thomas piketty a brief history of equality

Thomas Piketty: A Brief History of Equality

thomas piketty a brief history of equality is more than just the title of a groundbreaking book; it's a doorway into understanding the complex and often contentious relationship between wealth, power, and fairness throughout human history. Thomas Piketty, a French economist, has reshaped how we perceive economic inequality, offering fresh perspectives that challenge long-held assumptions. His work dives deep into the forces that have shaped wealth distribution over centuries and provides a critical lens through which to view today's economic landscape.

The Origins of Thomas Piketty's Inquiry into Inequality

Thomas Piketty's journey into the history of equality began with a simple yet profound question: Why does wealth tend to concentrate, and what does that mean for society? His research spans centuries, utilizing extensive historical data on income and wealth from multiple countries. By tracing the evolution of economic inequality from the 18th century onward, Piketty offers a comprehensive narrative that connects past trends to present-day challenges.

Piketty's analysis reveals that inequality is not a static or inevitable condition but rather a dynamic phenomenon influenced by historical events, political decisions, and economic policies. His work encourages us to think about equality not just as a moral ideal but as a measurable and actionable goal.

Understanding the Core Thesis of Thomas Piketty's Work

At the heart of Thomas Piketty's research is the relationship between capital and economic growth. His famous formula, r > g, where 'r' represents the rate of return on capital and 'g' stands for economic

growth, encapsulates why wealth inequality tends to increase over time if returns on capital outpace the growth of the economy. This insight has profound implications for wealth accumulation and the persistence of inequality.

What Does r > g Mean?

- **Rate of return on capital (r):** This includes income from assets such as real estate, stocks, and

bonds.

- **Economic growth (g):** The overall increase in the economy's output, typically measured by GDP

growth.

When r exceeds g, those who own capital can accumulate wealth faster than the overall economy grows, leading to an ever-widening gap between the rich and the rest. Piketty's historical data shows that this pattern was especially pronounced before the World Wars and has been re-emerging in

recent decades.

A Brief History of Equality: Key Historical Insights

Thomas Piketty's "A Brief History of Equality" is not just a recounting of numbers; it's a story about societies striving, often faltering, to balance wealth and fairness. Here are some pivotal moments and trends highlighted in his work:

The Long 19th Century and Inequality

The 19th century, often dubbed the "long 19th century," was a period marked by significant inequality. Wealth was primarily inherited, and social mobility was limited. The industrial revolution created new riches but also intensified class divides. Piketty's analysis shows that wealth concentration was at its peak during this era, especially in Europe.

The 20th Century: Wars, Crises, and Redistribution

The devastating World Wars and the Great Depression acted as brutal equalizers. They destroyed vast amounts of capital and led to policies aimed at redistribution, such as progressive taxation and social welfare programs. This period saw a reduction in inequality, particularly between the 1930s and 1970s, often referred to as the "Great Compression."

The Return of Inequality in the Late 20th and Early 21st Century

From the 1980s onwards, Piketty documents a resurgence of inequality. Deregulation, globalization, and changes in tax policies allowed wealth to accumulate rapidly at the top. This renewed concentration of wealth mirrors patterns seen before the 20th century but now occurs in a globalized economy, raising new challenges for policymakers.

Why Thomas Piketty's Work Matters Today

In today's world, economic inequality is a hot-button issue influencing politics, social cohesion, and economic stability. Thomas Piketty's brief history of equality provides critical context for these debates. His work offers several valuable insights:

- **Data-Driven Analysis:** Piketty's use of historical tax records and wealth data sets a new standard for empirical economic research.
- **Policy Implications:** His findings support progressive taxation, wealth taxes, and policies aimed at reducing inequality.
- **Global Perspective:** By comparing multiple countries over centuries, Piketty highlights how different policies and historical trajectories affect equality.

Exploring Policy Solutions: Insights from Piketty's Research

One of the most practical aspects of Thomas Piketty's work is its focus on what can be done to address inequality. He advocates for several key policies:

Progressive Taxation and Wealth Taxes

Piketty argues that taxing wealth directly can help curb the excessive accumulation of capital. Unlike income taxes, wealth taxes target accumulated assets, which are often passed down through generations, perpetuating inequality.

Investing in Education and Opportunity

Education is a crucial equalizer. By investing in access to quality education, societies can enhance social mobility and reduce income disparities over time.

