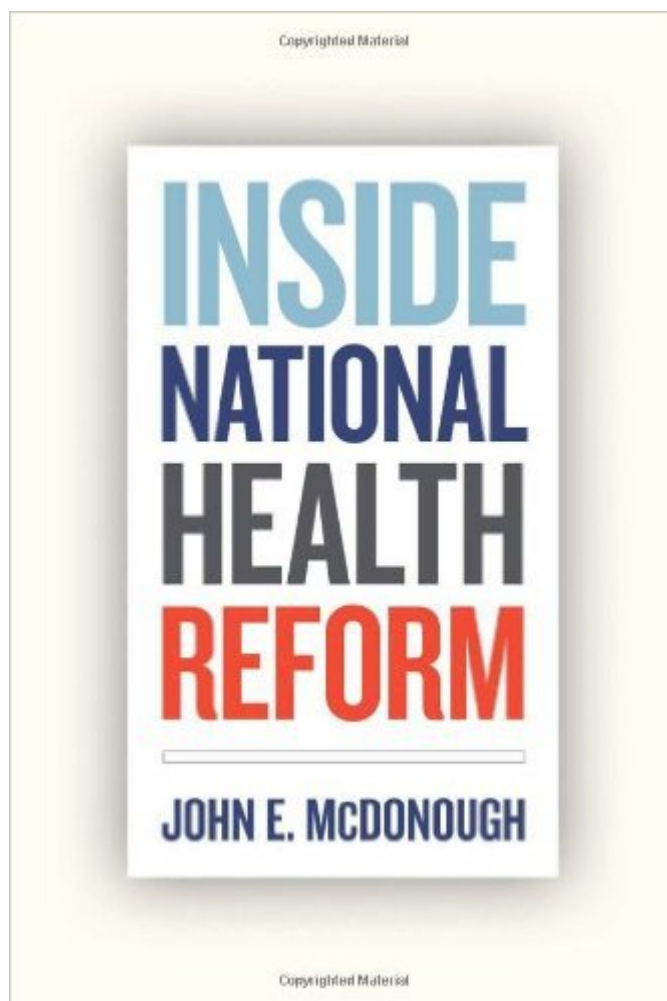


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# Inside National Health Reform (California/Milbank Books On Health And The Public)



## Synopsis

This indispensable guide to the Affordable Care Act, our new national health care law, lends an insider's deep understanding of policy to a lively and absorbing account of the extraordinary and extraordinarily ambitious legislative effort to reform the nation's health care system. Dr. John E. McDonough, DPH, a health policy expert who served as an advisor to the late Senator Edward Kennedy, provides a vivid picture of the intense effort required to bring this legislation into law. McDonough clearly explains the ACA's inner workings, revealing the rich landscape of the issues, policies, and controversies embedded in the law yet unknown to most Americans. In his account of these historic events, McDonough takes us through the process from the 2008 presidential campaign to the moment in 2010 when President Obama signed the bill into law. At a time when the nation is taking a second look at the ACA, *Inside National Health Reform* provides the essential information for Americans to make informed judgments about this landmark law.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Inside National Health Reform* offers an uncommon combination of both the political process and policy substance of the Affordable Care Act. From his unique perspective, John McDonough provides a first-hand, thoughtful account of the politics surrounding health reform, and supplies the context for how our health care system, and its many problems, came to be. Further, McDonough's

thorough and balanced description of the provisions included in the ACA go far to educate readers on the substance and potential implications of the new law, written in both an entertaining and accessible way. The book revives much-needed optimism about the future of our health care system at a time when we are too quick to forget the historic accomplish and sweeping benefits the ACA.

McDonough describes the process of enacting the ACA and its contents. For those who are interested in political processes and how congress works, the first section is a great resource. For instance, the book describes a process known as a 'Byrd Bath' that budgetary reconciliation bills must go through to be eligible for passage. McDonough also writes about the many different interest groups that were either for or against health reform in whole or in part or even for and against it at different times. McDonough logically splits the second section into 10 chapters, one for each title of the ACA. Each chapter contains a summary of the corresponding title as well as a discussion of the arguments for and against the measures in the corresponding title. To me, this was the most valuable element of the book. This book is most valuable because there is no other resource out there that is as complete, accessible and thorough as this one. That said, McDonough does have a bias--which he admits to in his preface--in favor of the law. Whether good or bad, the law should stand on its true contents and merits, not the party of the president who signed it. This book goes a long way towards educating the reader about the substantive promise and shortcomings of the ACA. McDonough makes the case that the ACA is as big and important as Social Security in 1935 or Medicare in 1965, for better or worse. The success or failure of the ACA is yet to be seen as so many of its programs--guaranteed issue for all adults, the individual mandate, quality and safety programs, fraud and abuse measures, insurance subsidies, Medicare rate cuts and much more--have yet to take effect. In the meantime, this book is the best way to understand the contents of the ACA, in McDonough's words, '...whether one regards the law as monumentally good or monumentally bad.' (p. xiii)

This weekend I went out and bought a copy of John McDonough's new book. I would have paid less if I had ordered it on-line from . My wife couldn't believe that I would find a book on national health reform to be enjoyable reading, but it is--and incredibly informative, too, even for someone who was close to the process. It's nice to be able to look back at what happened and see all the individual events in the larger context. McDonough also provides accessible summaries of each of the major portions of the health reform law.

This is a thrilling and thorough insiders account of the passage of the Affordable Care Act. I don't know of anyone in the country who understands the integration of health policy and politics better than John McDonough, who served as the Senior Advisor on National Health Reform to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. "Inside National Health Reform" should be required reading for anyone in the health policy field, but this is also a very exciting book for anyone!

As a health care consumer, I can relate to Americans being overwhelmed by the changes and improvements the passing of National Health Reform has had and will continue to have on health care. In Inside National Health Reform, John E. McDonough gives an insightful and detailed history of the passage of the country's universal health care law through interviews, research and his own experiences as an expert in the field. This book is an excellent tool for educating Americans in need of understanding the complexities behind national health reform.

The author takes us on a deep dive into the passage of health reform in our country. Despite the extraordinary amount of fascinating detail, this book is eminently approachable and highly readable. John McDonough provides thoughtful wisdom and optimism for this herculean accomplishment and the impacts it will have for all of us over time. This is all the more refreshing at a time when pundits are paid per sound bite, partisans dominate the airwaves, and negativity overwhelms most optimists, never mind those of us who are idealists. Anyone interested in understanding our evolving health care system- which effects us all, will find much value from this book. Those of you interested in public policy and politics will also find tremendous value in this book. Highly recommended. Inside National Health Reform (California/Milbank Books on Health and the Public)

The ACA (or Obamacare, whatever you choose to call it) is probably one of the most important and controversial topic of discussion in this decade, especially as the country gears up for the next election. A lot has been said about it in the news, discussions, expert opinions etc. As each political party blames the other for things that could've been done better, its important to understand the political process that went behind creation and passing of the bill. I think this book does a great job in explaining that process. I dont have any political affiliations so cant comment on the author's bias. If you are just getting to learn about reforms, and want to read about the history, this is perfect. However, if you are looking for a critique on the reform, you should look elsewhere. Also, if you are

looking for a quick read, look elsewhere. This one needs a pretty high level of interest in understanding the political process.

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