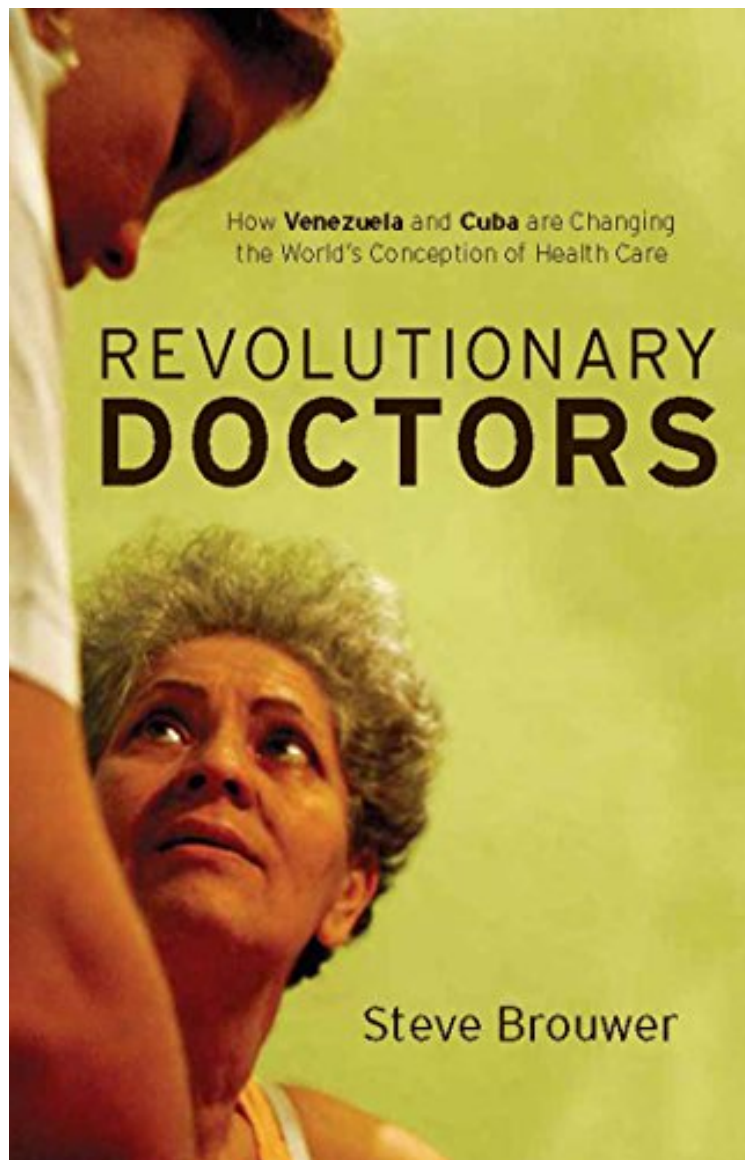


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Revolutionary Doctors: How Venezuela and Cuba Are Changing the World's Conception of Health Care

Steve Brouwer Brouwer

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Steve Brouwer Brouwer : Revolutionary Doctors: How Venezuela and Cuba Are Changing the World's Conception of Health Care before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revolutionary Doctors: How Venezuela and Cuba Are Changing the World's Conception of Health Care:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerProduct was delivered early. The exact right product.17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. A Vision that Renews My HopeBy Cynthia CrownerLike the author of this book, I am the child of a doctor in the US. My dad was old fashioned--worked in an under-served rural area, made housecalls with his little black bag, and often took produce instead of cash from locals who could not afford to pay. But even with his commitment, I was aware how hard it was for many to access health care in our area. We just didn't have enough doctors for these rural areas of our nation and still don't. So when I visited Cuba in 1978 and visited local neighborhood clinics spread evenly throughout the nation so that all citizens could have access to quality health care, I was impressed. How could a poor developing country be doing this while the rich neighbor to the North couldn't get its act together?! I visited Cuba a couple of times during the 1990's "Special Period" when the fall of the Soviet Union had led to an economic crisis for a nation dependent on trade with the USSR and its former allies. While the structure of the health care system was still in tact, medicine was in short supply and many doctors were strapped for cash as they were paid in pesos in an economy where dollars were becoming the most stable currency (yes, in spite of the embargo). I remember crying at the state the medical system had fallen into. My hope died. . .This summer, more than a decade later, I read Steve Brouwer's inspirational book, "Revolutionary Doctors" and my hope was renewed. By sharing in great detail with ample documentation, not only personal stories of what the Cuban doctors are doing at home but also in Venezuela where the author lived for several years, I was able to see that the vision has not died and that Cuba has rebounded and is not alone in developing universal health care for all. The vision is spreading and altruistic Cuban doctors are helping Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia and other nations to realize the dream. As a Christian minister, I am elated that the vision of healing the sick, "the least of these", the poor, is taking place even in nations where the majority of the populations are poor. I want to encourage you to read this book. If these nations can pursue health care as a human right for all, why can't we do it in our own? Let the vision spelled out in this book encourage us all.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. As a Venezuelan doctor, I invite anyone to read ...By IlonkaAs a Venezuelan doctor, I invite anyone to read FACTUAL articles about how the healthcare is right now in Venezuela. How Infant and maternal mortality increased, how patients lack basic care, how we are losing patients because of the "brilliant" system put in place by the cuban-venezuelan regime. This book is a travesty.

Revolutionary Doctors gives readers a first-hand account of Venezuelarsquo;s innovative and inspiring program of community healthcare, designed to servemdash;and largely carried out bymdash;the poor themselves. Drawing on long-term participant observations as well as in-depth research, Brouwer tells the story of Venezuelarsquo;s Integral Community Medicine program, in which doctor-teachers move into the countryside and poor urban areas to recruit and train doctors from among peasants and workers. Such programs were first developed in Cuba, and Cuban medical personnel play a key role in Venezuela today as advisors and organizers. This internationalist model has been a great successmdash;Cuba is a world leader in medicine and medical trainingmdash;and Brouwer shows how the Venezuelans are now, with the aid of their Cuban counterparts, following suit.But this program is not without its challenges. It has faced much hostility from traditional Venezuelan doctors as well as all the forces antagonistic to the Venezuelan and Cuban revolutions. Despite the obstacles it describes, Revolutionary Doctors demonstrates how a society committed to the well-being of its poorest people can actually put that commitment into practice, by delivering essential healthcare through the direct empowerment of the people it aims to serve.

("Steve Brouwer is one of the nation's best front-line reporters from the ongoing class war.")-(Barbara Ehrenreich),
() "Steve Brouwer is one of the nation's best front-line reporters from the ongoing class war."-Barbara Ehrenreich,About the AuthorSteve Brouwer is the author of Robbing Us Blind: The Return of the Bush Gang; Sharing the Pie: A Citizensquo;s Guide to Wealth and Power in the United States; Exporting the American Gospel: Global Christian Fundamentalism (co-authored with Susan D. Rose); and Conquest and Capitalism, 1492-1992. He is also a carpenter and designer, and has organized worker-owned construction businesses and housing cooperatives. In 2007-2008, he lived in a rural village in the mountains of Venezuela and wrote about his campesino neighbors and the Bolivarian Revolution.