

Watkins, Don. Equal is unfair: America's misguided fight against income inequality, by Don Watkins and Yaron Brook. St. Martin's, 2016. 258p index ISBN 9781250084446, \$26.99; ISBN 9781250084453 ebook, contact publisher for price.

Trends in income inequality have been one of the hottest topics of the 21st century. Complementary aspects include public policy to address the alleged demise of the American dream: tax “reform” (raising marginal tax rates on the wealthy), minimum wage rates, entitlement programs, and the balance of employer-employee power. Into the debate leap Watkins and Brook (both, Ayn Rand Institute). In this unabashedly in-your-face, well-referenced polemic, the authors push back at every turn against this ideological drift. They dissect rhetorical narratives, address the role of success and the importance of opportunity, and reveal the unintended consequences of the welfare state. They conclude with a game plan to oppose redistribution campaigns, enhance market freedoms, and toast achievement. Those on the right will buy multiple copies; those on the left will steal and burn theirs. Scholars will largely ignore the book. But politicians and elected officials should digest and confront the important arguments presented. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.