International Cooperation

Given globalization, unilateral national policies may be insufficient. Piketty emphasizes the need for international agreements to address tax evasion and capital flight, ensuring that wealth is fairly taxed worldwide.

The Broader Impact of Thomas Piketty's Work on Economic Thought

Thomas Piketty has revitalized discussions about inequality, moving the topic to the center of economic discourse. His interdisciplinary approach, combining economics, history, and sociology, appeals to a broad audience beyond academia.

Moreover, Piketty's work challenges the prevailing neoliberal narrative that markets alone can solve inequality. Instead, he presents a nuanced view that recognizes the role of institutions, policies, and historical contingencies.

Tips for Engaging with Piketty's Ideas

If you're diving into Thomas Piketty's work or the broader discussion on economic inequality, here are some tips to keep in mind:

- **Start with the Data:** Understanding the empirical basis helps ground the debates in facts rather than ideology.
- **Consider Historical Context:** Inequality today cannot be fully understood without looking at its historical roots.
- **Think Globally:** Inequality is a global issue; solutions require cooperation beyond borders.
- **Engage Critically:** Not all economists agree with Piketty, so exploring critiques can enrich your understanding.

Final Reflections on Thomas Piketty and the Quest for Equality

Thomas Piketty's "A Brief History of Equality" invites us to reconsider what we know about wealth and fairness. By blending rigorous research with compelling storytelling, he challenges us to imagine a world where economic growth benefits everyone, not just a privileged few. As conversations about inequality continue to evolve, Piketty's work remains an essential guide for anyone interested in the past, present, and future of economic justice.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Thomas Piketty and what is his book 'A Brief History of Equality' about?

Thomas Piketty is a French economist known for his work on wealth and income inequality. His book 'A Brief History of Equality' explores the historical progress of equality and examines the forces that

have shaped economic and social disparities over time.

What are the main themes discussed in 'A Brief History of Equality'?

'A Brief History of Equality' discusses themes such as economic inequality, social justice, the role of institutions, policy interventions, and the historical struggles for equality across different societies.

How does Piketty define equality in his book?

Piketty defines equality broadly, encompassing not only economic equality but also social and political equality, emphasizing the importance of reducing disparities in wealth, income, and opportunities to create a fairer society.

What historical periods does 'A Brief History of Equality' cover?

The book covers multiple historical periods, including the pre-industrial era, the industrial revolution, the 20th century, and contemporary times, analyzing how equality has evolved through wars, revolutions, and policy reforms.

What solutions or policies does Thomas Piketty propose to address inequality?

Piketty advocates for progressive taxation, wealth taxes, improved education access, and stronger social safety nets as ways to reduce inequality and promote sustainable economic growth.

How does 'A Brief History of Equality' differ from Piketty's previous work, 'Capital in the Twenty-First Century'?

'A Brief History of Equality' focuses more on the historical and social aspects of equality and the progress made, while 'Capital in the Twenty-First Century' primarily analyzes wealth concentration and economic inequality using data and economic theory.

What role do wars and political movements play in Piketty's analysis

of equality?

Piketty highlights that wars and political movements have often been catalysts for advancing equality

by disrupting existing power structures and enabling reforms such as social welfare programs and

progressive taxation.

How has 'A Brief History of Equality' been received by critics and

economists?

The book has been praised for its comprehensive historical analysis and optimistic outlook on

equality's progress, though some critics argue that it may underestimate ongoing challenges and the

complexity of modern inequality.

Can 'A Brief History of Equality' be applied to current global inequality

issues?

Yes, Piketty's insights provide a framework to understand contemporary global inequality and suggest

policies that could be implemented to foster greater economic and social equality worldwide.

Where can readers find more resources or discussions related to

Thomas Piketty's work on equality?

Readers can explore academic journals, economic forums, Piketty's official website, interviews, and

discussions on platforms like TED Talks and economic podcasts for more information on his work and

related debates.

Additional Resources

Thomas Piketty: A Brief History of Equality

thomas piketty a brief history of equality encapsulates the core themes explored by one of the most influential economists of the 21st century. Renowned for his groundbreaking research on wealth distribution and economic inequality, Thomas Piketty's work has reshaped the discourse around capitalism, social justice, and fiscal policy. His investigations into historical patterns of wealth accumulation provide a nuanced understanding of economic disparity, challenging conventional wisdom and proposing innovative frameworks for addressing inequality.

