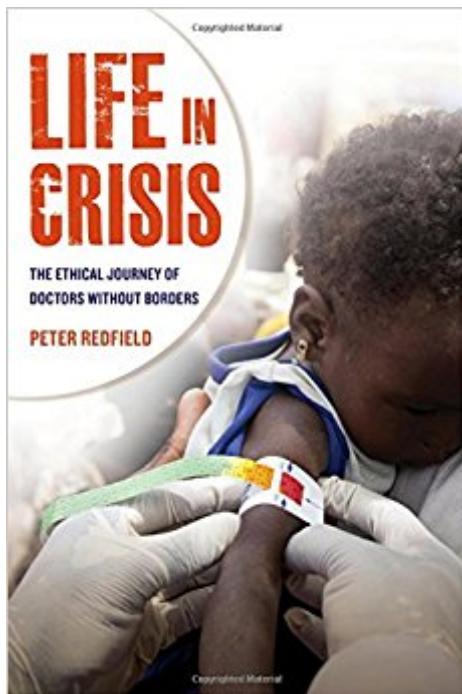


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Life In Crisis: The Ethical Journey Of Doctors Without Borders



Synopsis

Life in Crisis tells the story of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders or MSF) and its effort to save lives on a global scale. Begun in 1971 as a French alternative to the Red Cross, the MSF has grown into an international institution with a reputation for outspoken protest as well as technical efficiency. It has also expanded beyond emergency response, providing for a wider range of endeavors, including AIDS care. Yet its seemingly simple ethical goal proves deeply complex in practice. MSF continually faces the problem of defining its own limits. Its minimalist form of care recalls the promise of state welfare, but without political resolution or a sense of well-being beyond health and survival. Lacking utopian certainty, the group struggles when the moral clarity of crisis fades. Nevertheless, it continues to take action and innovate. Its organizational history illustrates both the logic and the tensions of casting humanitarian medicine into a leading role in international affairs.

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Customer Reviews

This book illuminates more than the history of Doctors Without Borders and takes us in the meanders of modern politics that have for goal to foster life. MSF is a critical lens through which fundamental ethical debates emerge. Too much too say about this very dense book. Pleasant surprise: it is an anthropology book, which, for the most part, are rather dry readings - but, here, subtle touches of humor, a real gift for descriptions and beautiful prose show that highly theoretical books can be fantastic readings.

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