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Sommario/riassunto	Medical and social progress depend on research with human subjects. When that research is done in institutions getting federal money, it is regulated by federally required and supervised bureaucracies called 'institutional review boards' expected to apply bioethical principles in making decisions. Do - can - these administrative agencies do more harm than good? This book answers this fundamental but long-unasked question by consulting a critical experience - the law's learning about regulation - and by amassing the empirical evidence scattered around many literatures.