

## 1: [Review of: Health, Power and Politics in Windhoek, Namibia, ]

*HEALTH & DISEASE* Marion Wallace. *Health, Power and Politics in Windhoek, Namibia*, Basel: P. Schlettwein Publishing, xvii + pp. Photographs.

Health minister Bernard Haufiku. He also described the furore around the northern referral hospital as a political mess that he does not want to be part of. In a frank interview with *Namibian Sun* yesterday, the health minister said Geingob was interfering too much and that he thought he was coming into a situation heading the ministry in which he would be trusted to produce a certain result, within a certain time. In September, Haufiku appealed to corporates and private citizens to help the ministry keep the clinic open, after it was temporarily closed because of a lack of supplies. What are these private people now doing? That is why I am saying some of the people must make a rotation in the private sector before they can go to the public sector. The minister said he had also been rebuked for talking to the media and for praising people. Haufiku said he had distanced himself from the Ondangwa referral hospital saga and would not be part of a political mess. He said he had diverted his attention to other interventions. We are looking at building a regional hospital at Otjiwarongo. We have just opened an extended clinic at Okaku, about six kilometres outside of the Ondangwa airport. We are strengthening our community health project in the Oshikoto Region. The president is the ultimate power in the country, I cannot fight the president. Questions sent to State House spokesperson Alfredo Hengari were not answered by the time of going to print. In , the Oshana regional council approved the construction of a referral hospital at Ondangwa, but while the regional political leadership wanted the state-of-the-art hospital to be built at the town, other political heavyweights reportedly preferred Ongwediva. The 1 bed academic hospital was to have an oncology centre, a maternity block and a cardiac unit. *Namibian Sun* previously reported that a boardroom tussle between northern politicians and the health minister was threatening to stall the hospital project. Haufiku also took a swipe at the Public Service Commission PSC , saying government ministries were mere proxies of it. I disciplined a driver who was so ill-mannered and when it went to PSC it was reversed and they said it is too heavy and that we must just deploy him somewhere else. You can stay away from work for 28 days, you would still not be dismissed. In the private sector, three days are enough and you go home.

2: Health, power and politics in Windhoek, Namibia, (eBook, ) [[www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)]

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In this study, Marion Wallace explores the colonial health care system in Windhoek. She examines the development of hospitals, public health policies and missionary nursing, analysing the dynamics of race, gender and class that shaped them and at the same time building a history of African experience in the capital. The author links public health and the construction of biomedical knowledge to the maintenance of white power in the city, while at the same time arguing for an understanding of the complexity of African agency in choosing options for health care. These options included indigenous healing practices, which remained vibrant in the urban context and helped to shape African identities. Dr Wallace has seamlessly and meticulously pieced together an impressively large but scattered range of often intractable archival material. Equally impressive, is [her] comparative and theoretical grasp. Her work is grounded in a fine understanding of the history of southern Africa and the recent historiography of colonial medicine more generally. To all these fields she offers some subtle correctives. Schlettwein Publishing PSP is an independent publisher, which introduced the Basel Namibia Studies Series to make research from and about Namibia accessible to a wider audience. Established in as a private research institution, it today forms part of a foundation. Introduction by Shula Marks, University of London: Until comparatively recently, it was customary to begin doctoral theses on Namibia with a statement about the dearth of its historical literature. *Mobility and Containment*, demonstrates. Nevertheless, the scholars involved in that ground-breaking project “ including the author of this volume in the Basel Namibia Studies Series “ will be the first to admit that enormous gaps still remain. The appropriately titled *Health, Power and Politics in Windhoek, Namibia*, addresses both the virtually unwritten history of Windhoek and the history of health and healing in Namibia. More broadly, it also constitutes a significant contribution to the small but growing literature on the social and cultural history of medicine in Africa. For all her appreciation of the social and political forces at work in the territory, however, Wallace never loses sight of the specificity of medical knowledge and power. Part Two looks at the power relations involved in the development of medical policy and institutions, as well as in the delivery of health care by a variety of practitioners in Windhoek “ indigenous healers, as well as secular and mission doctors and district nurses. It is, moreover, work which can only be done on the basis of painstaking field research, grounded in an understanding of very different popular discourses of the body, and notions of health. That indigenous healing practices retained their vitality and remained extremely important in the interwar years and probably beyond in Namibia was in no small measure connected to the inadequacies of the under-funded colonial medical services for Africans and their close involvement with the state.

## 3: Commercial land reforms in postcolonial Namibia | Phaniel Kaapama - [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com)

*Namibia provides an interesting case study for this kind of question, with a small colonial settlement and two colonial powers, Germany () and South Africa (); strong indigenous medical systems; and relatively late and limited biomedical interventions.*

