This is a revolutionary book. The author incites readers to embark on an audacious revolution to convert the American medical market into the American health care system. Fine, a family physician and manager of health care systems, stresses the failed promise of current American medicine, contrasting it with optimistic possibilities of reform that will, while saving billions in unnecessary expenditures, deliver effective health care to Americans through networks of community health centers. A bonus to an improved health care system would be a renewal of American democracy, for he argues that community involvement, the signal of democracy, is required for the realization of his vision of medical centers. In the opening section Fine speaks of millions of dollars in health care that go to waste in the health care system, disappearing to somewhere other than patient care. He employs examples of successful systems to demonstrate that what he seeks is attainable. Closing sections describe medical, political, economic, and social changes that must take place to create and sustain the network of community centers. Dr. Fine is realistic; he acknowledges that it will be decades before this goal is attained, but emphasizes that it is time to begin.

*--T. P. Gariepy, Stonehill College*

Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.