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Empowers us to challenge the entitlement mentality of the 1%

By [Malvin](#) VINE VOICE on October 19, 2014

Format: Kindle Edition Verified Purchase

“Inequality and the 1%” by Danny Dorling explains why greed has imperiled us and what to do about it. Professor Dorling teaches at Oxford University. His main focus is on the U.K. but frequent comparisons in the book are made with the U.S., the most unequal amongst developed nations. This passionate, informative and impeccably-researched book will interest everyone active in today’s struggle for economic justice.

Professor Dorling documents how the greed of the 1% crowds out opportunities for the rest of us to lead decent lives. Specifically, professor Dorling discusses in depth how education, work, wealth and health are made worse overall when so much is given to so few. In fact, the author’s research into the London housing bubble suggests that inequality, when taken to extremes, threatens to undermine everyone’s wealth, health and security – the 1% not excluded.

Professor Dorling hopes that his work will help us demand change. The author argues persuasively that higher income tax rates are effective disincentives to greed; with funds otherwise spent on art, yachts and second homes better spent on socially useful programs such as youth employment, healthcare, education, housing and so on. Simply put, the author empowers us to challenge the entitlement mentality of the 1% in order to achieve a sustainable, just and equitable society.

I highly recommend this excellent book to everyone.

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15 of 18 people found the following review helpful

5.0 out of 5 stars The anger comes through 28 Sep 2014

By [Korhomme](#)

Format:Paperback|**Verified Purchase**

The author is a professor of geography at Oxford; clearly, geography is more today than the rote learning of the most important rivers of Ireland. He covers economics, sociology, psychology and much more in this; it's really a polemic. But a generally well-argued one. The 1% are simply bad news for the rest of us, they don't seem to have any redeeming features at all; and they are totally out of touch with the real world of the 99%.

I'm not particularly left-wing, I like to think I'm more swayed by empirical evidence. And there's lots here, admittedly mixed with a lot of rhetoric; but the message is clear, as are the effects. If you thought that things were better in the 50s and 60s, you were right; it's only since the rise of neo-liberal market economics that inequality has risen to near pre WWI levels. You might think that the rich have always been with us, and you'd be correct; but the present level of inequality in the US and UK hasn't.

There have been several other books covering similar ground recently, for instance Thomas Pikety's 'Capital in the 21st century', and a couple of years ago 'The Spirit Level' showed just how bad inequality is for society.

If there's a general consensus that much higher taxation is necessary on the incomes of the 1%, there's no consensus on how this can be achieved, given that the 1% are so much in control of politics. And the idea that higher taxes results in a lesser tax-take—the Laffer curve—may well be correct, but the idea is as much to curb ludicrous salaries as to raise money, even if raising government income was the reason for the introduction of supertax and surtax in the first place.

Go and read it, and get angry. Then wonder how we can squeeze the pips before everything implodes.

5.0 out of 5 stars A must read 17 Oct 2014

By [A M Newsome](#)

Format:Paperback

This is the best book I've read on inequality in Britain and should be compulsory reading for everyone in UK politics and on Geography courses in school and uni. Huge amount of referenced material presented in an eminently readable style giving shocking insights to what is really happening in our country. You'll want to tell your friends. It pulls no punches and has useful graphs and diagrams to bring home the points put forward. It is so reassuring that Dorling is prof at Oxford. This is a real eye opener.