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The Healing of America ***A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and*** ***Fairer Health Care***

T.R. Reid
Penguin Publishing Group

T.R. Reid, a journalist and correspondent, researches the medical system in France, Germany, Japan, UK, Canada and India, comparing them to the American system in the United States. First published in 2009, it is an interesting world medical tour. Although there are many great insights, I think he still misses certain points. Reid does not consider the importance of the huge cost of pharmaceuticals in the U.S. compared elsewhere. His personal medical issue is a painful shoulder after an old injury — he still hangs on to the hope of shoulder replacement surgery even after Ayurvedic practitioners in India provided significant pain relief without requiring surgery. I don't feel he is appropriately critical of American high tech medicine and its limitations, costs and side effects.

For years I enjoyed National Public Radio stories by T.R. Reid when he was living in Japan and later in England while working for the Washington Post. He is a good man and a fine writer but I feel he only tells part of the story. Still, he provides good reporting about how other developed countries deal with medical care.

Robert P. Goldman, MD