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Myron Echenberg Marion Wallace. *Health, Power and Politics in Windhoek, Namibia*. Too often, Namibia figures only in the general Africanist literature linked to sensational stories, whether on the sad fate of the so-called Hottentot Venus, Sarah Bartman, the genocide of the Herero, or Nazi sympathies among German settlers. Unusually, she successfully examines the role of both biomedical and indigenous healers, a task made more difficult because she cannot rely on any previous histories of urbanism or of public health to back her up. As a reader might suspect, the documentation on biomedicine is much richer, and Wallace leaves no archive, no matter how scattered, unturned. Her understandably shorter treatment of indigenous medicine is based on a series of interviews among Herero and Damara informants. She is able to demonstrate that healing offered possibilities for indigenous urban dwellers to build identities that did not depend on the approval of the colonial state. Wallace is also careful to show how Windhoek differed from South African cities and towns more familiar in the literature. In Windhoek, the ratio of women to men was far more evenly balanced. Not an industrial center but the administrative capital of large territory, Windhoek was the scene of competition between whites sharing the ideology of their counterparts in South Africa—but with even fewer liberal voices, and more overtly Nazi ones—and blacks reinventing themselves as permanent urban workers, mainly in the service sector. One illustration of difference is the extent to which harsh and intrusive controls on gender were imposed in the name of public health. In the s, the colonial state required compulsory venereal disease controls and examinations of all black women except for a small minority married under colonial law. As part of the complex gender wars waged throughout colonial Africa, Herero men in Windhoek chose to support these controls. Similar legislation in South Africa was considered too likely to provoke deep resistance at this time. Two other examples show more nuanced differences. Similarly, Namibia, like virtually every other region in the world, suffered terrible morbidity and mortality from the world influenza pandemic [End Page ] of But because the territory lacked autonomy, the flu did not give rise to the reforms of the public health service seen elsewhere. This book is an almost identical reproduction of a doctoral dissertation submitted to the University of London in under the direction of Shula Marks, who also writes a laudatory introduction. This is a fine dissertation, but in its unrevised state it has shortcomings. Wallace is widely read and remarkably sure-footed the only small error I detected was her rendering of the author of a major bilharzia study as "Nigel" rather than "John" Farley , but she includes in too much detail every paradigm postulated over the last twenty-five years in the fields of social and medical history of disease and public health. Second, while her Basel publishers have done much to advance Namibia studies—of which this is the seventh book published—they have not served Wallace well. The perfunctory index offers only names and places, while all the tables and graphs are gathered in an appendix far removed from the analysis in the text. Common in too many dissertations is the frequent and often repetitive drawing of conclusions scattered throughout the text but leaving little to be said at end of the book for readers to carry away with them. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

## 4: Political mess - Health - Namibian Sun

*Full-length history of the city's African population and their experience of public health controls.*

In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Harriet Deacon Marion Wallace. *Health, Power and Politics in Windhoek, Namibia*, Basel Namibia Studies Series, no. Many historians of colonial medicine are tempted to bury themselves in voluminous colonial archives that create an alluring illusion of completeness. In Namibia, the colonial archive is rather scanty, encouraging careful and creative use of the documentary sources that do exist and close integration of these sources with oral histories—at least in the best studies, like this one. The dearth of social histories of medicine in Namibia pp. She has focused her attention on Windhoek, the largest urban center, but she carefully interweaves the story of the town, the country, and its colonizing neighbor, South Africa. Wallace describes her book as exploring the "exercise and contestation of power in Namibia through biomedicine and indigenous medicine" p. Namibia provides an interesting case study for this kind of question, with a small colonial settlement and two colonial powers, Germany and South Africa ; strong indigenous medical systems; and relatively late and limited biomedical interventions. Specific issues of interest to medical historians in the book include the anti-VD campaign of , choosing between indigenous and biomedical therapies, marginalized colonial science, and health and urbanization. In her analysis, Wallace makes good and critical use of comparative material [End Page ] from South Africa and elsewhere, pointing out where Namibia has its own trajectory for example, on African migrancy and urbanization, pp. Doing groundbreaking historical analysis is always difficult, especially in the absence of broader urbanization studies—compounded in this case by the scantiness and unreliability of certain key sources, such as demographic and morbidity figures in the interwar years p. Given the fanfare heralding access to government information in South Africa, it is curious that she was unable to use the archives of the Union Defence Force in Pretoria. Wallace concludes, unsurprisingly, that "colonial conditions helped to undermine the health status of the black population and biomedical services reflected and reinforced racial inequalities in the wider society" p. She does also, however, emphasize the ambiguities of Western medicine, as a tool of healing as well as repression; and the way in which Western medicine and the colonial state selectively turned their stereotyping and repressive gaze mainly on black men rather than black women, at least until the s pp. Another conclusion of the book is that indigenous medicine helped to create a supportive community framework in the context of urban-rural mobility, and, at least among the Herero, was a symbolic means by which men reinforced their authority as elders p. Africans also used indigenous medical practices to build distinct and new identities, and to "carve out spaces for survival and regeneration in the new colonial order" p. Africans and colonists sought the medical treatments perceived as most effective for specific complaints, whether biomedical or indigenous. It is hard to fault the careful research and clear focus of this book. It does, however, still read as a Ph. A rewriting exercise might achieve a better integration of the material, including analyses of biomedical and indigenous medicine, and the tables; make more of a narrative; and be easier on the casual reader. But on balance, the book is currently excellent reading, sensitive to the interplay between the material world and ideology; to gender, class, and race; and to language, culture, and ethnicity. It will be of interest to many historians, even those who do not work on Namibia or on colonial medicine.

## 5: - NLM Catalog Result

*African Studies Review () Too often, Namibia figures only in the general Africanist literature linked to sensational stories, whether on the sad fate of the so-called Hottentot.*

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## 8: Project MUSE - Health, Power and Politics in Windhoek, Namibia, (review)

*Title [Review of: Health, Power and Politics in Windhoek, Namibia, ] Published in: Medische Antropologie, Vol. 16, No. 1. ISSN*

## 9: Timeline of Windhoek - Wikipedia

*Marion Wallace: Health, Power and Politics in windhoek, Namibia, Introduction by Shula Marks Basel Namibia Studies Series 7 Basel: P. Schlettwein Publishing, pb, p, maps, photographs, index ISBN For a century, Windhoek, Namibia's capital, was the site of bitter struggles over racial.*

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