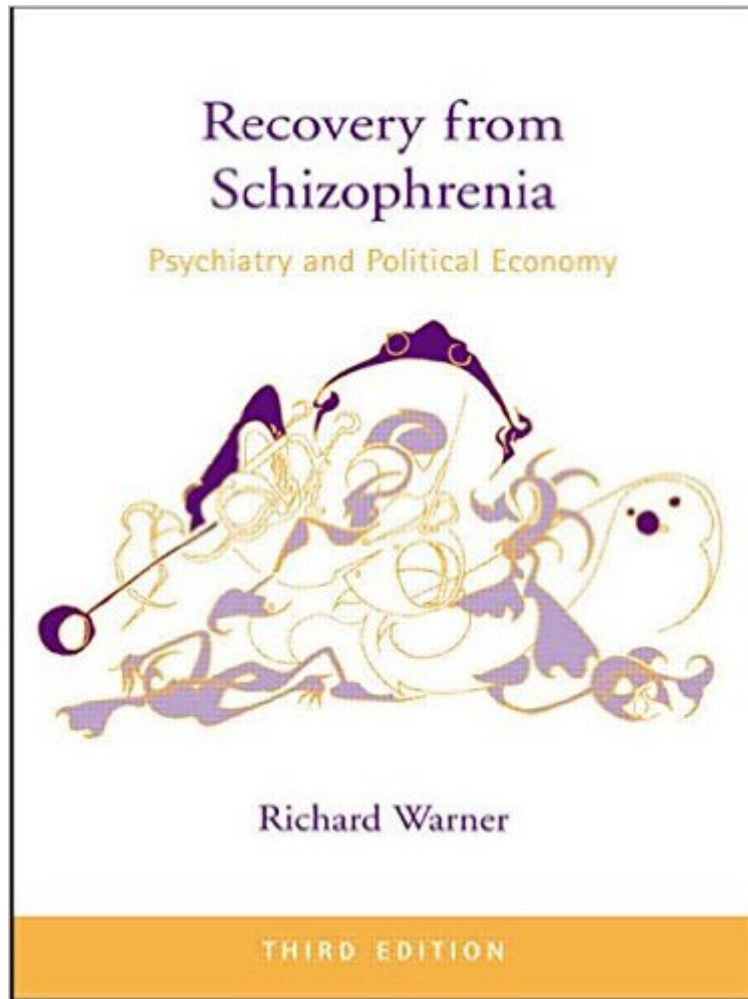


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Recovery From Schizophrenia: Psychiatry And Political Economy



Synopsis

The first edition of *Recovery of Schizophrenia* was acclaimed on publication as a work of major importance. It demonstrated convincingly, but controversially, how political, economic and labour market forces shape social responses to the mentally ill, mould psychiatric treatment philosophy, and influence the onset and course of one of the most common forms of mental illness. In this revised and fully updated edition, Dr Warner examines the changes in approach to schizophrenia since publication of his original book and analyses new research to answer the question: 'Are they advances or not?'

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a really fantastic jaunt through this history of modern psychiatry through the lens of the treatment of schizophrenia. With scalpel-like precision, Warner, a British psychiatrist living in the US, dissects the statistics on recovery from schizophrenia and comes to an alarming conclusion: not only are outcomes no better for schizophrenia today, they may be even worse than in the 19th century! Unlike some other writers on this emotionally charged topic, Warner does not give way to polemic. His arguments are always reasoned and reasonable, his conclusions tentative, his exposition dispassionate. He considers all the evidence available at his disposal rather than selectively reviewing the literature, and at every turn considers alternative explanations before laying his weight behind the most likely. In addition to providing the historical background to changing concepts of whether recovery is possible in this devastating illness, the book focuses on how large social and economic trends regarding to recession, labor surplus, work, industrialization

affect the course of schizophrenia. Warner has a decisively Marxist bent to his arguments that may be offputting to some readers. Nevertheless, it is hard to ignore the findings in this book because he so thoroughly discusses the evidence both for and against his arguments. Unlike many academic texts, this book is eminently readable, and even enjoyable. I read most of it over the course of a few days. Warner's overarching message is a triumphant, positive one: the course of this serious mental illness is much less bleak than has previously presumed. People can and do recover from schizophrenia. Medications may have their place but they may also worsen the long-term course of the illness.

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