

Piketty, Thomas. *The economics of inequality*, tr. by Arthur Goldhammer. Belknap, Harvard, 2015. 142p bibl index afp ISBN 9780674504806, \$22.95.

French economist Thomas Piketty became a minor celebrity in 2014 with the publication in English of *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* (CH, Aug'14, 51-6864), a controversial book that in academic and policy circles added significantly to conversations and debates over growing inequality worldwide. *The Economics of Inequality* is Piketty's latest contribution to hit the American market, though it was actually written about 20 years ago, periodically updated, and likely released to capitalize (pun intended) on the success of *Capital*. A slimmer introduction to research on and musings about inequality, Piketty's four chapters treat the following: the measurement and evolution of the concept itself; inequality in terms of capital and labor; inequality within labor income; and public policy options to reduce inequality--also known as redistribution schemes, such as higher progressive taxes on the wealthy and tax credits to supplement the earnings of the poor. Technically a 2015 volume, the book has a dated feel in terms of its contents and data; it also exhibits the intellectual trappings of a wet-behind-the-ears, budding scholar in the late 20th century as well as a decidedly subjective tone. At 20 percent of the length of *Capital*, its value may be of a similar magnitude. Summing Up: Recommended. With reservations. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals and practitioners.