

# “Medicine on a Grand Scale”: Rudolf Virchow, Liberalism, and the Public Health

by Ian F McNeely

This book explores the connections between classical liberalism and public health policy through the career of Rudolf Virchow. Virchow was the founder of modern pathology, the architect of Berlin's sewerage system, a pistol-wielding revolutionary, and a liberal politician whose concurrent service to three German parliaments totalled ninety-six years. His many-faceted activities offer a unique opportunity to situate the growth of social medicine within the matrix of liberal ideology. McNeely discusses Virchow's medical reform activities in the 1848 Revolution, his role in the canalization of Berlin, and his parliamentary

activity in public health legislation and the politics of the German medical profession under the Second Empire. His conclusion assesses Virchow's legacy to German, and broader European, social liberalism. This excellent study will have wide appeal.

Ian F McNeely is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Oregon. He is also the author of *The Emancipation of Writing: German Civil Society in the Making, 1790s–1820s* (Berkeley, 2003).

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