



Inequality: What Can Be Done?

By Anthony B. Atkinson

Download now

Read Online 

Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson

Inequality is one of our most urgent social problems. Curbed in the decades after World War II, it has recently returned with a vengeance. We all know the scale of the problem—talk about the 99% and the 1% is entrenched in public debate—but there has been little discussion of what we can do but despair. According to the distinguished economist Anthony Atkinson, however, we can do much more than skeptics imagine.

Atkinson has long been at the forefront of research on inequality, and brings his theoretical and practical experience to bear on its diverse problems. He presents a comprehensive set of policies that could bring about a genuine shift in the distribution of income in developed countries. The problem, Atkinson shows, is not simply that the rich are getting richer. We are also failing to tackle poverty, and the economy is rapidly changing to leave the majority of people behind. To reduce inequality, we have to go beyond placing new taxes on the wealthy to fund existing programs. We need fresh ideas. Atkinson thus recommends ambitious new policies in five areas: technology, employment, social security, the sharing of capital, and taxation. He defends these against the common arguments and excuses for inaction: that intervention will shrink the economy, that globalization makes action impossible, and that new policies cannot be afforded.

More than just a program for change, Atkinson's book is a voice of hope and informed optimism about the possibilities for political action.

 [Download Inequality: What Can Be Done? ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Inequality: What Can Be Done? ...pdf](#)

Inequality: What Can Be Done?

By Anthony B. Atkinson

Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson

Inequality is one of our most urgent social problems. Curbed in the decades after World War II, it has recently returned with a vengeance. We all know the scale of the problem—talk about the 99% and the 1% is entrenched in public debate—but there has been little discussion of what we can do but despair. According to the distinguished economist Anthony Atkinson, however, we can do much more than skeptics imagine.

Atkinson has long been at the forefront of research on inequality, and brings his theoretical and practical experience to bear on its diverse problems. He presents a comprehensive set of policies that could bring about a genuine shift in the distribution of income in developed countries. The problem, Atkinson shows, is not simply that the rich are getting richer. We are also failing to tackle poverty, and the economy is rapidly changing to leave the majority of people behind. To reduce inequality, we have to go beyond placing new taxes on the wealthy to fund existing programs. We need fresh ideas. Atkinson thus recommends ambitious new policies in five areas: technology, employment, social security, the sharing of capital, and taxation. He defends these against the common arguments and excuses for inaction: that intervention will shrink the economy, that globalization makes action impossible, and that new policies cannot be afforded.

More than just a program for change, Atkinson's book is a voice of hope and informed optimism about the possibilities for political action.

Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #87432 in Books
- Published on: 2015-05-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.60" h x 1.40" w x 6.30" l, 1.23 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 400 pages

 [Download Inequality: What Can Be Done? ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Inequality: What Can Be Done? ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Inequality: What Can Be Done?* By Anthony B. Atkinson

Editorial Review

Review

Tony Atkinson, in many ways the father of modern inequality research, has [written] a terrific new book. (Paul Krugman *New York Times* 2015-05-23)

[**Atkinson**] does not mind speaking uncomfortable truths. Among them: that the comfort and opportunity provided by wealth matter just as much as the consumption that wealth affords; that holding down a job may not be enough to provide most workers with a standard of living that keeps up with economic growth; and that economic power helps protect itself in subtle and pervasive ways which might well demand an interventionist government response. Sir Anthony's answer might not be the right one. But if his book reminds the reader how far out of fashion the policies of the post-war decades have fallen, it also conveys how skewed the economy of today might look to an observer from the not so distant past?or, perhaps, from the not so distant future. (*The Economist* 2015-06-06)

Like it or loathe it, this is ambitious stuff. (Tim Harford *Financial Times* 2015-04-24)

Provides us with the broad outlines of a new radical reformism... [**Atkinson**] sets forth a list of concrete, innovative, and persuasive proposals meant to show that alternatives still exist, that the battle for social progress and equality must reclaim its legitimacy, here and now... Witty, elegant, profound, this book should be read: it brings us the finest blend of what political economy and British progressivism have to offer... This is a book written by an optimist and a citizen of the United Kingdom, Europe, and the world: the broad sense it conveys of a more just economy is one of its many appealing qualities. It will stand as a model whatever the outcome of one election or another. (Thomas Piketty *New York Review of Books* 2015-06-25)

Atkinson takes a position that is in some ways more radical than Piketty... It will surely influence debate as the presidential campaign heats up... Atkinson has researched inequality and poverty for nearly 40 years, using rigorous quantitative analysis to assess the impact of tax rates and other policy measures on inequality and growth. [*Inequality*] focuses on the United Kingdom, but it's easy to extrapolate his ideas to the U.S.... His book will embolden those who are tired of nibbling at the edges of the problem and skeptical of the argument that rising inequality is the inevitable result of globalization and technical advance. It should stimulate creative and bold thinking as the presidential candidates put their proposals before the public. (David Brodwin *U.S. News & World Report* 2015-06-15)

