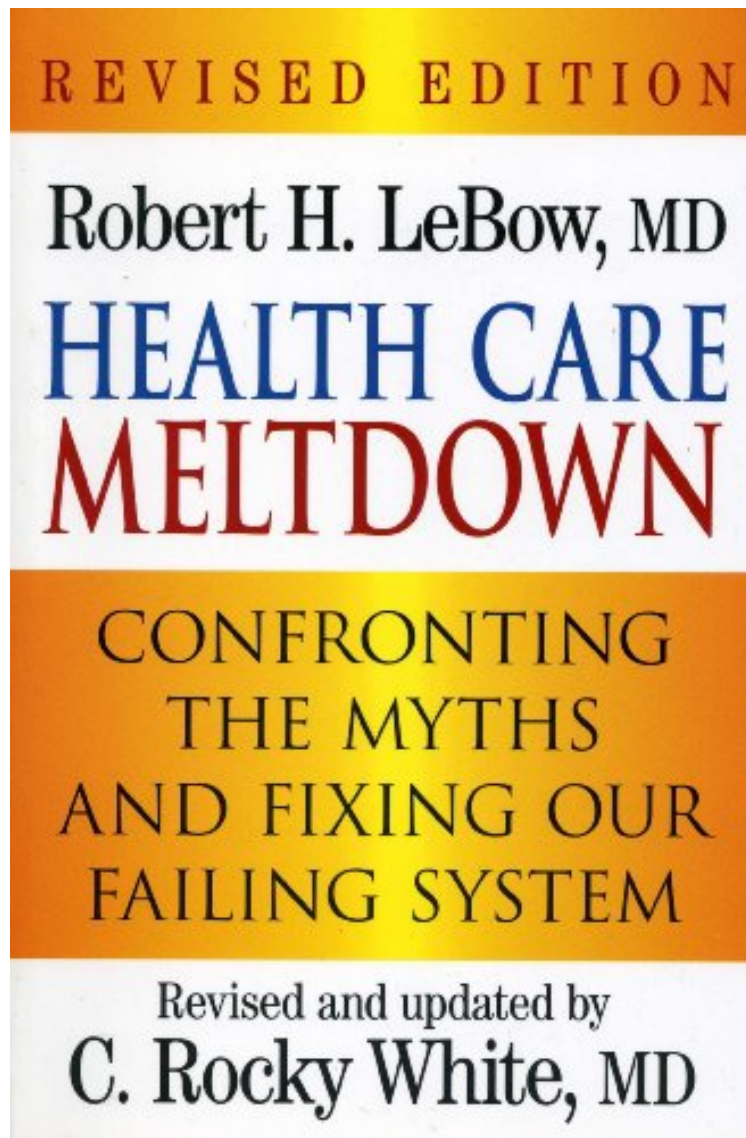


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Health Care Meltdown: Confronting the Myths and Fixing our Ailing System

Robert H. LeBow, C. Rocky White
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Robert H. LeBow, C. Rocky White : Health Care Meltdown: Confronting the Myths and Fixing our Ailing System before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Health Care Meltdown: Confronting the Myths and Fixing our Ailing System:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What We Should All Know by Now By Joseph A. Domino Dr.

Lebow's passionate plea for health care reform, although written five years ago, still resonates today. He has seen it from the trenches in public clinics. To the critics of health care reform, he will be labeled as a socialist which is nonsense. He effectively points out that insurance and pharmaceutical companies lobby for protection of their obscene profits. Dr. Lebow astutely points out many of the myths of the current system. As the chapters progress he is sometimes repetitive and preachy, but this can be overlooked. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Classroom Textbook By Ellie As an Adjunct instructor in the Concordia University system, I have had the opportunity to encourage my MBA students to read this book for my Special Topics in Health care class. After reviewing other possible textbooks during the last 6 months, I have decided to now use this text as the basis for my 8-week adult education class. Offering ample examples and 'myths' that portray our fractured health care system of today, this author has summarily provided a springboard for ongoing conversations and possible answers for this country. Granted all, the HC system will not be corrected for some time, but an accounting will be made when the public becomes a focused participant at the table. As health care professionals, it is our responsibility to study, learn, participate and educate others, as well as ourselves. This will begin that process and it will be well worth your effort and consideration. Thank you E Schwarzw, RN, MBA, CCM1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Handbook for Change By Dirk J. Willard I haven't finished this book yet but I've learned so much. As a pessimist, I am always surprised when things are worse than even I expected. The author is a doctor. Like you would expect, if you know doctors, they are mostly conservative Republicans. Hey, the AMA can't even regulate themselves. As the author watched, the health insurance companies ruined his practice. That's when he decided to write a book. Here's an interesting fact: The uninsured pay 5 times as much as those protected by health insurance. This is the opposite of what the health insurance industry would have you believe. It turns out that hospitals can exploit the uninsured. Health insurance companies play hardball. How's that for a revelation! There are many in this book collected from years of experience with the health insurance companies. And, these facts are supported. Here's another fact: Medicare overhead is 2-3%. The average overhead, as quoted by the insurers themselves is 15%. But, many liberal think tanks estimate their overhead at 25-30%. Even at 15%, it's too high! Here's another fact: Drug manufacturers estimate that it costs \$800 million to bring a drug to market. Public Citizen, a consumer protection group, estimates it takes only \$110 million. Do you see the largess out there? It will take me many weeks to finish off this book. It reads well. And, although the author is a doctor he is critical of his own blaming doctors for gaming the medicare system. If you'd like to be an informed voter, read this book. I hope this review was helpful. Please add your vote.

Almost five years after the original publication of Dr. Lebow's authoritative dissection of America's health care "system", the situation has in many ways deteriorated. More Americans lack any health insurance, costs continue to increase faster than income, and increasing complexity is overwhelming everyone involved. In revising this book, Dr. C. Rocky White has included recent developments in the field, and updated the relevant statistics. The bibliography has been expanded to include recently published articles, books and government documents. For the most part, however, Dr. LeBow's text has proved to be as timely now as it was upon initial publication in 2002. With a presidential election coming in 2008, *Health Care Meltdown*, in its revised edition, will be an essential reference for citizens of all political persuasions. There is little doubt that the failures of America's health care "system" will be a major issue as political campaigns heat up.

A necessary acquisition for all libraries. Starred review, *Library Journal* A timely book for the present and future problems facing the health care system in the US Recommended. Choice, a publication of the American Library Association. About the Author Dr. Bob Lebow has dedicated his entire life to practicing medicine, serving indigent patients, and fighting for single-payer health care. Before his cycling accident in the summer of 2002, Dr. LeBow was a family practitioner (including obstetrics) and was also board certified in general preventive medicine. Since 1972 he had been Medical Director of Terry-Reilly Health Centers, a group of community health centers in southwest Idaho that served a largely low-income, Hispanic population. He was the first man to cycle across Tibet; a Peace Corps physician in Bolivia, and has worked in over 20 countries worldwide, helping to develop primary care health systems. Dr. LeBow was one of the authors of Idaho's 1992 single-payer legislation, and has run for the Idaho state legislature three times. He is a prolific writer with frequent essays on the need for universal coverage. He currently resides in Philadelphia with his family where he is recovering from his life-changing injuries.