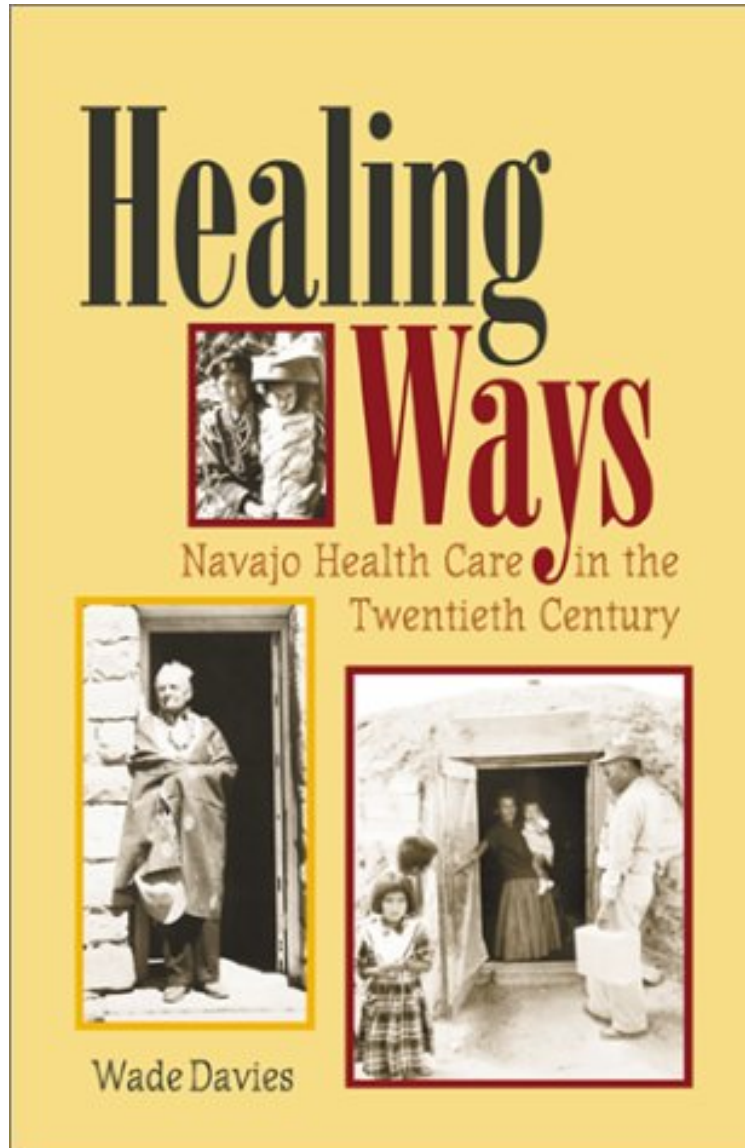



Healing Ways: Navajo Health Care in the Twentieth Century

Wade Davies

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Wade Davies : Healing Ways: Navajo Health Care in the Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Healing Ways: Navajo Health Care in the Twentieth Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well researched with great detail into the IHS historyBy WanderingRooibosWell researched with great detail into the IHS history. Exactly what I was looking for before heading into an IHS clinical rotation.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Documents the development of

complementary, dual Western and Dine healing traditions and services. By Midwest Book Review "Healing Ways: Navajo Health Care in the Twentieth Century" documents the development of complementary, dual Western and Dine healing traditions and services among the Navajo since World War II. The history is not always harmonious, but a gradual integration of the two main healing philosophies emerges. Author and history professor Davies highlights the determination and flexibility of Dine in "accepting the services of [Western] physicians while keeping the work of traditional healers among their health-care options." "Healing Ways" adds to the previous work of author Robert Trewnert's "White Man's Medicine (1998)," which singly covered the general history of Western medicine among the Navajo before World War II. Both histories add to the present picture of developing cooperative integrations and blendings of traditional Dine health practices into Western medical care systems. It also underlines the pervasive determination of the Dine to reshape their health care in an interactive model that both informs and educates, while preserving the best of both ways of life. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A well-researched scholarly study. By Customer This is a well-written study of a topic that really hasn't been dealt with in such thorough detail before. In fact, this is the only book I've been able to find anywhere about Navajo health care after World War II. I was impressed by the author's extensive use of interviews with the Navajos themselves for his research, in addition to the voluminous written records he used. It's only fitting, given the Navajos' rich oral tradition, that a study of their culture should draw heavily on firsthand, oral sources. Prof. Davies' argument that both traditional Navajo healing and Western medicine have valid and valuable contributions to make is well supported, and the idea that each has something to learn from the other is encouraging not only for the future of Navajo health care but for all of Western medicine. Overall, this is a thoroughly professional study written in a clear hand that's easily accessible to any reader, not just professors and grad students.

Since the end of World War II, Navajo healing traditions have slowly been integrated into the Western medical institutions that serve the Din. The history of Western medical care on Navajo reservations in the twentieth century, however, demonstrates that the incorporation of indigenous healing practices did not come without struggle. The advent of American mass culture, urbanization, and other forces made it difficult for young Din to learn and preserve the old ways. At the same time, non-Native medical providers, missionaries, and U. S. government officials sometimes hindered the effort of the Din to use traditional ceremonies and medical care. Focusing on the post-World War II period, Davies's detailed study begins where Robert Trewnert's *White Man's Medicine* (1998), the only other general history of Western medicine among the Navajo, ends. Chronicling the advent of so-called "western" or "scientific" medicine in the modern era, including the development of indigenous healing traditions and such new institutions as the Native American Church, Davies shows the skill and adaptability of Din in accepting the services of physicians while keeping the work of traditional healers among their health-care options. Davies also explores contemporaneous Navajo critiques of both "high-tech" and traditional health-care modes, detailing Navajo battles to integrate their healing practices into government and private health-care systems. The will of the Din people to achieve self-determination in health care--and, indeed, to view health and healing in a broad and interactive context--has been so resolute that both tribal leadership and federal officials have been forced to acknowledge and contend with the Din insistence on shaping Western medicine to fit their way of life. "The Din," one of Davies' informants states, "are learning to function in two different worlds," and, in so doing, are intent on seeking the best of both.

"This book provides an important overview of the last one hundred years of Navajo government interaction in the field of health. It is detailed and straightforward. . . . We need texts like this to provide entry points to further analysis. Davies paints, in broad strokes, the contours of one nation's interaction with medicine as a colonizing and, potentially, decolonizing force." From the Inside Flap. Chronicles the advent of so-called "western" or "scientific" medicine in the modern era, and how Navajos adapted, but did not compromise their traditional healings ways. About the Author Wade Davies is a professor of history, specializing in Navajo, American Indian, and modern United States History. Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, he earned his B.A. in History and Political Science from Indiana State University in Bloomington in 1991. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in history from Arizona State University in 1998. Currently, Dr. Davies teaches Navajo History and other classes at San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico, located just east of the Navajo Nation.