

Wealth And Inequality In America: The Rich are getting Richer and the Poor are getting Poorer

By [Gus Lubin](#)

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

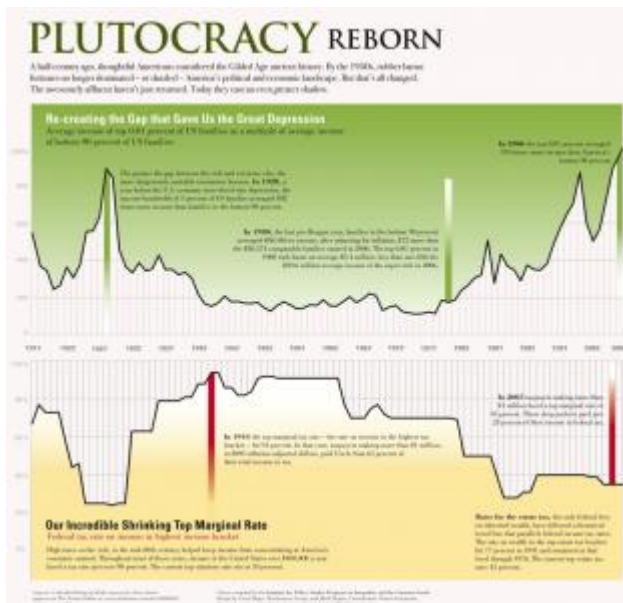
The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

Cliché, sure, but it's also more true than at any time since the Gilded Age.

The poor are getting poorer, wages are falling behind inflation, and social mobility is at an all-time low.

[Here's 15 Mind-Blowing Charts About Wealth And Inequality In America](#)

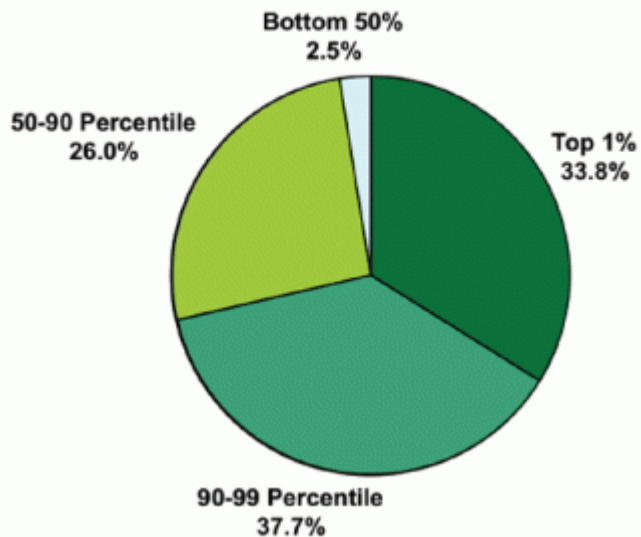
The gap between 1% and everyone else hasn't been this bad since the roaring Twenties



Source: [The Nation](#)

Half of America has only 2.5% of the wealth

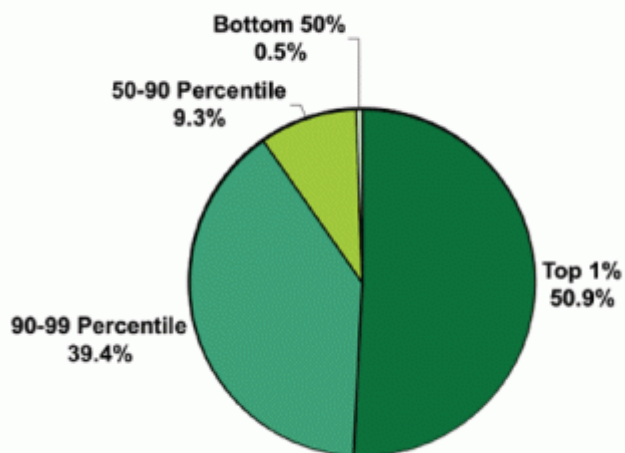
Distribution of U.S. Wealth, 2007



Source: [Institute for Policy Studies](#)

