

June 8th

Dear Brian,

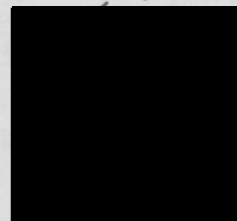
Boiling it down to 3 key points:

- (1) The trend has gone much further than most people realize. Whether you're talking about income or wealth, the U.S. has become the most unequal of all developed nations. We're not doing very well when it comes to economic mobility, either.
- (2) In the U.S., more than other prosperous nations, inequality reaches into realms of life where most of us would prefer to believe that money does not rule. The economic givens of early childhood are frighteningly good predictors of lifelong health, education, professional achievement, and political participation. That makes greater inequality a problem for all of us, not just for the poor.
- (3) This problem was made on earth, not in heaven; it's partly the result of changes in public policy, private practice, and social norms.
- (4) The multidimensional consequences mean that, beyond a certain point, inequality feeds on itself. The U.S. is well on its way to creating an Information Age aristocracy and a new class of *rentiers*. So, if you expect the tides of history to eventually make the world a less unequal place, you should worry about America's place in that world; we could end up as a moral and economic backwater.

The conference, I should say, was designed to serve as the launching pad for a campaign of popular education and political advocacy. I'd be glad to talk about this campaign and its objectives. I can also recommend other potential C-SPAN guests who share my concern.

Bye for now. It was a pleasure reconnecting.

Sincerely,



ps The American Political Science Association has put out a report entitled "American Democracy in an Age of Rising Inequality." Larry Jacobs, who led that research, was also one of the speakers at our conference.