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# Health Care Turning Point: Why Single Payer Won't Work (MIT Press)

Roger M. Battistella

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## HEALTH CARE TURNING POINT

WHY SINGLE PAYER WON'T WORK



"With admirable bluntness, Mr. Battistella dismantles a lot of health-policy conventional wisdom, showing how it has been made obsolete by new economic and social realities." — Joseph Rago, *The Wall Street Journal*

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**Roger M. Battistella : Health Care Turning Point: Why Single Payer Won't Work (MIT Press)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Health Care Turning Point: Why Single Payer Won't Work (MIT Press):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Health Care Turning Point: Why Single Payer Won't Work. Review by Ronald Millerndash;Three StarsBy Ronald J. MillerI chose to rate this book as three stars for three reasons: First,

the author is quite verbose with his wording and sentence structure. When I first begun to read it, I couldn't help but wonder as to whom he was writing. One has to read carefully. Second, the author is very biased in favor of the Republican Party in his presentation. He definitely appears to be a full fledged member of the "power elite" in this country. If that term is foreign to you, please read *Who Rules America? Power, Politics, and Social Change* by G. William Domhoff. Trust me. It's a good read. Thirdly, in my opinion, the authors' reasoning as to why a single payer health care system will not work is contradicted by his reasoning (very good and informative reasoning I might add) as to the many problems with today's healthcare. His real problem is that he has no feeling for the lower classes and doesn't want to pay the taxes necessary to implement a single payer system. Again, this is my personal opinion from reading his book and his bio. I especially liked his book notes and bibliography which will help me in any future study I may wish to pursue. His discussion concerning the many problems involved in health care, I think, were very much to the point and informative. Our major difference, politically is that I don't believe in a two-tiered economic system, the haves and the have nots as portrayed in the movie "Elysium". God made this world for all of us; not just a relative handful. I recommend this book for the careful reader. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Marianne S. good book 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Marion Alley Excellent!

An expert debunks popular misconceptions about health policy, including the merits of single-payer plans, and offers an alternative. In the battle over health care reform we can try to fashion new policies based on old ideas--or we can acknowledge today's demographic and economic realities. In *Health Care Turning Point*, health policy expert Roger Battistella argues that the conventional wisdom that dominates health policy debates is out of date. Battistella takes on popular misconceptions about the advantages of single-payer plans, the role of the market, and other health policy issues and outlines a pragmatic new approach. Few would disagree that the current system is broken. But, Battistella asserts provocatively, a government takeover of health insurance patterned after Medicare and Medicaid won't work either. Battistella argues that contrary to popular belief, single-payer coverage will not lower health spending but would encourage overconsumption and drive costs up. If consumers were responsible for buying their own health insurance (as they are for buying their own car and home insurance), he argues, they'd look for value and demand greater price and quality transparency from providers. The economic shibboleth that the principles of market competition don't apply to health care is nonsense, Battistella says. We won't achieve real health care reform until policy makers adjust to this reality and adopt a more pragmatic view.

"Battistella advocates practicality and pragmatism as an alternative to ideological panaceas -- a timely reminder and important reading as the country struggles through its latest attempts at health care reform." --Gail Wilensky, Project Hope About the Author Roger M. Battistella is Emeritus Professor of Health Policy and Management in the Sloan Graduate Program in Health Administration at Cornell University.