilize for and against national health insurance, making this account all the more believable and nicely nuanced.My only complaint is that since the book was published in 2005, 2006 Part D legislation which expanded Medicare coverage, could not be discussed, but hopefully an updated edition will be written in a few years. Overall, a surprisingly interesting and readable primer on such a complex issue.

Every industrial nation in the world guarantees its citizens access to essential health care services--every country, that is, except the United States. In fact, one in eight Americans--a shocking 43 million people--do not have any health care insurance at all.One Nation, Uninsured offers a vividly written history of America's failed efforts to address the health care needs of its citizens. Covering the entire twentieth century, Jill Quadagno shows how each attempt to enact national health insurance was met with fierce attacks by powerful stakeholders, who mobilized their considerable resources to keep the financing of health care out of the government's hands. Quadagno describes how at first physicians led the anti-reform coalition, fearful that government entry would mean government control of the lucrative private health care market. Doctors lobbied legislators, influenced elections by giving large campaign contributions to sympathetic candidates, and organized "grassroots" protests, conspiring with other like-minded groups to defeat reform efforts. As the success of Medicare and Medicaid in the mid-century led physicians and the AMA to start scaling back their attacks, the insurance industry began assuming a leading role against reform that continues to this day.One Nation, Uninsured offers a sweeping history of the battles over health care. It is an invaluable read for anyone who has a stake in the future of America's health care system.

From Publishers WeeklyAccording to Quadagno, the short answer to her subtitle is a fairly easy one: America lacks national health insurance because powerful interests have always managed to prevent Congress from passing the necessary legislation. As this slim history shows, however, those interest groups weren't always the obvious suspects. Although Quadagno, a sociologist and former presidential advisor, does write plenty about how organized physicians and insurance companies have lobbied to protect their interests over the last century, showing how the Clintons' disastrous attempt at health care reform is just the tip of the iceberg, she also offers insights into why labor unions rejected government-led solutions to the health care problem to focus on their own collective bargaining efforts. Other chapters detail conservative framing of national health care as "an insidious communist plot" and the fight southern doctors raised against the racial integration of medical facilities during the civil rights era. Quadagno unapologetically advocates for the sort of program that the United States has so far failed to adopt, but admits that it will never happen until health care is considered a "social right, not a consumer product." Her analysis of the repeated defeats is unlikely to find much traction with anyone besides the hardcore policy wonks, however, as her blow-by-blow accounts of the political battles fail to generate much heat. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistCollege professor Quadagno, who specializes in social gerontology, wades into the quagmire that is health-care reform in the U.S and explains why such reform has failed, despite apparent popular support. She addresses, and discredits, the conventional theories explaining this failure: distrust of big government (what about Medicare?), a weakening labor movement (labor has often opposed reform), the fear in the South of federal intervention obstructing local racial practices (hard to measure the effect of that fear on health policy), and little coordination between federal and state governments (again, the success of Medicare). She argues that reform has failed because of the ability of vested interests--insurance companies, the small-business lobby, the AMA, among others--to mobilize vast resources to make their case before consumers, and especially legislators, the result being that one in three Americans is uninsured over any given two-year period. Quadagno offers solutions, including a federal "stop-loss" program that would assist businesses and individuals facing catastrophic health-care losses not covered by insurance. A solid and not-too-wonkish guide to health-care reform today; pair with Uninsured in America, reviewed below. Alan MooresCopyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "Briskly written...an excellent primer for anybody interested in picking up the reform banner today.... Fresh, engaging."--Jonathan Cohn, Washington Post Book World"A strongly argued account that provides useful ammunition for anyone seeking to effect change in a medical system that willfully excludes so many who need it."--Kirkus s"An important book. Jill Quadagno provides an impressive array of historical evidence to advance original arguments for why the United States lacks a comprehensive health care system and why health insurance should be viewed as a social right. This book is must reading for those concerned about health care reform in the United States." --William Julius Wilson, author of When Work

Disappears"Readable and engaging.... Some of the most interesting portions come from Quadagno's own archival searches and her interviews with people who lived the history that she describes.... Quadagno's sustained focus on interest-group politics seems right on target."--New England Journal of Medicine"Jill Quadagno has produced the most comprehensive and up-to-date account of the power and effectiveness of interest groups in defeating a century of national health insurance reform campaigns. An impressive combination of theory and historical research, *One Nation, Uninsured* sets the parameters for the next round of debate over why the U.S. remains the only country without universal health insurance and how it might still expand access while reigning in costs." --Lawrence R. Jacobs, McKnight Land Grant Professor, University of Minnesota"A chilling historical account of how powerful groups with self-serving financial interests have successfully blocked attempts to enact national health insurance for seven decades, leaving tens of millions of our citizens without adequate health care coverage and often without even minimal care. Anyone eager to seek reform of our badly fragmented health care system must study its lessons and its blueprint for action; a task that will require nearly unprecedented political skills and monumental organizational prowess." --Jerome P. Kassirer, M.D., author of *On The Take: How Medicine's Complicity With Big Business Can Endanger Your Health*"Quadagno, a distinguished sociologist with a long-standing interest in policy, explores a century of government attempts to create universal health care and the powerful forces that have defeated those attempts.... Her sociological insights illuminate a path to reform."--Judy Goldstein Botello, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*"A sweeping and detailed account of the U.S. health insurance system's development during the 20th century. ...*One Nation Uninsured* is a clearly written, informative book that would be of interest to academics studying health care, politics, policy or U.S. history, and members of the lay public who want a better understanding of why the United States does not have universal health insurance. It would also be accessible to students, particularly those in advanced undergraduate courses or graduate seminars."--*Social Forces*