Half of America has only 0.5% of the stocks and bonds

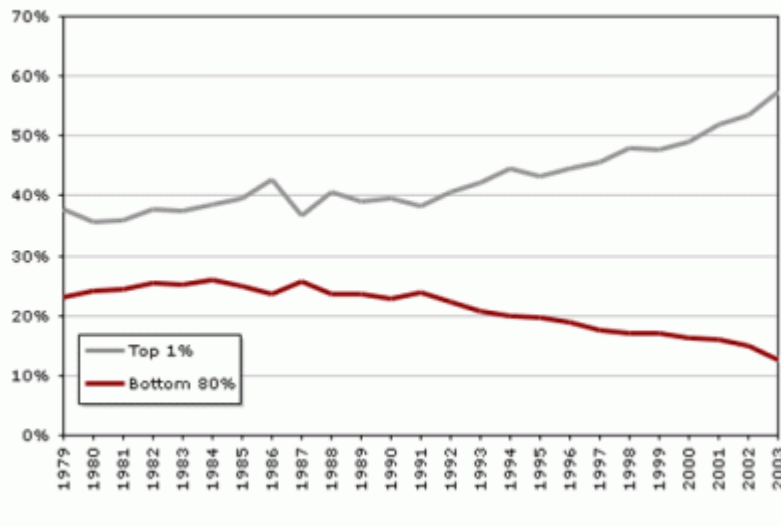
Distribution of U.S. Stock, Bond and Mutual Fund Ownership, 2007



Source: [Institute for Policy Studies](#)

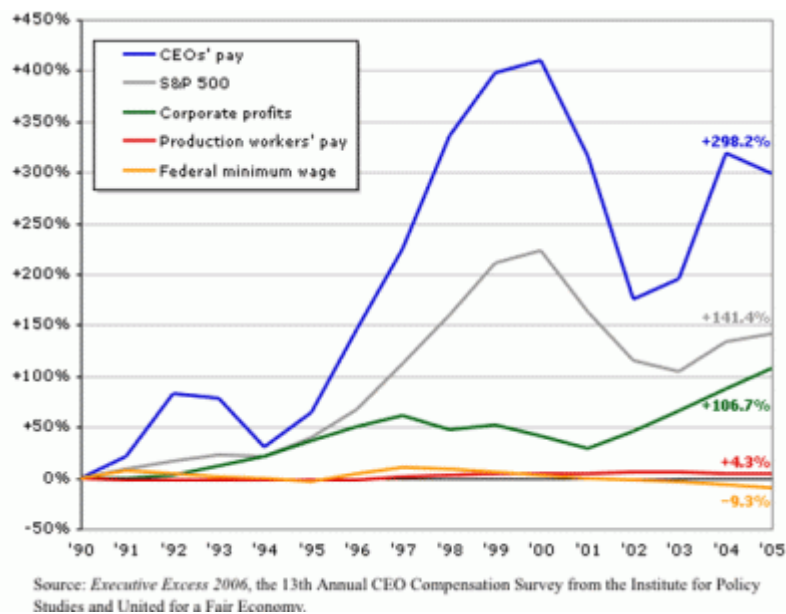
Look at the gap grow!

Figure 5: Share of capital income earned by top 1% and bottom 80%, 1979-2003
(From Shapiro & Friedman, 2006.)



Source: [Professor G. William Domhoff](#)