Thomas Piketty's Intellectual Journey and Contributions

Thomas Piketty first garnered international attention with his 2013 book, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. This seminal work delves into centuries of data on income and wealth inequality, primarily in Europe and the United States, revealing persistent and growing disparities. Piketty's analysis revolves around the concept that when the rate of return on capital (r) consistently exceeds the rate of economic growth (g), wealth becomes increasingly concentrated among the richest segments of society.

Building on this premise, *A Brief History of Equality* (2021) serves as a concise yet profound exploration of how societies have historically grappled with inequality. Unlike his earlier, more data-heavy works, this book takes a narrative approach, chronicling the political, social, and economic struggles that have shaped the fight for equality. It reflects Piketty's evolution from pure economic analysis to a broader historical and philosophical inquiry into justice and fairness.

The Historical Arc of Inequality

In *A Brief History of Equality*, Piketty outlines the cyclical nature of inequality. He traces how, from the feudal structures of the Middle Ages to the rise of industrial capitalism, wealth disparities have fluctuated but rarely disappeared. The book highlights pivotal moments when societies made conscious efforts to reduce inequality, such as the post-World War II era, characterized by progressive taxation, welfare states, and robust labor movements.

Piketty emphasizes that these periods of reduced inequality were not natural or inevitable but the result of political will and social struggle. For instance, the redistribution policies of mid-20th-century Western democracies were reactions to the devastations of war and economic crises, illustrating how historical contingencies shape economic realities.

Economic Data and Patterns of Wealth

One of the defining features of Piketty's research is his meticulous use of historical data. In *A Brief History of Equality*, he distills complex datasets into accessible insights, demonstrating how wealth concentration has evolved over centuries. For example, while the top 1% claimed a significant share of national wealth in the 19th century, global conflicts and policy interventions temporarily narrowed this gap in the 20th century. However, since the 1980s, a reversal has occurred, with wealth inequality rising sharply once again.

This resurgence, Piketty argues, stems from deregulation, weakening labor protections, and tax policies favoring the wealthy. By contextualizing these trends within a historical framework, the book invites readers to reconsider the causes of inequality beyond simple economic growth metrics.

Theoretical Foundations and Policy Implications

At the heart of Thomas Piketty's analysis is a critical examination of capitalism's structural tendencies. He challenges the notion that free markets naturally lead to equitable outcomes, presenting evidence that unchecked capital accumulation perpetuates social stratification. His advocacy for progressive wealth taxation and stronger social safety nets reflects a commitment to rebalancing economic power.

Progressive Taxation as a Tool for Equality

Piketty's proposal for a global wealth tax has sparked intense debate among economists and policymakers. He argues that such a tax could curb the concentration of inherited wealth, which often escapes traditional income taxation. This approach aims to democratize capital ownership and finance public goods, thereby reducing economic disparities.

Critics caution about the practical challenges of implementing global wealth taxes, including enforcement difficulties and capital flight. Nonetheless, Piketty's arguments have reignited conversations about fiscal justice and the role of government intervention in market economies.

Social Movements and Political Economy

A Brief History of Equality also underscores the importance of social movements in shaping economic policy. Piketty documents how labor unions, civil rights campaigns, and feminist activism have contributed to expanding equality, not just economically but also socially and politically.

This perspective broadens the understanding of equality beyond income and wealth, encompassing rights, representation, and dignity. The interplay between economic data and social activism in Piketty's work highlights the multifaceted nature of inequality.

Comparative Perspectives and Global Context

Piketty's historical narrative does not confine itself to Western economies. He contrasts inequality trajectories across different regions, shedding light on how colonialism, globalization, and technological change influence wealth distribution worldwide. For example, emerging economies often experience rapid growth accompanied by stark income divides, raising questions about sustainable development and inclusive prosperity.

By incorporating a global dimension, Piketty's *A Brief History of Equality* encourages policymakers to consider transnational cooperation and cross-border economic policies to effectively tackle inequality.

Pros and Cons of Piketty's Approach

- Pros: Piketty offers a comprehensive, historically grounded framework that integrates economic
 data with social and political analysis. His work challenges complacency about inequality and
 provides concrete policy proposals.
- Cons: Some critics argue his reliance on historical data may overlook contemporary complexities
 like technological disruption and behavioral economics. Others question the feasibility of
 implementing radical tax reforms globally.

