

## Wealth inequality

If we now examine the development of the distribution [of property since the end of the eighteenth century] as a whole, we see that the reduction in inequalities took place mainly to the benefit of what may be called the *patrimonial middle class*, that is, the 40 percent between the poorest 50 percent and the richest 10 percent.

**Thomas Piketty,**  
*A Brief History of Equality*