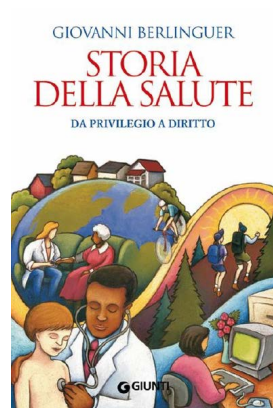


BOOK REVIEWS, NOTES AND COMMENTS

Edited by
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STORIA DELLA SALUTE
Da privilegio a diritto
Giovanni Berlinguer
Firenze: Giunti Editore; 2011.
312 p.
ISBN 978-88-0905-365-6
€ 16,00

formal end is witnessing some substantial changes of perspectives and planned strategies at national, supra-national and global level. These two books may therefore be helpful to the present discussion, despite their point of view and resulting perspectives may appear biased or even old-fashioned for some.

Giovanni Berlinguer exerted a major technical and political role in the years when the NHS was established (Law n. 833, 1978). A Medical Doctor, he covered the chair of Physiology and Occupational Hygiene (Fisiologia e Igiene del Lavoro) at "La Sapienza" University of Rome. Senator of the Italian Republic for a long time since 1983, he was a very active member of the International Committee of Bioethics of UNESCO (2001-2007) and in the Commission on the social determinants of Health (World Health Organization - WHO, 2005-2008).

His book is a rather exhaustive, yet brief compendium of the history of the social relevance of health, starting from the Middle-Age times, reviewing major historical epidemics, emerging diseases, and the origin and development of the WHO, including some hints on the role exerted by scientific biomedicine and social sciences in the recognition and coping with occupational diseases.

Marco Geddes da Filicaia's book is instead an attempt to reasoning on the recent economical, strategic and social factors having shaped and still shaping our national NHS. It reviews a few recent trends of the Italian NHS, such as level of general taxation, expenses due to personnel, the necessities of minor or major adjustments, etc. The economical calculations fade in some hot ethical aspects of contemporary biomedicine and public health. It may sound a rather biased (for some critics, a slightly superficial) analysis, however its reading may be useful since it represents a rather shared perspective among those active within the NHS itself.



LA SALUTE SOSTENIBILE
Perché possiamo permetterci un Servizio sanitario equo ed efficace
Marco Geddes da Filicaia
Roma: Il Pensiero Scientifico;
2018.
180 p.
ISBN 978-8849006117
€ 18,00

In the last months, the Ministry of Health initiated a general reflection on some of the most relevant and urgent issues dealing with continuous transformation of the Italian National Health System (NHS). Analogous changes and ongoing discussions are underway in most of the National Health Systems at European and international level.

The Italian National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS) is actively participating in the debate, given its role as the technical biomedical branch of the Italian NHS. At least from an historical point of view, we found worth mentioning those two books, whose editorial roles may represent a sort of landmark, useful for the ongoing present discussions. The COVID pandemics triggered a series of debates, therefore its

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