



## ***The political and social contexts of health***

### ***In Praise***

“Do political contexts and social policies matter for life expectancy and infant mortality? Here an international team of experts provide fruitful perspectives, informative analyses and food for thought on this central but often neglected question.”

**Walter Korpi**  
Professor of Social Policy  
Stockholm University

“Inequality endangers your health. Few social science findings are as important as the conclusion of these investigations of several countries.”

**Professor Göran Therborn**  
Director, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences  
Uppsala, Sweden

“Is politics the key to population health? And if so how? At last we have a book which asks all the right questions. For anyone with a serious interest in health policy, this is where to start.”

**Professor Richard Wilkinson**  
Division of Epidemiology & Public Health  
University of Nottingham Medical School  
Nottingham, UK

“Over the past four decades in public health at Johns Hopkins Vicente Navarro has established himself as a leading authority on the relation of health and health services to societal factors. One may say, more specifically, that in respect to political factors his authority is unchallenged; his work in this area is unique in public health.

“As editor of this volume Professor Navarro brings together an array of experienced authors. Two or more authors assemble and analyze the relevant and available data for each of five European countries. He himself leads an analysis of the assembled data for the OECD countries as an entity. The work aims to analyze the impact on mortality “of power relations and solidarity and civic behavior on the social inequalities measured by income equalities and determined by labor market and employment policies as welfare state policies.” The assembled material has obvious value for scholars in several related fields.”

**Mervyn Susser**  
Sergievsky Professor of Epidemiology Emeritus  
Columbia University

“Our lives are largely determined by health, and our health is largely determined by the social and political contexts in which we live. This book explains and documents how and why, in a cross-cultural perspective. Edited by the world’s leading expert in the political economy of public health, this volume is a major contribution both to scholarly research and to policy debates in the field. It should be mandatory reading for students of social policy and planning, as well as for all concerned citizens facing the consequences of the health crisis around the world.”

**Manuel Castells**  
Professor Emeritus of Planning and Sociology  
University of California at Berkeley