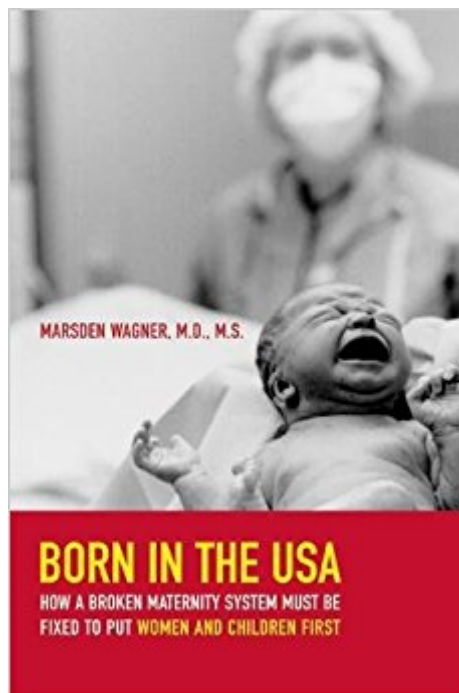




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# Born In The USA: How A Broken Maternity System Must Be Fixed To Put Women And Children First



## Synopsis

In this rare, behind-the-scenes look at what goes on in hospitals across the country, a longtime medical insider and international authority on childbirth assesses the flawed American maternity care system, powerfully demonstrating how it fails to deliver safe, effective care for both mothers and babies. Written for mothers and fathers, obstetricians, nurses, midwives, scientists, insurance professionals, and anyone contemplating having a child, this passionate exposé documents how, in the most expensive maternity care system in the world, women have lost control over childbirth and what the disturbing results of this phenomenon have been. *Born in the USA* examines issues including midwifery and the safety of out-of-hospital birth, how the process of becoming a doctor can adversely affect both practitioners and their patients, and why there has been a rise in the use of risky but doctor-friendly interventions, including the use of Cytotec, a drug that has not been approved by the FDA for pregnant women. Most importantly, this gripping investigation, supported by many troubling personal stories, explores how women can reclaim the childbirth experience for the betterment of themselves and their children. *Born in the USA* tells:

- \* Why women are 70% more likely to die in childbirth in America than in Europe
- \* What motivates obstetricians to use dangerous and unnecessary drugs and procedures
- \* How the present malpractice crisis has been aggravated by the fear of accountability
- \* Why procedures such as cesarean section and birth inductions are so readily used

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** The outspoken former director of Women's and Children's Health at the World Health Organization believes maternity and perinatal care in the U.S. are seriously flawed. To make the point, he cites recent Centers for Disease Control findings that 28 countries have lower maternity-mortality rates; 41, lower infant-mortality rates. This despite the fact that the U.S. spends twice as much or more per capita on health care than any other industrialized nation. Wagner places responsibility squarely on the shoulders of obstetricians and the lobbying power of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Interested in one thing above all else--maintaining control of a lucrative market--that group, he avers, foists unnecessary, expensive, and invasive medical interventions upon women when none are needed. Obstetricians are only necessary, he says, in a minority of cases in which serious medical problems threaten the life of mother or child. For the most part, childbirth isn't a medical condition, and infant and maternal mortality rates are lowest in countries in which midwives attend to it. Speaking from his experience as a clinical perinatologist and a perinatal epidemiologist and supplemented by the hoard of credible sources cited in the copious endnotes, Wagner pulls no punches in advocating a woman's right to control the entire reproductive process, from conception through birth. Donna ChavezCopyright  
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"Dr. Wagner depicts the state of obstetrical care in the United States with clarity and accuracy. He is clearly an 'insider' who has the courage to tell the truth about how our love affair with birth technology adversely affects both mothers and babies. Importantly, he outlines a path toward much-needed change. *Born in the USA* should be 'must' reading, not only for all pregnant women, but also for all ob/gyn physicians, hospital personnel, and those who make public policy. Dr. Wagner has done all of us a great service with this book." - Christiane Northrup, M.D., author of *Women's Bodies, Women's Wisdom*

Excellent review of the failing maternity system in the United States. I appreciate all of the references at the back of the book. Definitely recommend!

This book is chock full of really important information that is not widely disseminated. Dr. Wagner uses his experience in the US maternity system, as well as his time with the WHO, to effectively demonstrate the shortfalls of maternity care in the US from an understandable, extremely expert perspective. Of all the many books written on this topic, this is one of the few that explores how doctors, as well as patients, are trapped by the current system, and offers alternative solutions that

would help everyone. Dr. Wagner's experience as a clinician makes him a powerful advocate for patient safety and provides useful insights into how to avoid unnecessary interventions during labor. That said, the writing in this book isn't great. It is easy to follow and understand, but often laced with redundancy and oversimplification.

Such an informative book. Couldn't put it down!

By far the best book on what's wrong with the US maternity system. From the first page, I was riveted to the book by the atrocities birthing women have faced at the hands of OB's. A must read for those who want to know the truth. Although, the book is an older book (2006), the information continues to be relevant for 2015. Not much has changed in the last decade.

This book should be required reading for any adult who wishes to become a parent in this country. The information in it is frightening in its scope and breathtaking in its documentation. I am so glad that I read this book before attempting to become a mother. Dr. Wagner makes his case so convincingly that I was, simultaneously, appalled and grateful. He exhibited tremendous courage and independence in writing this book. I would like to thank him with all of my soul for his efforts.

Great book

This doctor and scientist really stretches himself out on a limb to reveal the truth about the inside world of the medical profession. This is a page turner of interesting statistics, inside look at what happens in medical school and how it all affects the mindset of doctors and nurses. Also some true birth stories that will make you mad and inspire you to learn more!

This book is a must read for those who plan to become mothers and fathers. It is important for couples expecting to educate themselves on the American maternity system and why it may not always be the best choice. I learned so much from this book and I have told many of my friends about it. It absolutely changed my outlook on the maternity care I will choose when I have children. I especially liked this book because it was written by an MD, with all the credentials (and more!) to write about this subject, without being biased. He presents scientific fact with statistics making steadfast arguments that are logical.

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