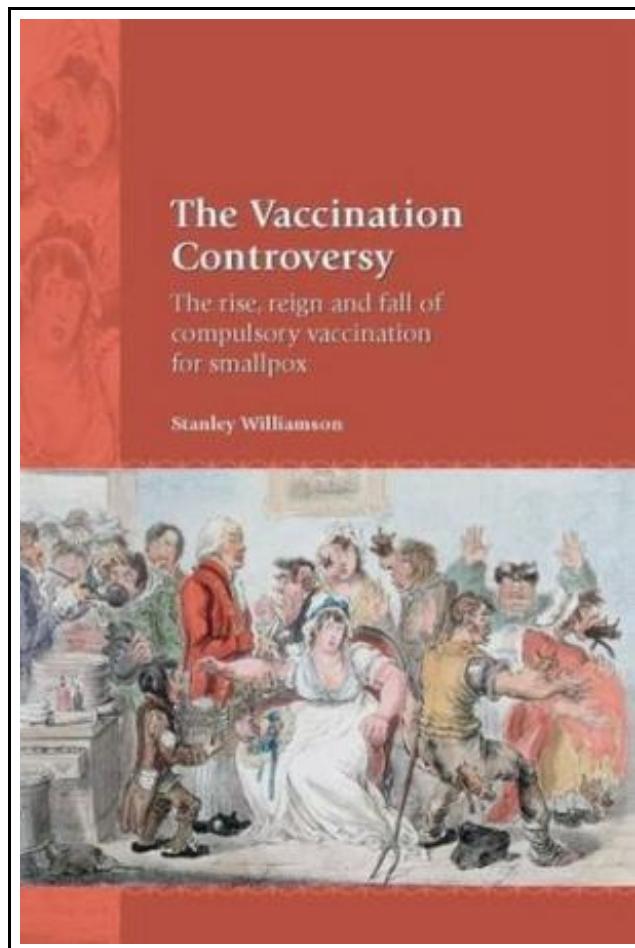


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Reviews

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(Walton Haag)

THE VACCINATION CONTROVERSY: THE RISE, REIGN AND FALL OF COMPULSORY VACCINATION FOR SMALLPOX

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Liverpool University Press, United Kingdom, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Smallpox was for several centuries one of the most deadly, most contagious and most feared of diseases. Williamson's extraordinary study charts the history of one of the most controversial techniques in medical history that raises much debate to this day. Originating probably in Africa, smallpox progressed via the Middle and Near East, where it was studied around the end of the first millennium by Arab physicians. It arrived in Britain during the Elizabethan times and was well established by the seventeenth century. During the closing years of the 18th Century a most far reaching and ultimately controversial development took place when Edward Jenner developed an inoculation for Smallpox based on a culture from Cowpox. The Vaccination Controversy examines the astonishing speed at which Jenner's technique of vaccination was taken up, culminating in the Compulsory Vaccination Act of 1853 . The Act made a painful and sometimes fatal medical practice for all children obligatory and as a result set an important precedent for governmental regulation of medical welfare. The Act remained in force until 1946 and was only ended after decades of intense pressure from the National Anti-vaccination League, but the issues raised by Williamson's accessible text remain current today in debates about vaccination programs. Meticulously researched, The Vaccination Controversy highlights the social, political and ethical consequences of compulsory vaccination and the massive repercussions that followed the ending of a policy through argued by many to be the most major medical resistance campaign in European medical history.



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