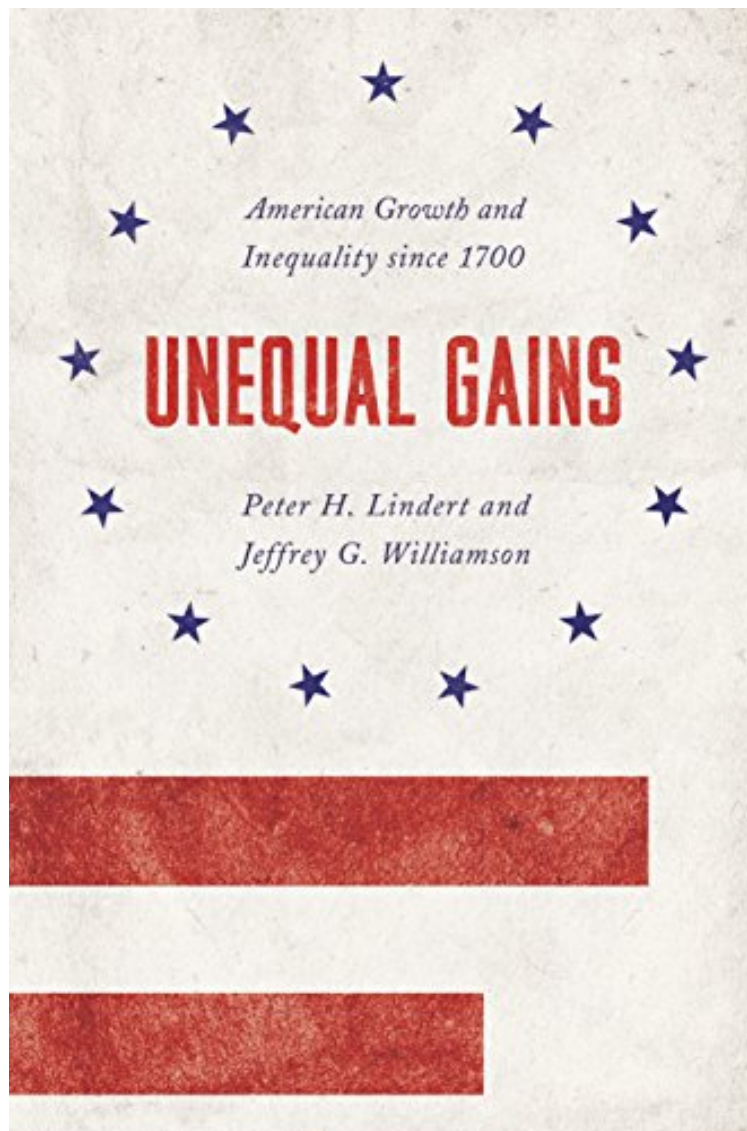


[Mobile pdf] Unequal Gains: American Growth and Inequality since 1700 (The Princeton Economic History of the Western World)

## Unequal Gains: American Growth and Inequality since 1700 (The Princeton Economic History of the Western World)

*Peter H. Lindert, Jeffrey G. Williamson*  
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**Peter H. Lindert, Jeffrey G. Williamson : Unequal Gains: American Growth and Inequality since 1700 (The Princeton Economic History of the Western World)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unequal Gains: American Growth and Inequality since 1700 (The Princeton Economic History of the Western World):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good, but very academic.By Luis-DurhamThis is definitely a great

book. It is, however, a very academic one. The main contribution from the authors is to look at the income distribution (by opposition to wealth or other measures of inequality) of the US using new data/new methodology (social tables). This leads them to a series of relatively innovative conclusions (they are enumerated in the introduction). I personally found the book a bit dry as I read economic history as a complement for my other interests. Yet, the book goes into enormous detail about how the data are collected, treated and constructed. This makes the book inevitably dense. This is not meant to be a critique, just do not expect a nice narrative story or a good night read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Art Jackson Acknowledges problem areas with historic data. Very interesting. 13 of 17 people found the following review helpful. The History of US Inequality By Inquisitive Inequality has become a hot button topic not only in left-wing politics but in the field of economics. This has become more evident following the 2008 financial crash that had the global economy in a severe downturn. While we applaud the Occupy Wall-Street movement for pushing inequality in the national spotlight, much credit is owed to the work of economists. The contributions of French economists, Thomas Piketty and Emmanuel Saez, are some of the most notable on economic inequality. Recently, Peter Lindert and Jeffrey Williamson published a monograph on American inequality and growth since the colonial period. With the aid of microdata from available sources, the duo compiled time series of inequality reaching back to Colonial America. While Piketty's work takes wealth into account, Lindert and Williamson focus on income. Throughout the duration of modern economic growth, the US witnessed fluctuations in income inequality. The colonial period saw egalitarian growth. Following the American Revolution, GDP per capita declined by 30% and was lower than that of Great Britain. Inequality became a feature leading up to the Civil War. By the mid 1900s, inclusive growth began to reemerge. This era is what Lindert and Williamson refer to as the Great Leveling. Great Leveling was halted by the 1970s up until today. What I like most about this book is that incomes by race are taken into consideration. Without going into further details, I recommend this book. It's actual research and not fluff.

