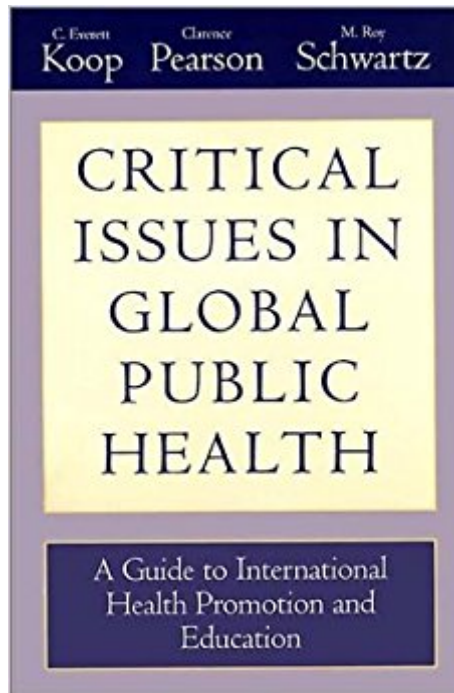




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# Critical Issues In Global Health



## Synopsis

Critical Issues in Global Health is an outstanding compendium of knowledge and thought--from a distinguished panel of internationally renowned medical and public health experts--that offers insight into the most important health issues facing our world's populations. The volume's individual contributors represent a wide range of prestigious health organizations and institutions including the World Health Organization, National Academy of Sciences, Kellogg and Rockefeller Foundations, U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and the American Public Health Association. Edited by C. Everett Koop, Clarence E. Pearson, and M. Roy Schwarz, these never-before-published essays explore the future of international health and explain what will be required in order to provide adequate health and medical care worldwide, especially for underdeveloped countries.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Global approaches to health began to be conceived as rich nations embarked on the exploration and colonization of poor nations in the tropics. For much of the first half of the 20th century, these approaches were focused on gaining an understanding of the pathophysiology of infectious diseases endemic to warmer climates and devising the means to cure them. In the latter half of the 20th century, the use of airplanes increased international travel, allowing the import and export of various infectious agents with increasing ease. Other factors contributing to the spread of disease were the mass migrations caused by war, civil strife, hunger, and natural disasters. Such migration

has influenced the changing face of global health. The past century also witnessed the industrialization of previously nonindustrial countries and the globalization of trade. In some regions, these trends have led to economic improvement, the control of many infectious diseases, and a shift toward a focus on chronic diseases. But these epidemiologic transitions have also drastically affected some countries by requiring less sophisticated societies to face modern health challenges. Global health today has a much different face from the one it had in 1902, when Sir Ronald Ross won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his work linking malaria and mosquitoes. Today, the field of global health encompasses infectious and chronic diseases, environmental and occupational health, injury prevention, war, and hunger, as well as research and the implementation of health care programs. And it involves politics. In order to achieve success in combatting poor health, the international community has come to appreciate the need for partnerships, both among countries and international organizations and between public agencies and private industry. In *Critical Issues in Global Health*, Koop, Pearson, and Schwarz have assembled contributions by prestigious leaders in the area of public health who here share their insights into what they see as the most pressing issues in global health. The editors have grouped the essays into three main parts, covering countries, continents, and the world; organizational landscapes in global health; and organizations, management, leadership, and partnerships. The relatively short chapters address past successes, current challenges, and possible future advances in public health. The first essay, by Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former director general of the World Health Organization, establishes the tenor of the book. Brundtland points to the tremendous gains in life expectancy that were made over the past few decades; however, she also points out that severe poverty hinders more than a billion people from reaping the rewards of the "health revolution." Brundtland lists four challenges for the 21st century: "first and foremost," a reduction in poverty; second, the need to address threats that arise from economic crises, unhealthful environments, and risky behavior; third, the development of effective health care systems; and, fourth, the expansion of the knowledge base related to health. Throughout subsequent chapters, after discussing experiences with various topics in health care, the contributors delve into areas that, in essence, revisit these four challenges. *Critical Issues in Global Health* is an excellent overview for those with an interest in improving global health. It is expansive in its coverage, which is both a strength and a weakness. Although the book provides an overview of many important topics in global health, each chapter is only that, an overview. Readers will use the book as an introduction to the subject of global health, but they will need to search for other works that provide more coverage in depth. The pressing health issues of today are covered, but the challenge is to predict what influences -- the severe acute respiratory syndrome is a recent

example -- will affect the world's health in the future. John R. MacArthur, M.D., M.P.H. Copyright © 2003 Massachusetts Medical Society. All rights reserved. The New England Journal of Medicine is a registered trademark of the MMS. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

"Critical Issues in Global Health will open your eyes to the threats posed by disease, poverty, ignorance, and lack of communications to the populations of the world. Clear and unequivocal solutions are put forth by some of the world's leading health authorities." (O. Milton Gossett, retired chairman, Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Worldwide) C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD, long gone from office, is the only surgeon general millions of Americans and others the world around are ever likely to remember by name. He is still with us, of course, corporeally, institutionally, professorially, digitally, and, now with two principal colleagues, editorially. Clarence E. Pearson, MPH, of the National Center for Health Education, and M. Roy Schwarz, MD, of the China Medical Board of New York, have joined him in organizing the thoughts of 75 authorities75 first choices, not a single second pick needed in a review of the world as they see it and as they hope and fear it will be in our new century. Throughout a foreword (by Jimmy Carter), an introduction (by Dr Koop), and 51 chapters, a long catalogue of "critical issues," many discussed from multiple perspectives, is set out for policy response. These issues might well be reworked, in clinical fashion, as a global-health problem list: 1. Demographic destabilization 2. Accelerating developmental disparities 3. Health-in-development strains 4. Health-in-prosperity strains 5. Persistent underattention to the vulnerabilities and capabilities of girls and women 6. Infrastructural inadequacy and inappropriateness 7. Deficiencies of cooperation, coordination, and governance 8. Facilitation of biomedical research 9. Facilitation of clinical practice 10. Microenvironmental problems 11. Environmental degradation 12. Demand for personally and socially harmful substances 13. Violence

Critical Issues in Global Health is a good book. It will doubtless see immediate use in public health and public policy graduate programs. It will surely help many journalists and editorialists find ideas. And it will improve the consultations and testimonies of more than a few experts. It will then fade, as befitting a snapshot, however well composed. It will also surely someday be found again, valued as much for its intriguing misperceptions, whatever they prove to have been, as for its clearheadedness. Robert H. Sprinkle, MD, PhD, School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland

Journal of the American Medical Association Vol. 286 No. 13, October 3, 2001 Books Journals, New Media This valuable book will doubtlessly see immediate use in public health and public policy graduate programs, and it will surely help many journalists, editorialists and experts. (Robert H. Sprinkle, MD, PhD, School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland, JAMA)

Good information in an up to date text, not overly laden with long, dry explanations - what more can you ask for?!

Historical information related to health care in different parts of the world. It helped me get an A. Kind of old though.

The book arrived sooner than I expected, it was exactly what I asked for and was in a better condition than was described. Packaging was great. Thank you very much.

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