The last two decades were great... except for American workers



Real average earnings have not increased in 50 years



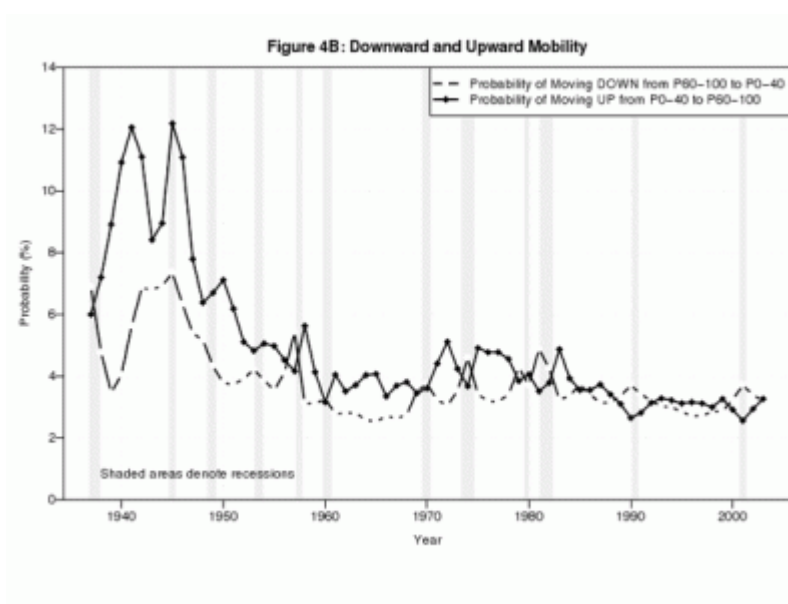
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Current Employment Statistics](#), Average Hourly Earnings in 1982 Dollars. Converted to 2008 dollars with CPI-U.

But savings rates are sinking



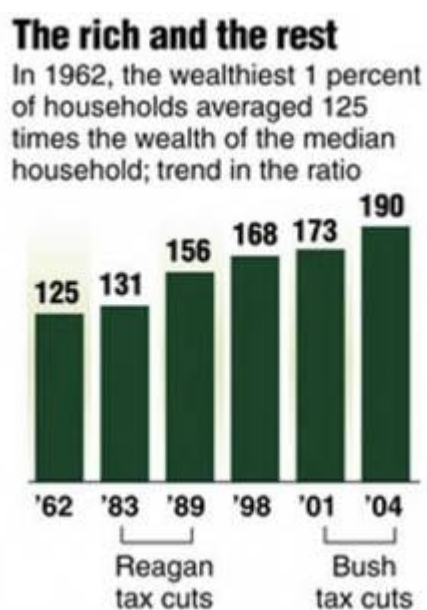
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, [National Income and Product Accounts, Table 2.1](#), Personal Income and Its Disposition, line 34.

Poor Americans have a SLIM CHANCE of rising to the upper middle class



Source: [NBER](#)

Republican tax cuts have significantly increased the gap

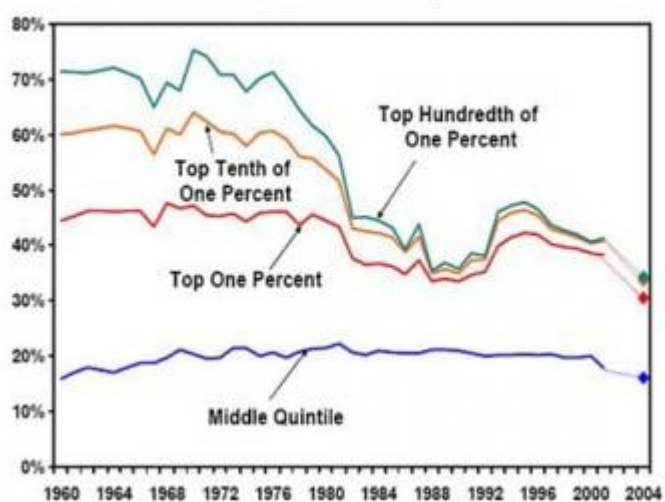


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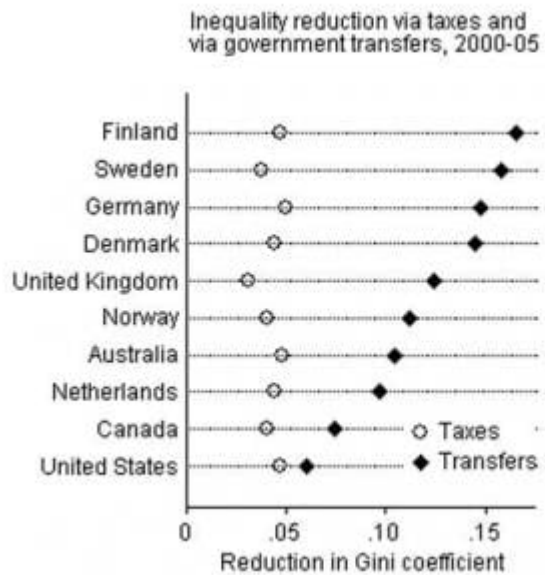
Taxes get better and better for the rich