Despite these critiques, the enduring influence of Piketty's work lies in its capacity to provoke critical reflection on the roots and remedies of inequality.

Relevance in Today's Socioeconomic Landscape

In an era marked by widening wealth gaps exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and rising populism, *Thomas Piketty a brief history of equality* remains acutely relevant. His insights help decode the underlying mechanisms driving economic polarization and offer pathways toward more equitable futures.

Governments, scholars, and activists increasingly reference Piketty's findings in debates over taxation, social welfare, and labor rights. His call for systemic reforms resonates amid growing demands for corporate accountability and inclusive growth.

By bridging history, economics, and political theory, Thomas Piketty provides a vital lens through which to understand and address the persistent challenge of inequality. His work serves as both a diagnostic tool and a beacon for envisioning societies where equality is not merely aspirational but achievable.

Thomas Piketty A Brief History Of Equality

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thomas piketty a brief history of equality: A Brief History of Equality Thomas Piketty, 2022-04-19 In this powerful new work, Thomas Piketty reminds us that rising inequality is not inevitable. Over the centuries, we have been moving toward greater equality. Piketty guides us with elegance and concision through the great movements that have made the modern world and shows how we can learn from them to make equality a lasting reality.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: Summary of Thomas Piketty's A Brief History of Equality Milkyway Media, 2022-06-04 Buy now to get the main key ideas from Thomas Piketty's A Brief History of Equality Inequality has been present through human history, but it has changed dramatically in the past couple of decades. In A Brief History of Equality (2021), Thomas Piketty, a leading French economist, lays out the history of equality in the most recent centuries. With an optimistic point of view, he especially focuses on movements and periods that achieved some form of progress towards equality. As more people are becoming aware of worldwide inequality issues, Piketty reminds us that there has been past progress, and the future is up to us.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: Summary of Thomas Piketty's A Brief History of Equality Everest Media,, 2022-05-13T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 Human progress exists, and it is a battle that can be won, but it is a battle whose outcome is uncertain. It is a fragile social and political process that is always ongoing and in question. #2 The world has made great progress in health care and education since 1820. However, there are still deep inequalities in access to education and health care between global North and South. #3 The most important progress in terms of life expectancy and literacy was achieved in the twentieth century, when the welfare state was greatly expanded. In the nineteenth century, social welfare budgets remained parsimonious, and taxes were regressive. #4 The scope of the historical transformations involved is illustrated by the fact that human population and average income have both multiplied more than tenfold since the eighteenth century. The former rose from about 600 million in 1700 to more than 7.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: Eine kurze Geschichte der Gleichheit Thomas Piketty, 2022-08-25 Mit seinen voluminösen Bestsellern «Das Kapital im 21. Jahrhundert» und «Kapital und Ideologie» hat Thomas Piketty eine internationale Debatte über die Ursachen sozialer Ungleichheit in Gang gebracht. Sein neues Buch ist eine bewusst komprimierte Weltgeschichte der sozialen Konflikte und Konstellationen und zugleich eine Lektion in globaler Gerechtigkeit: das eine Ökonomie-Buch, das wirklich jeder gelesen haben sollte. Thomas Piketty hat mit seinen Büchern die soziale Ungleichheit wieder zurück ins Zentrum der politischen Debatten gebracht. Er sieht und benennt den Fortschritt in der Geschichte, und er zeigt uns, mit welchen Mitteln er erzielt wurde. Aber zugleich verwandelt er die historischen Einsichten in einen Aufruf an uns alle, den Kampf für mehr Gerechtigkeit energisch fortzusetzen, auf stabileren historischen Fundamenten und mit einem geschärften Verständnis für die Machtstrukturen der Gegenwart. Denn auf dem langen Weg zu einer gerechteren Welt stellt sich für jede Generation die Frage, ob sie ein neues Kapitel der Gleichheit aufschlägt - oder eines der Ungleichheit.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: 10 Lektionen aus der Geschichte für die drängendsten Fragen unserer Zeit Roman Krznaric, 2025-09-16 Was können wir aus der

