The political economy of health care

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Abstract

This article describes the role of government in the health care system and the factors and forces that determine how that role is played. It examines the application of theories of political economy drawn from both economics and political science to this sector. It discusses the implications of these theories for political choices including interest groups, voting behavior, and institutions. Governments play several roles in the health care system and focus on four broad categories of government action in health care markets, linked to corresponding market failures, namely, health care as a merit good; information gaps; infrastructure as a public good; and externalities. It explores the relevance of this literature to the health domain, and confirms the powerful influence of politics on the shape of the health system.

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Health Care costs was the deal breaker. In Europe I get 100% medical care for free. I pay taxes and I get social medicine. It is clear. In the USA I pay taxes and get nothing. If I want extra care in Europe, then I can go to a private clinic, but public medicine is basically the same. The quality in most ways is the same or better than the US as there are so many restrictions and fears of law suits in the USA. We use cookies to ensure we comply with EU user consent policy and privacy laws, and most important give you a positive experience and hope you continue to use Political Economy. Ok.