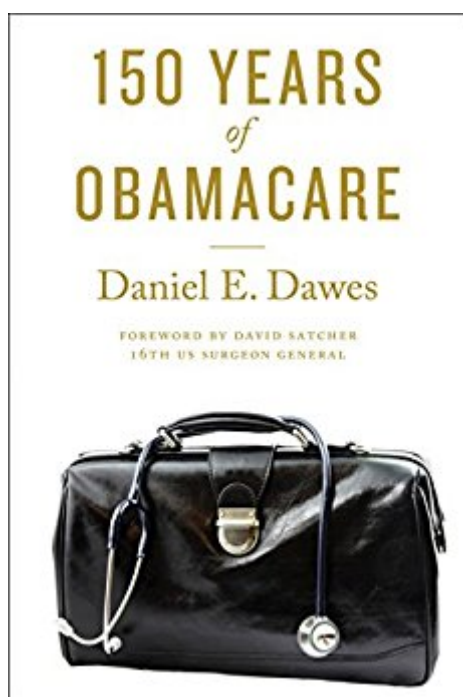


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# 150 Years Of ObamaCare



## Synopsis

In this groundbreaking book, health-care attorney Daniel E. Dawes explores the secret backstory of the Affordable Care Act, shedding light on the creation and implementation of the greatest and most sweeping equalizer in the history of American health care. An eye-opening and authoritative narrative written from an insider's perspective, *150 Years of ObamaCare* debunks contemporary understandings of health reform. It also provides a comprehensive and unprecedented review of the health equity movement and the little-known leadership efforts that were crucial to passing public policies and laws reforming mental health, minority health, and universal health. An instrumental player in a large coalition of organizations that helped shape ObamaCare, Dawes tells the story of the Affordable Care Act with urgency and intimate detail. He reveals what went on behind the scenes by including copies of letters and e-mails written by the people and groups who worked to craft and pass the law. Dawes explains the law through a health equity lens, focusing on what it is meant to do and how it affects various groups. Ultimately, he argues that ObamaCare is much more comprehensive in the context of previous reform efforts than is typically understood. In an increasingly polarized political environment, health reform has been caught in the cross fire of the partisan struggle, making it difficult to separate fact from fiction. Offering unparalleled and complete insight into the efforts by the Obama administration, Congress, and external stakeholders, *150 Years of ObamaCare* illuminates one of the most challenging legislative feats in the history of the United States.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

150 Years of ObamaCare is a real eye-opener. While I was aware that attempts had been made to expand accessibility to health care, I had no idea that the history went back 150 years, or that several attempts had been made to legislate a universal or single payer system. In many ways that is surprising given that I spent close to 20 years in the public health system, and almost that long in graduate school preparing for a career in health care. Less surprising is the fact that most got stalled in committee after committee and then jettisoned in one of the branches of the legislature. The book is well written and easy to read, though there is enough information that it is difficult to absorb in one pass. A good deal of the information is summarized in tables, graphs and graphics, making for easier reference. Though somewhat academic, the backstory, the players, trends, ideas floated and social history prevent it from being a dry read. For much of its history, the idea of public health care was not a bipartisan issue, nor terribly controversial. Initially the idea of public health was to target specific groups who had inadequate access. It shifted in scope and demographic over time, at points targeting a diagnostic group, at others ethnic or age-based, and only on rare occasions the entire population. A nationalized health care system was originally part of social security but was dropped as Roosevelt felt it might scuttle the entire package. Practically every president in the past century + has attempted to extend access to health care. Insurance of any sort did not enter the conversation until the 1950s and went from universal to government funded/ municipal to individual, privately purchased after significant lobbying by the AMA.

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