Kaffeehauskultur der Aufklärung lernen, um die Spaltung unserer heutigen Gesellschaft zu überwinden? Welche Inspirationen liefert das Japan des 18. Jahrhunderts zur Schaffung einer nachhaltigen Wirtschaft? Und welche Lektionen bietet die Entstehungsgeschichte des Kapitalismus zur Kontrolle künstlicher Intelligenz? Roman Krznaric zeigt, wie sich frühere Gesellschaften – oft gegen alle Widerstände – erhoben haben, um fundamentale Krisen zu bewältigen. Dabei präsentiert er in seinem Buch inspirierende Einsichten aus den letzten tausend Jahren der Weltgeschichte, die uns helfen können, zehn der größten Herausforderungen zu meistern, vor denen die Menschheit heute steht. Von der Überwindung wachsender Ungleichheit über die Wiederbelebung unseres Glaubens an die Demokratie bis hin zur Vermeidung des ökologischen Kollapses: Die Geschichte ist nicht nur ein Mittel zum Verständnis der Vergangenheit. Sie ist auch eine Möglichkeit, unsere Beziehung zur Zukunft neu und hoffnungsvoller zu gestalten.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: The Equality of Flesh Brent Dawson, 2024-06-15 The Equality of Flesh traces a new genealogy of equality before its formalization under liberalism. While modern ideas of equality are defined through an inner human nature, Brent Dawson argues that the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries conceptualized equality as an ambivalent and profoundly bodily condition. Everyone was made from the same lowly matter and, as a result, shared the same set of vulnerabilities, needs, and passions. Responding to the political upheavals of colonialism and the intellectual turmoil of new natural philosophies, leading figures of the English Renaissance, including Edmund Spenser and William Shakespeare, anxiously imagined that bodily commonality might undermine differences of religion, race, and class. As the period progressed, later authors developed the revolutionary possibilities of bodily equality even as new ideas of fixed racial inequality emerged. Some—like the utopian radical Gerrard Winstanley and the republican poet John Milton—challenged political absolutism through the idea of humans as base, embodied creatures. Others—like the heterodox philosopher Margaret Cavendish, the French theologian Isaac La Peyrère, and the libertine Cyrano de Bergerac—offered limited yet important interrogations of racial paradigms. This moment, Dawson shows, would pass, as bodily equality was marginalized in the liberal theories of John Locke and Thomas Hobbes. In its place, during the Enlightenment pseudoscientific racism would come to anchor inequality in the body. Contending with the lasting implications of material equality for modernity, The Equality of Flesh shows how increasingly vehement notions of racial difference eclipsed a nascent sense of human commonality rooted in the basic stuff of life.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: Capital and Ideology Thomas Piketty, 2020-03-10 A New York Times Bestseller An NPR Best Book of the Year The epic successor to one of the most important books of the century: at once a retelling of global history, a scathing critique of contemporary politics, and a bold proposal for a new and fairer economic system. Thomas Piketty's bestselling Capital in the Twenty-First Century galvanized global debate about inequality. In this audacious follow-up, Piketty challenges us to revolutionize how we think about politics, ideology, and history. He exposes the ideas that have sustained inequality for the past millennium, reveals why the shallow politics of right and left are failing us today, and outlines the structure of a fairer economic system. Our economy, Piketty observes, is not a natural fact. Markets, profits, and capital are all historical constructs that depend on choices. Piketty explores the material and ideological interactions of conflicting social groups that have given us slavery, serfdom, colonialism, communism, and hypercapitalism, shaping the lives of billions. He concludes that the great driver of human progress over the centuries has been the struggle for equality and education and not, as often argued, the assertion of property rights or the pursuit of stability. The new era of extreme inequality that has derailed that progress since the 1980s, he shows, is partly a reaction against communism, but it is also the fruit of ignorance, intellectual specialization, and our drift toward the dead-end politics of identity. Once we understand this, we can begin to envision a more balanced approach to economics and politics. Piketty argues for a new "participatory" socialism, a system founded on an ideology of equality, social property, education, and the sharing of knowledge and power. Capital and Ideology is destined to be one of the indispensable books of our time, a work that

will not only help us understand the world, but that will change it.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: Equality of Opportunity David Davenport, Gordon Lloyd, 2023-06-01 For over one hundred years, Americans have debated what equality of opportunity means and the role of government in ensuring it. Are we born with equality of opportunity, and must we thus preserve our innate legal and political freedoms? Or must it be created through laws and policies that smooth out social or economic inequalities? David Davenport and Gordon Lloyd trace the debate as it has evolved from America's founding into the twentieth century, when the question took on greater prominence. The authors use original sources and historical reinterpretations to revisit three great debates and their implications for the discussions today. First, they imagine the Founders, especially James Madison, arguing the case against the Progressives, particularly Woodrow Wilson. Next are two conspicuous public dialogues: Herbert Hoover and Franklin Delano Roosevelt's debate around the latter's New Deal; and Ronald Reagan's response to Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society and War on Poverty. The conservative-progressive divide in this discussion has persisted, setting the stage for understanding the differing views about equality of opportunity today. The historical debates offer illuminating background for the question: Where do we go from here?

