Historians often write about health policy as though it were the outcome of dialectical interaction between central government and interest groups, notably the medical profession. The Health of Nations. Public Opinion and the Making of American and British Health Policy, by Lawrence R. Jacobs (Ithaca/London: Cornell U.P., 1993; pp.xvi + 260. $34.50), seeks to convert this dyad into a triad, by introducing public opinion as another significant element. The book has four parts. Jacobs, a sociologist, begins with a lucid outline of sociological theories of policy formation. The next three parts comprise the empirical core of the book where he examines in detail the framing of the British National Health Service Act of 1946 and the American Medicare Act of 1965. Jacobs uses a variety of material to support his views. In the...
personal aspirations, safety needs, and cope with the environment. World Health Organization.