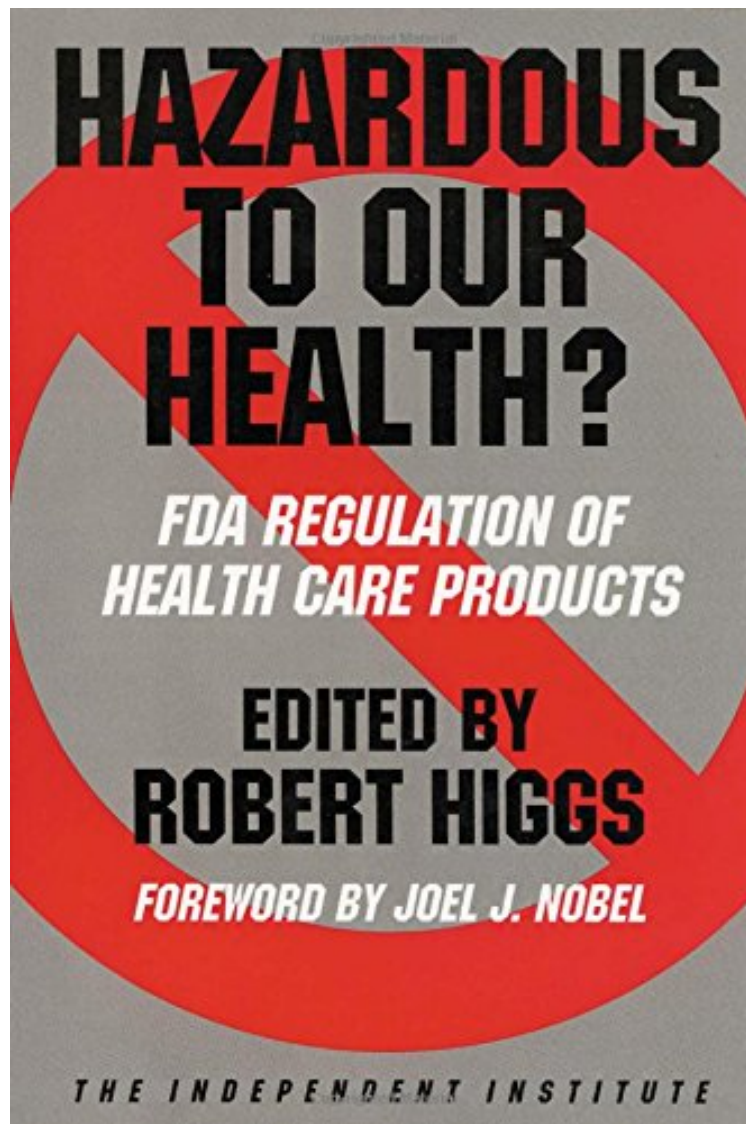


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## **Hazardous to Our Health?: FDA Regulation of Health Care Products (Independent Studies in Political Economy)**

*Robert Higgs, Ronald W. Hansen, Paul H. Rubin*  
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**Robert Higgs, Ronald W. Hansen, Paul H. Rubin : Hazardous to Our Health?: FDA Regulation of Health Care Products (Independent Studies in Political Economy)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hazardous to Our Health?: FDA Regulation of Health Care Products (Independent Studies in Political Economy):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Service!By M. BrodrickExcellent service!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent summary of FDA failuresBy Mary W.This collection of reports points to the way that regulations are moving in a parallel universe to both needs of patients and the realities of modern technology and possibilities of new solutions. Nobody is being protected or made healthier.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A SERIES OF ESSAYS CRITICAL OF FDA POLICIESBy Steven H ProppEditor Robert Higgs wrote in the Introduction to this 1995 collection of essays, "these studies provide ... a warning of what awaits us if, like trusting children, we continue to submit to the paternalism of the FDA, an agency whose officials utter reassuring words while augmenting our suffering and hastening our demise." An essayist suggests that "The FDA has long regarded itself as focused on safety and medical effectiveness, not price... There does not appear to be room for a product that is almost as safe or almost as effective as existing products but cheaper." (Pg. 24) Another observes, "Why did no firm choose to litigate the issue? Firms are deathly afraid of the FDA... firms are generally afraid of antagonizing the FDA, and will commonly agree with regulatory actions rather than litigate." (Pg. 31) An essayist argues, "When we think of the FDA and overregulation, we tend to think of the inexcusable delays in approval of new drugs... But this is only part of the problem. Once the FDA approves a drug, users must learn of it. This can occur through advertising and promotion either to physicians or directly to consumers. In both cases, the FDA's policies greatly retard the spread of such information." (Pg. 48) Another essayist asserts, "Even if the FDA did not exist, normal market incentives combined with the terrors of product liability litigation are more than sufficient to encourage manufacturers to produce REASONABLY safe and effective products." (Pg. 81) These essays are a fairly broad, and thought-provoking critical examination of various aspects of FDA policy.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is one of the most powerful of federal regulatory agencies, if not the most powerful, regulating about 25 per cent of all consumer goods in the United States. It routinely makes decisions that determine the well-being of millions of people in the United States and around the world concerning foods, drugs, medical devices, and dietary supplements. Although the FDA was created to protect the public, could its actual operations have the opposite effect, causing enormous harm to public health? Assembling the work of three outstanding scholars, *Hazardous to Our Health?* provides a lucid and comprehensive examination of the FDA: How has the FDA acquired its vast powers? What have been the effects of the FDA? Why has the FDA failed to achieve its goals? Who actually benefits and loses from the FDA? How has the FDA defended itself against criticism? What real alternatives exist to the FDA? and much more. *Hazardous to Our Health?* goes beyond mere assumptions, conjectures, and political predilections to examine the facts and findings of independent authorities. Providing far more than just an account of the past and a warning for the future, this powe

"Adds invaluable insights into regulatory deficiencies and their possible solution." -- Luis Lasagna, M.D., dean, Sackler School of Biomedical Sciences, Tufts University "As *Hazardous to Our Health?* makes clear, the FDA's record is execrable. This book makes the case for individual freedom." -- *The Freeman* "This powerful book examines the issues from a rarely voiced and considered viewpoint. The insights are provocative." -- Joel J. Nobel, M.D., president, Emergency Care Research Institute About the Author Robert Higgs is senior fellow in political economy at The Independent Institute and editor of *The Independent*. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Johns Hopkins University, and he has taught at the University of Washington, Lafayette College, and Seattle University. He has been a visiting scholar at Oxford University and Stanford University, and was formerly a fellow for the Hoover Institution and the National Science Foundation. Among his other books are *Crisis and Leviathan: Critical Episodes in the Growth of American Government* and *Arms, Politics and the Economy: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*.