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: The Truth about Neo-Marxism, Cultural Maoism, and Anarchy Jerome R. Corsi, 2023-10-24 This book exposes the dark, evil ideology that has descended over America. The arch of the Hegelian dialectic culminates only in negation, with millions annihilated in the nightmare apocalypse of post-modernist Democratic Socialism. The Truth about Neo-Marxism, Cultural Maoism, and Anarchy: Exposing Woke Insanity in an Age of Disinformation reveals how Communist ideology has evolved into its present-day woke madness that began with Immanuel Kant and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, continued through Antonio Gramsci and the Frankfurt School, and concluded with post-modern thinkers like Jean Baudrillard. Want to understand why the neo-Marxists, cultural Maoists, and anarchists of the woke critical theory radical Left live in a fundamentally different view of reality, operating with a set of values that redefines truth to be subjective? Read The Truth about Neo-Marxism, Cultural Maoism, and Anarchy—but be prepared to be shocked. Jerome R. Corsi has conducted a tour-de-force examination of philosophical texts, modern critical theory treatises, and the murderous history of Communism under Stalin and Mao that exposes the neo-Marxists behind today's anti-capitalist woke schizophrenia.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: <u>Class and Inequality in the United States</u> Berch Berberoglu, 2024-09-18 Highlighting the need to find solutions for current problems in American society moving forward, Berch Berberoglu provides a captivating read for anyone interested in understanding how working people today can have a lasting impact on a better and more equitable society in the future.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: Equality Darrin M. McMahon, 2023-11-14 The definitive history of the idea of equality—and why we're so ambivalent about it Equality is in crisis. Our world is filled with soaring inequalities, spanning wealth, race, identity, and nationality. Yet how can we strive for equality if we don't understand it? As much as we have struggled for equality, we have always been profoundly skeptical about it. How much do we want, and for whom? Darrin M. McMahon's Equality is the definitive intellectual history, tracing equality's global origins and spread from the dawn of humanity through the Enlightenment to today. Equality has been reimagined continually, in the great world religions and the politics of the ancient world, by revolutionaries and socialists, Nazis and fascists, and postwar reformers and activists. A magisterial exploration of why equality matters and why we continue to reimagine it, Equality offers all the tools to rethink equality anew for our own age.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: <u>Socialism</u> Scott R. Sehon, 2024 Tackling perhaps the most contentious and socially urgent political movement of the last century, Scott R. Sehon lays bare the arguments for and against socialism, investigating their logical scaffolding and revealing exactly what is assumed in charged and often vital discussions of labor conditions and human well-being. Sehon provides a straightforward presentation and logical analysis of the arguments to