The best of the new crop of books [on income inequality] is **Anthony B. Atkinson's** *Inequality: What Is to Be Done?* Not unrelatedly, it is also the most solutions-oriented. (Drew Nelles *Globe and Mail* 2015-05-30)

Inequality: What Can Be Done?, is an effort to keep the issue of inequality on the agenda of politicians, economists, and citizens alike... [It] is explicitly solutions-oriented... The book offers a number of original policy suggestions... [**Atkinson's**] mastery of detail and comfort with costings mean that his proposals seem not only imaginative but also practically feasible... Inequality is now an issue that political parties, on all parts of the ideological spectrum, cannot dismiss. And that is partly because of the work of academics such as Thomas Piketty and Anthony Atkinson... The books by Piketty and Atkinson have prompted renewed attention to matters of economic distribution, and have strengthened a public movement that has put pressure on governments to tackle inequality... Atkinson's *Inequality: What Can Be Done?* deserves credit for contributing considerable intellectual resources to that important struggle. (Max Harris *New Statesman* 2015-05-26)

When a giant among UK economists such as **Sir Tony Atkinson** publishes a book in which he gives prescriptions based on the work of a lifetime, it deserves to be taken very seriously indeed...The work is rich in ideas and practical proposals. (Michael Pinto-Duschinsky *Standpoint* 2015-05-01)

[An] important contribution...Those who desire a thought-provoking guide to policy options [to address inequality] in advanced countries should grapple with **Atkinson's** work. (Martin Wolf *Financial Times* 2015-05-01)

Atkinson is a pioneer of the study of the economics of poverty and inequality. His latest work, *Inequality: What Can Be Done?*, is an uncomfortable affront to our reigning triumphalists. His premise is straightforward: inequality is not unavoidable, a fact of life like the weather, but the product of conscious human behavior. (Owen Jones *The Guardian* 2015-04-08)

Atkinson thinks that the division between inequality of outcome and inequality of opportunity is largely false. He believes that tackling inequality of outcome is a very good way to tackle inequality of opportunity. (If you help a grownup get a job, her kids will have a better chance of climbing out of poverty, too.) Above all, he disagrees with the widespread assumption that technological progress and globalization are responsible for growing inequality. That assumption, he argues, is wrong and also dangerous, because it encourages the belief that growing inequality is inevitable. (Jill Lepore *New Yorker* 2015-03-16)

Inequality has replaced house prices as a fashionable topic for discussion. But anyone looking for a serious treatment of the problem, rather than just a dinner party conversation, should turn to [this] book by [an] eminent economist who [has] made the study of inequality [his] life's work...[*Inequality*] sets out a range of policies for bringing about a significant reduction in inequality. (Paul Collier *Prospect* 2015-05-01)

Tony Atkinson is the godfather of modern research on the distribution of income and wealth. Combining the statistical rigor of Simon Kuznets and the radical reformism of William Beveridge, he has been a role model for entire generations of scholars. (Thomas Piketty, Paris School of Economics)

Tony Atkinson has done more than anyone else in helping us to understand the meaning of inequality, why it is important, how it has changed over time, and how it can be influenced. He is one of the great scholars of our time. (Nicholas Stern, London School of Economics and Political Science)

Atkinson is a first-rate economist who long ago mastered the orthodoxy, and so is well-placed to take it to bits. Patiently, he explains why excessive profits may not be competed away, and why laissez-faire cannot be relied on to get the most out of every resource...Atkinson also has a keen sense of history. He explains how anti-trust laws in the U.S., nowadays narrowly justified in efficiency terms, were originally born out of concerns about fairness. He highlights, too, how the course of industrial technology has often been set by the planners' guiding hand. All this helps him break out of the frighteningly narrow terrain that economists concede to public policy. (Tom Clark *The Guardian* 2015-06-26)

Atkinson has done a very good job by making suggestions that are actually being professed, albeit hesitantly, by governments. By taking head-on the basic apprehensions of doing so, he shows that if we do not employ these solutions, we are probably making excuses and do not want to shake the present equilibrium due to vested interests. For one who agrees with Piketty, this book will get a big nod, and for those who are not sure, it should probably remove some doubt. (Madan Sabnavis *Financial Express* 2015-07-26)

When he publishes a book, one should pay attention: **Atkinson** is the best expert on the topic of inequality,

mastering the theory and the empirics as well as the relevant politics... This is a book that all concerned with growing inequalities and interested in policy ideas should read. Its general philosophy is that it is not easy to delineate the contours of a 'just society' and perhaps illusory to set out to achieve it, but that it is definitely possible to determine a direction of improvement and to find levers that can realistically move us in the right direction. It aims at stimulating and enriching the policy debate, and there is no doubt that it will. (Marc Fleurbaey *Science* 2015-08-21)