Highest-Income Households Have Seen Sharp Drops in Tax Rates

Effective Federal Tax Rates, 1960-2001, and Projected Tax Rates for 2004*



America spreads the wealth FAR LESS than other developed countries



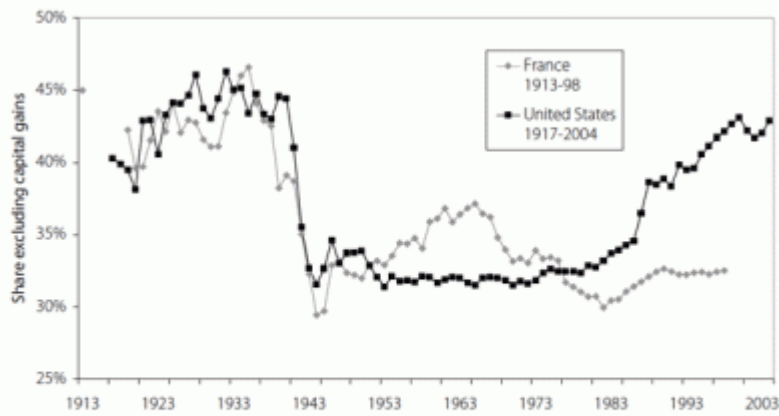
America's income spread is nearly twice the OECD average



Source: Economist

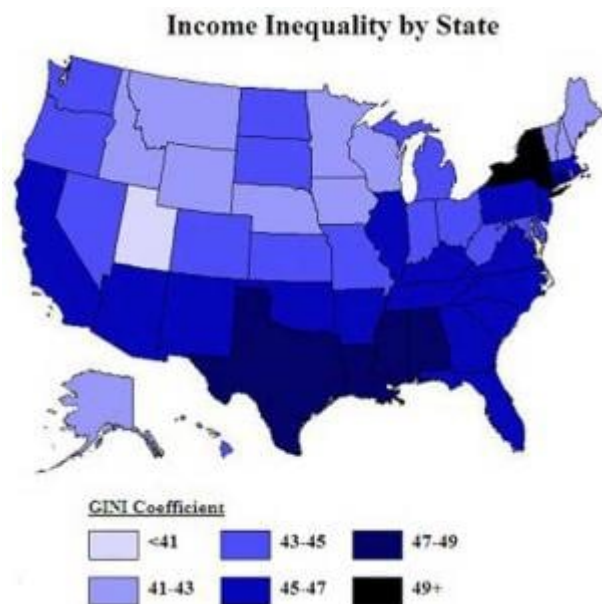
The gap is NOT growing in many countries, like France

FIGURE 8E Top decile income share in France and in the United States

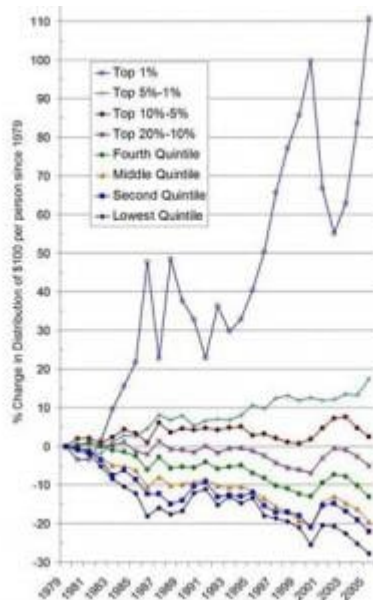


Source: Piketty and Saez (2001).

Inequality is worst around Wall Street and Oil Land



If you aren't in the top 1%, then you're getting a bum deal



Now read...



20 Cities That Have Completely Missed The Recovery

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