make very clear which arguments work, and which do not. While the book aims to be fair to the arguments from both sides, Sehon ultimately sides with socialism and maintains that the arguments indicate that we should move in a strongly democratic socialist direction. Nearly every contemporary counterclaim to socialism is addressed and interrogated, and even the more dubious arguments in favor of socialism are taken up. Naturally, the defender of capitalism will deny these premises and claim that capitalism better promotes human well-being; many capitalists also claim that socialism does violate individual rights, particularly property rights. The bulk of the book sorts through the data and arguments on both sides, considering arguments from philosophers such as G.A. Cohen, Ronald Dworkin, David Schweickart, John Tomasi, and Jonathan Wolff, as well as prominent economists such as Milton Friedman and F.A. Hayek. The reader of Socialism will find a clear introduction to one of the most crucial social movements of our time.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: Winning America's Second Civil War Jeffrey E. Paul, 2024-02-27 Paul has provided a vital piece to our understanding of modern liberalism's origins. -Ronald J. Pestritto, Author of America Transformed: The Rise and Legacy of American Progressivism Today's political and cultural divisions leave many wondering how America could have arrived at its present state. This book traces the source to an unlikely historical accident. The founding principles of the American Revolution—that all individuals have unalienable natural rights to life, liberty, and the fruits of their labor, and that governments should exist only to protect these rights—were a singularity in human history. The nation's failure to secure the slaves' equal rights to self-ownership led to a civil war and the constitutional recognition of this vital principle. And yet, scarcely four decades later, social science faculties at the country's top colleges and universities repudiated the country's founding principles. The cause of this startling change was the education that hundreds of American college students and graduates received in German universities in the late 19th century. Germany's professoriate was dominated by state socialists who taught that individuals had no natural rights, only privileges granted to them by the government. American students absorbed these beliefs and after their return, established this country's first graduate-level programs, seeding the first generation of PhDs. Inventing the name "progressives" for themselves, their goal was to recast America's governmental and economic institutions in the image of Germany's authoritarian government and oligarchical society. Higher education was transformed with disastrous results for the humanities and social sciences. Generation after generation of students, including those who went on to teach, abandoned this country's traditional relationship of the individual to the state. Over the next several decades, American politics, journalism, law, and education evolved in directions inimical to the nation's founding principles, leaving the country increasingly fractured—not unlike the decades leading up to the first Civil War. This book traces those changes, offering ways to alter the trajectory of today's political and educational culture. It includes a proposal to eliminate personal and corporate income and payroll taxes and raise today's government revenues with a low (1%) universal sales tax.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: The Rise and Fall of Neoliberal Rentier Capitalism Luiz Carlos Bresser-Pereira, 2025-02-10 The Rise and Fall of Neoliberal Rentier Capitalism is an account of the political economy of capitalism in the 20th and 21st centuries. Capitalism is an unjust form of economic organisation; it is a culture of exacerbated individualism justified by the glorification of individual competition. Today, after 40 years of neoliberalism, capitalism faces again a legitimation crisis. The book discusses capitalism after two revolutions - the Organisational Revolution and the Democratic Revolution. It views capitalism since the New Deal in the US and the post-war as a progressive and developmental era and the Neoliberal Turn as the change from social democracy to radical and regressive global neoliberalism, which was a regressive time for almost forty years. In the Neoliberal Years, rentiers replaced entrepreneurs in the command of the economy and called on the financiers to manage their wealth and serve as organic intellectuals, and both mounted an attack to the state, which is the main capitalist institution. The global crisis and, in 2020, the Covid pandemic showed that the state remains the nations' resource of last instance. The transition of China from statism to an active developmentalism resulted in an extraordinary growth.

Given such realities, in 2021 we saw the collapse of neoliberalism, and in the United States, a Developmental Turn - the state is back in the economy. The transition phase we live in is characterised by three main forces - economic liberalism, managerialism, and democracy. Economic liberalism is the great defeated, managerialism became powerful and is developmental, and democracy is the stronger force. It was attacked by neoliberalism and is now being attacked by right-wing populism, but resisted and resists brilliantly, proving that it was a conquest of the popular classes that became a universal value counting on the support of all social classes.

thomas piketty a brief history of equality: Climate Change in an Aging Society Harry R. Moody, 2024-12-03 Climate Change in an Aging Society is the first book fully devoted to the impact of climate change on those who are old today—and those who will be old in decades to come. In doing so, Moody focuses on issues of critical importance: aging in place; health and age in a warming world; responsibility for the climate crisis; options for climate-conscious consumers; planning for investment for a green retirement; and opportunities for political action. The number of Americans aged over 65 is projected to rise from 17% to 21%. By 2060 nearly one in four Americans will be 65 or older. By 2050, however, average temperatures in the USA could rise by as much as 3°C, and extreme weather events are likely to become more frequent and severe. Despite these alarming projections and the likelihood that climate change will cause serious health issues among the elderly, little attention has been devoted to the impact of climate change on this demographic. Employing a life-course perspective and a cross-generational approach, Moody assesses the impact of climate change on those who are old today and those who will be old in years to come. Challenging both climate complacency and climate defeatism, the book adopts as its clarion call, HERE NOW YOU HOPE. Written in an engaging personal style with highlighting case studies of influential eco-elders, this urgent book will be of great interest to students and scholars with interests in climate change, gerontology, and environmental and social policy.

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