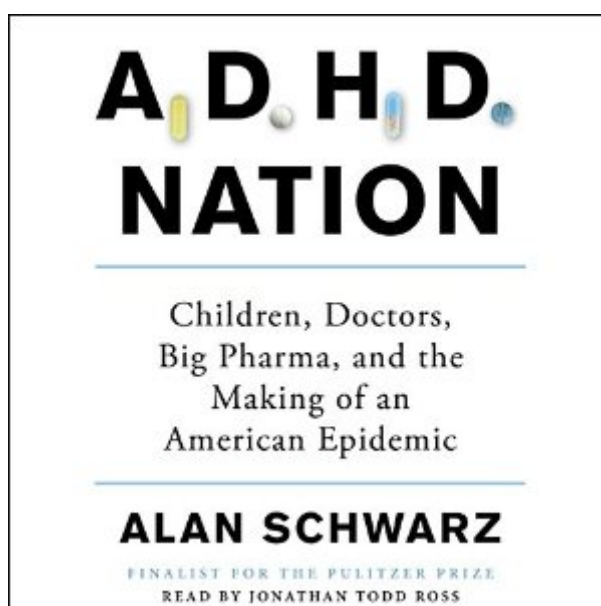


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# ADHD Nation: Children, Doctors, Big Pharma, And The Making Of An American Epidemic



## Synopsis

A groundbreaking and definitive account of the widespread misdiagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and its serious effects on children, adults, and society. More than one in seven American children are getting diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) - three times what experts have said is appropriate, making it one of the most mishandled and debated conditions in medicine. The numbers are rising every year. Now doctors and Big Pharma are targeting adults and the rest of the world to get diagnosed with ADHD and take medications that will "transform their lives". In ADHD Nation, Alan Schwarz takes listeners behind the scenes to show the roots and rise of this cultural and medical phenomenon: There's the father of ADHD, Dr. Keith Conners, who spends 50 years pioneering the disorder and use of drugs like Ritalin before realizing his role in what he now calls "a national disaster of dangerous proportions"; a troubled young girl and studious teenage boy who get entangled in the growing ADHD machine and take medications that cause them serious problems; and a pharmaceutical industry that egregiously overpromotes the disorder and earns billions from the mishandling of children (and now adults). While demonstrating that ADHD is real and can be successfully medicated, Schwarz sounds an alarm and urges America to wake up and address this growing national problem.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This gripping story brought back a lot of memories, particularly as I was involved in the 1996

flotation of Shire in London, and its 1997 purchase of Richwood, the originator of Adderall. Shire had nearly run out of money prior to its flotation, and its history would make a great story in its own right, not least when its sole Adderall plant blew up, a year or so later, which nearly took the company down. A lot has changed since then, with Shire now the twelfth largest company by value on the London market. The enormous growth in the US ADHD market is so different to the position in Europe. Here ADHD drugs are strongly regulated, and difficult to obtain, as illustrated by the regular health-checks required by my 13 year old son, before he is allowed to obtain repeat prescriptions. This is not just the attitude of the regulators, but I would suggest that different patent laws over here encourage much more generic competition, and hence discourage substantial marketing spend. Altogether a fascinating story, somewhat similar to the impact made by Valium for anxiety, fifty years ago, where Roche was later unable to counter patent erosion, and concerns about over-prescribing, leaving the company struggling in the 1980s. PS. My son with ADHD, attends a special school in Surrey, which has an outstanding record in treating children with special needs, enabling them to obtain many to achieve excellent academic and career success. Last year, I asked Shire to help fund a new school library, geared to the needs of these pupils, but to date Shire unfortunately has shown little interest, in supporting and getting to know how this school combines therapy with specialised teaching, to achieve its success. Robin Gilbert

Excellent for those that want to find out how Big Pharma controls the FDA and our perception of medical conditions. Create a disorder, develop a medication to treat it and reap the billions from the simple minded US public that believe that MD stands for "My Deity"

As a society, we need this book. We need more eyes to be opened, and I hope that ADHD Nation will finally wake us up as a society to what's happening around us. It is no less than horrifying that so many bright, beautiful children are being put on highly potent prescription narcotics at such young ages – and it's particularly shameful given the fact that non-pharmaceutical, holistic approaches, such as diet and exercise, have been proven to be just as, if not more, effective for the collection of symptoms we refer to as ADHD. This incredibly important book drives home the facts about the crimes against our children – from toddlers to teens – that have been perpetrated right under our noses.

Anybody who comes into regular contact with ADHD -- parents, educators, doctors, even kids -- should read this book. The author provides a very balanced, thoroughly researched view into the

world of ADHD today in America. While building a strong case for the very legitimate diagnosis of ADHD and the drugs that can and do help those with ADHD, the author at the same time takes aim at the shameless behavior of big pharma, their paid shells, lazy doctors, and ignorant policy makers who have greedily tried to shove everybody and anybody down the path of ADHD in order to maximize revenue and profits. Best of all, the author presents it all in a very easy to read, enjoyable format (in contrast to so many books in this genre which are so dry and hard to read). If anybody you care about (including yourself) thinks they have ADHD, you owe it to them to read this book so you can cut through all the BS and really support them in the best way possible.

This book is full of inaccuracies and very poor research. Very disappointing that people will get wrong information throughout. There is so much in this book that is just pure opinion on the authors part. This book was probably put together quickly with mostly recycled articles of his and are definitely NOT FACT CHECKED. For Example: pages 251 - 252 Mr. Schwarz writes "CHADD states that its work is based on the best science, but its credibility is undermined by foolish and misleading messaging, often through its online and print magazine, ADDitude." CHADD is a non profit organization that publishes ATTENTION magazine not ADDitude and is full of scientific, interesting, well written and more importantly fact based information. He includes information straight out of ADDitude's magazine. None of it was pulled from ATTENTION magazine. ADDitude is published by a for profit company who ironically if you look up online and go to their "about us" section...it's blank. He can't even quote the correct magazine and he is an investigative reporter for the NY Times??? So he is questioning CHADD's credibility based on a magazine they do not even publish.... I am not impressed. Personally, this book should either never be purchased or quickly discarded. Purchase a book on ADHD by an author who is actually qualified to provide information on ADHD.

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