

# **An Evolutionary History of 'Western Medicine'**

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In our contemporary global context characterized by knowledge diffusion, commoditization, individualism and consumerism, various types of medicine have adopted the language and technological tools of 'western medicine.' Both practitioners and people are confused regarding what constitutes what, and medical pluralism at societal level has been replaced by medical syncretism at individual level. In this context, one is compelled to ask: 'What exactly is western medicine, its unique features and values?' I will try to answer these questions, by exploring the story of its evolution. This answer is indispensable to identify and retain western medicine's uniqueness, a gift to humankind.