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Black and Blue: The Origins and Consequences of Medical Racism

J. Hoberman
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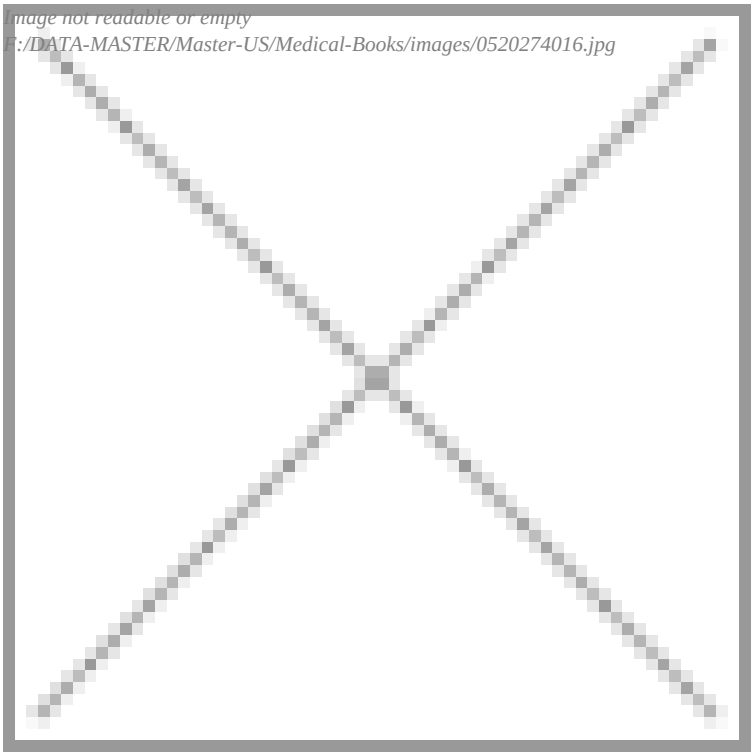

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#267186 in Books Hoberman John 2012-04-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .90 #File Name: 0520274016304 pagesBlack and Blue | File size: 52.Mb

J. Hoberman : Black and Blue: The Origins and Consequences of Medical Racism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Black and Blue: The Origins and Consequences of Medical Racism:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is an academic and public health breakthrough.By W. Michael ByrdAny student of the four century-old racial-, ethnic-, and class-based health and health care disparities in the United States (U.S.) should read, and digest, this book. Though other authoritative researchers have touched upon the subject of medical racism (e.g., Washington, Byrd and Clayton, Cobb, and Morais), none have made a systematic study of the problem. Hoberman has opened the door to what should be a sub-specialty discipline in American medicine and public health. This baseline body of knowledge is urgently needed in all of our national efforts to validate and implement sorely needed cultural competence programs in U.S. medical, dental, nursing, physician's assistant, and schools of public health.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book written by a social scientist seems to be ...By Doctor JThis book written by a social scientist seems to be thoroughly researched and highly authoritative. Reading it open my eyes to the strong history of racism in my profession. It has been the beginning of a scholarly inquiry into the topic and what we might do about it.8 of 10 people found the following review helpful. well researched, poorly organized, misleading chronologicallyBy KarenThis book, although well researched, is unfortunately not well written. The book is a history of medical racism, but not presented in chronological order, so the reader comes away feeling that the medical field always has been, and continues to be, very

racist. Although the numerous quotations are cited, the author uses endnotes, leaving it up to the reader to check the back of the book for the date of the quote. The author may lead into a statement about medicine today with an inflammatory quote from 1914 (with the date hidden in the endnotes). Nobody can deny that America has had a bad racist past, but I have a hard time discerning from the organization of this book how bad things still are. In addition, the author is very repetitive, and disorganized with the content of the facts. The clear overarching thesis is that the medical field is racist, but within sections of the book, the theses get lost. One section that referred to psychiatry in the title (p. 158ff) then didnrsquo;t seem to talk about psychiatry at all. In a number of places the author makes assumptions that go well beyond the presented facts ndash; and then criticizes scientists for being cautious about making similar claims. This book is a tough slog. The reader must keep her critical thinking cap firmly in place ndash; who said, based on what data, and in what time period ndash; and is the next quote from the same time period or from decades off? If a second edition of this book is released, with the same impressive collection of facts, overhauled into a more coherent, chronological, less-repetitive format, I recommend reading that one instead.

Black Blue is the first systematic description of how American doctors think about racial differences and how this kind of thinking affects the treatment of their black patients. The standard studies of medical racism examine past medical abuses of black people and do not address the racially motivated thinking and behaviors of physicians practicing medicine today.Black Blue penetrates the physicianrsquo;s private sphere where racial fantasies and misinformation distort diagnoses and treatments. Doctors have always absorbed the racial stereotypes and folkloric beliefs about racial differences that permeate the general population. Within the world of medicine this racial folklore has infiltrated all of the medical sub-disciplines, from cardiology to gynecology to psychiatry. Doctors have thus imposed white or black racial identities upon every organ system of the human body, along with racial interpretations of black children, the black elderly, the black athlete, black musicality, black pain thresholds, and other aspects of black minds and bodies. The American medical establishment does not readily absorb either historical or current information about medical racism. For this reason, racial enlightenment will not reach medical schools until the current race-aversive curricula include new historical and sociological perspectives.

ldquo;[An] eye-opening work. . . . It is a pioneering, systematic study of racial issues in medicine/health care. . . . Highly recommended.rdquo;