

## HISTORY

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### **The rulers and the healers: political context of the history of medicine**

The history of medicine has changed into the last 25-30 of years and finally transformed into the social discipline, that makes it possible to look at the development of medicine in the wider context. In accordance with this approach medicine is considered as the social, political, cultural and economic force, which plays important role in the development of human society. The history of medicine cannot be considered beyond the historical and cultural context without the attraction of information from the many fields of knowledge. The authors give examples of interaction of medicine and policy in the historical context in different historical periods: Antiquity, the Middle ages, in the period of Great French revolution. Special attention paid to one of the most fascinating themes in the history of medicine – the attitudes of the state leader and his personal doctor. The authors come to the conclusion that medical system is the product of history and exists within the authentic ecological, cultural and political context.

Key words: history of medicine, political power, political regime, status of medicine, medical knowledge.

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