



**MERCK**

# Merck Druggernaut

**Michael Brown**



## **Merck Druggernaut:**

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and Power traces the history of FDA regulation of pharmaceuticals revealing how the agency's organizational reputation has been the primary source of its power yet also one of its ultimate constraints Daniel Carpenter describes how the FDA cultivated a reputation for competence and vigilance throughout the last century and how this organizational image has enabled the agency to regulate an industry as powerful as American pharmaceuticals while resisting efforts to curb its own authority Carpenter explains how the FDA's reputation and power have played out among committees in Congress and with drug companies advocacy groups the media research hospitals and universities and governments in Europe and India He shows how FDA regulatory power has influenced the way that business medicine and science are conducted in the United States and worldwide Along the way Carpenter offers new insights into the therapeutic revolution of the 1940s and 1950s the 1980s AIDS crisis the advent of oral contraceptives and cancer chemotherapy the rise of antiregulatory conservatism and the FDA's waning influence in drug regulation today Reputation and Power demonstrates how reputation shapes the power and behavior of government agencies and sheds new light on how that power is used and contested Some images inside the book are unavailable due to digital copyright restrictions

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into the middle of some of the most important and contentious issues of modern society From designer babies and abortion to the price of prescription drugs and the role of government itself Inside the FDA takes readers on an intriguing journey into the world of today's most powerful consumer agency In a time when companies continue to accuse the FDA of nitpicking and needlessly delaying needed new drugs and consumers are convinced that the agency bends to industry pressure by rushing unsafe drugs to market Inside the FDA digs deep to reveal the truth Through scores of interviews and real world stories Hawthorne also shows how and why the agency makes some of its most controversial decisions as well as how its recent reaction to certain issues including the revolutionary cancer drug Erbitux stem cell research and bioengineering of food may jeopardize its ability to keep up with future scientific developments Inside the FDA takes a closer look at the practices people and politics of this crucial watchdog in light of the competing pressures and trends of modern society revealing what the FDA is supposed to do what it actually does and fails to do who it influences and how it could better fulfill its mandate The decisions that the FDA makes are literally life and death Inside the FDA provides a sophisticated account of how this vitally important agency struggles to balance bureaucracy and politics with its overriding mission to promote the country's health

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