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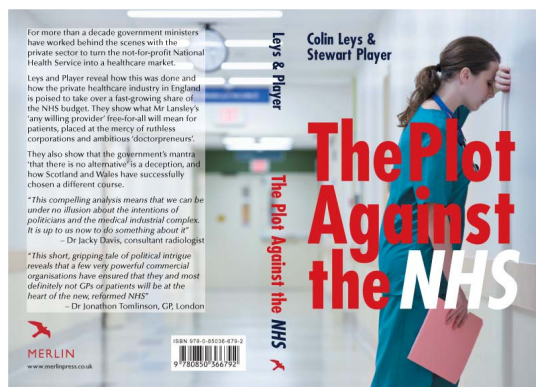
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# The Plot against the NHS



## Colin Leys and Stewart Player

*Colin Leys is an emeritus professor at Queen's University Canada and an honorary professor at Goldsmiths College London. His most recent books are The Rise and Fall of Development Theory, Market-Driven Politics, and Total Capitalism. He has been studying and writing about the NHS since the late 1990s.*

*Stewart Player is a public policy analyst with extensive experience of studying the NHS. He is the co-author with Colin Leys of Confuse and Conceal: The NHS and Independent Treatment Centres, and author or co-author of numerous articles on the NHS.*

**For more than a decade government ministers have worked behind the scenes with the private sector to turn the not-for-profit National Health Service into a healthcare market.**

**Leys and Player reveal how this was done and how the private healthcare industry in England is poised to take over a fast-growing share of the NHS budget. They show what Mr Lansley's 'any willing provider' free-for-all will mean for patients, placed at the mercy of corporations and ambitious 'doctorpreneurs'.**

They also show that the government's mantra 'that there is no alternative' is a deception, and how Scotland and Wales have successfully chosen a different course.

**The plot:** For ten years a 'policy community' around the Department of Health has schemed to replace the NHS. They want a US-style health-care market coming in by the back door. Why tell us, or parliament? **The template:** Listen to Kaiser Permanente - the US health insurance company. Expand its influence in the Department of Health. Make the American market the model. **The players:** the insiders: the 'policy community', corporate heavies, management consultants, think-tankers, freelancers and hired hands, including some academics and doctors. They can use the 'revolving door': company envoys can get jobs in the Department of Health, and ex-ministers and officials can get well paid jobs in the private sector. **Who pays?** Patients and doctors tell us: 'reforms' are driving up costs, services are being cut, and quality is falling - unless you can pay to go private. This is the shape of things to come. **Who profits?** the private health industry takes over NHS hospitals, runs GPs practices: their interest, profit, will subordinate the public interest.

**"This compelling analysis means that we can be under no illusion about the intentions of politicians and the medical industrial complex. It is up to us now to do something about it"**  
- Dr Jacky Davis, consultant radiologist

**"This short, gripping tale of political intrigue reveals that a few very powerful commercial organisations have ensured that they and most definitely not GPs or patients will be at the heart of the new, reformed NHS"** - Dr Jonathon Tomlinson, GP

**PROMOTION** GUARDIAN review by Richard Horton (The Lancet) How has the NHS arrived at this moment of crisis? Colin Leys and Stewart Player provide an indispensable guide to understanding the origins of what they call a plot against the NHS. Surely this is an exaggeration? Not so. 21.5.11. GUARDIAN George Monbiot feature comment 17.5.10 quotes the book 5 times; BMA NEWS 1000 WORD ARTICLE... NHS NEWS REVIEW a particularly enlightening article on privatisation of the NHS based on the book NHS CA PUBLICATIONS - excellent book is essential EAST LONDON TIMES, ISLINGTON and CAMDEN NEW JOURNAL also TRIBUNE, MORNING STAR,

**LONDON REVIEW OF BOOKS 18-22 September:** In their book *The Plot against the NHS*, Colin Leys and Stewart Player argue that, having failed to persuade the public and the medical establishment under Margaret Thatcher that the NHS should be turned into a European-style national insurance programme, the advocates of a competitive health market gave up trying to convince the big audience and focused on infiltrating Whitehall's policymaking centres and the think tanks.[\*] As a result the government and the cast Leys and Player call 'marketeers' - private companies, lobbyists, pro-market think tankers - publicly praise the NHS, while taking incremental steps to turn it into an NHS in name only: a kitemark....

Market: General, Undergraduate and Post-graduate; Student Reading List; Library Keywords: Health policy, Health economics, Politics, NHS, Privatisation, UK. BIC: MBN, KCQ, JP, JPP, 1DBK 216x138 mm; 184pp, 2 TABLES EU publication 14.4.2011

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