Unequal Gains offers a radically new understanding of the economic evolution of the United States, providing a complete picture of the uneven progress of America from colonial times to today. While other economic historians base their accounts on American wealth, Peter Lindert and Jeffrey Williamson focus instead on income; and the result is a bold reassessment of the American economic experience. America has been exceptional in its rising inequality after an egalitarian start, but not in its long-run growth. America had already achieved world income leadership by 1700, not just in the twentieth century as is commonly thought. Long before independence, American colonists enjoyed higher living standards than Britain; and America's income advantage today is no greater than it was three hundred years ago. But that advantage was lost during the Revolution, lost again during the Civil War, and lost a third time during the Great Depression, though it was regained after each crisis. In addition, Lindert and Williamson show how income inequality among Americans rose steeply in two great waves; from 1774 to 1860 and from the 1970s to today; rising more than in any other wealthy nation in the world. Unequal Gains also demonstrates how the widening income gaps have always touched every social group, from the richest to the poorest. The book sheds critical light on the forces that shaped American income history, and situates that history in a broad global context. Economic writing at its most stimulating, Unequal Gains provides a vitally needed perspective on who has benefited most from American growth, and why.

"[I]ts conclusions are both accessible and urgent."--Kirkus s"Brilliant. . . . A masterpiece in quantitative and qualitative economic research destined to become a classic in its field."--Library Journal, starred review"An ambitious and rigorous attempt to address some long-overlooked questions about U.S. economic development."--Helen Fessenden, Econ Focus "[Unequal Gains] traces how inequality surged and receded in American history. . . . The book contains an unprecedented graph that goes all the way back to the eve of independence and charts how unequal people's incomes were. . . . This is as much a work of history as it is a work of economics."--Washington Post "Stunning."--Kenneth Stewart and Casey Jones, Standard-Times From the Back Cover "Unequal Gains provides a brilliant historical perspective on the market forces and political currents behind the explosion of economic disparities in the United States over the past four decades. Lindert and Williamson offer essential insights that can help assure a more equal sharing of the gains made possible by American economic growth."--Samuel Bowles, author of The Moral Economy: Why Good Incentives Are No Substitute for Good Citizens "Unequal Gains is a very important contribution to the study of American economic development, and is particularly relevant for current concerns about the causes and consequences of income inequality. Lindert and Williamson provide new information about the qualitative and quantitative changes since the colonial period, mainly in the United States, but also in comparison with Great Britain and other nations. This is a major scholarly achievement."--Stanley L. Engerman, University of Rochester "Unequal Gains is a provocative book that forces us to change the ways we think, write, and teach about American and global economic history. Lindert and Williamson find that Americans have almost always had the world's highest incomes, that the United States may have been the first nation to achieve modern economic growth, and that economic inequality is less a price we pay for progress than a matter of policy choices."--Richard Sylla, New York University "In

this magisterial book, Lindert and Williamson review and reestimate American economic growth and income distribution from before independence to today. The reader follows the growth of the American economy from its modest beginnings to its almost unchallenged global supremacy--but also its many distributional struggles. An indispensable and most pleasurable read."--Branko Milanovic, author of *Worlds Apart: Measuring International and Global Inequality*"What are the relationships among inequality, capitalism, and economic growth in the United States? In *Unequal Gains*, the two greatest scholars of inequality in the longue dureacute;e revisit the data and the arguments and bathe the twentieth-century evidence in historical context."--James A. Robinson, University of Chicago"This book, written by two of today's most distinguished economic historians, is one of the most impressive and important I have read in recent years. *Unequal Gains* is a landmark study that contributes in a substantive way to contemporary policy debates."--Peter A. Coclanis, author of *The Shadow of a Dream: Economic Life and Death in the South Carolina Low Country, 1670ndash;1920*"There is growing academic and policy concern about rising inequality in America, and this timely and engagingly written book has the potential to play an important role in those debates."--Jeremy Atack, coauthor of *A New Economic View of American History*About the AuthorPeter H. Lindert is Distinguished Professor of Economics at the University of California, Davis. His books include *Growing Public: Social Spending and Economic Growth since the Eighteenth Century*. He lives in Davis, California. Jeffrey G. Williamson is the Laird Bell Professor of Economics, emeritus, at Harvard University. His books include *Trade and Poverty: When the Third World Fell Behind*. He lives in Madison, Wisconsin. Both are research associates at the National Bureau of Economic Research.