Atkinson, a long-time expert on [economic inequality], seeks to lay bare the underlying issues in a manner accessible to non-economists. After covering the landscape of inequality measurement and theories of economic inequality, of both outcomes and opportunity, the author outlines a set of 15 fairly radical proposals to curb runaway inequality (assuming inequality needs curbing). These proposals include a minimum inheritance for all, a global tax on wealth, and a governmental role in influencing the direction of technological progress away from the kind that exacerbates inequality. They are bold and fresh proposals, but they have little chance of ever being adopted?at least not in today's U.S. But that is beside the point. Inequality has long been believed to be an inevitable outcome of capitalism; the author rightly begs to differ. (J. Bhattacharya *Choice* 2015-09-01)

Atkinson's book is magisterial. It is the definitive analysis of inequality in Britain and how to reduce it, as viewed through the standard professional economics prism of Utilitarianism. While grounded in sophisticated theory and state-of-the-art quantitative evidence, the book carries through to specific policy recommendations on standard matters such as tax rates, benefits and tax reliefs. (Paul Collier *Times Literary Supplement* 2015-09-25)

Atkinson knows his stuff. He understands arguments used by free marketeers (largely successfully) to marginalize inequality as a front-and-center issue... This is why Atkinson devotes much space in *Inequality* to rebutting these arguments and asserting that tackling the rich-poor divide should, and can, be a priority... By presenting a strategic combination of new and established ideas, Atkinson shows why addressing the growing pervasiveness of inequality in the twenty-first century requires a sustained attack on many fronts. It also requires seeing economics not just as a debate about numbers but as a debate about people... Atkinson shows what might be possible if we stretch our collective imagination and focus on innovative ways to address what is emerging as the defining issue of our time. (Mark Triffitt *Australian Book Review* 2015-10-01)

There have been countless books on inequality in the recent past?some arguing that it is a pressing problem and others arguing that it is not?but **Atkinson's** stands above the crowded field. By pairing quantitative economic analysis with a clear moral argument, he provides lay readers with a bracing and accessible guide to the current inequality debates... Atkinson's book represents the best case an economist can make on these issues... The fact that we even understand inequality as a real problem with nuanced constraints is something we owe to Atkinson, who helped make it the serious focus of inquiry it is today. This book is a forceful summary of that body of work, and stands as the best introduction to the concerns that will hang over all of our discussions of the economy in the 21st century. (Mike Konczal *Pacific Standard* 2015-11-01)

One of the world's leading economists, mentor of Piketty and associate of Stiglitz, has written this accessible overview of why inequality matters, and why we need a series of urgent policies to tackle it. You don't need to be an economist to appreciate this impressive synthesis of his life's thinking and work. (Mike Savage *Big Issue* 2015-12-25)

Though it has not attracted the celebrity attention, in many respects **Atkinson's** [*Inequality*] is more important than Thomas Piketty's pathbreaking *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, and is the perfect sequel.

Where Piketty explained the tendency of wealth and income to concentrate, Atkinson digs deeper into what drove this shift and why conventional remedies will not reverse the trends. He has a far surer grasp than Piketty of the political dynamics that made possible the anomalous egalitarian era of the 30 glorious years after World War II. (Robert Kuttner *American Prospect* 2016-01-01)

Inequality is a real accomplishment. It represents the first comprehensive, realistic, and detailed proposal for countering growing economic inequality?and it's done not by some energetic graduate student but by a seasoned economist who's been working on these issues for more than forty years. (Daniel K. Finn *Commonweal* 2016-07-08)

About the Author

Anthony B. Atkinson was a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, and Centennial Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bill Underhill:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a e-book your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand up than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific *Inequality: What Can Be Done?* book as basic and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Ebony Thornton:

The reserve untitled *Inequality: What Can Be Done?* is the e-book that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to anyone. The language that author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The author was did a lot of analysis when write the book, and so the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also could get the e-book of *Inequality: What Can Be Done?* from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

Cindy Moats:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specifically book entitled *Inequality: What Can Be Done?* your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one application form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get before. The *Inequality: What Can Be Done?* giving you another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life with this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

Hilary Williams:

As we know that book is very important thing to add our know-how for everything. By a publication we can know everything we would like. A book is a pair of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This publication Inequality: What Can Be Done? was filled concerning science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has several feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you simply wanted.

Download and Read Online Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson #G1YQ8SDNIMF

Read Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson for online ebook

Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson books to read online.

Online Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson ebook PDF download

Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson Doc

Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson Mobipocket

Inequality: What Can Be Done? By Anthony B. Atkinson EPub