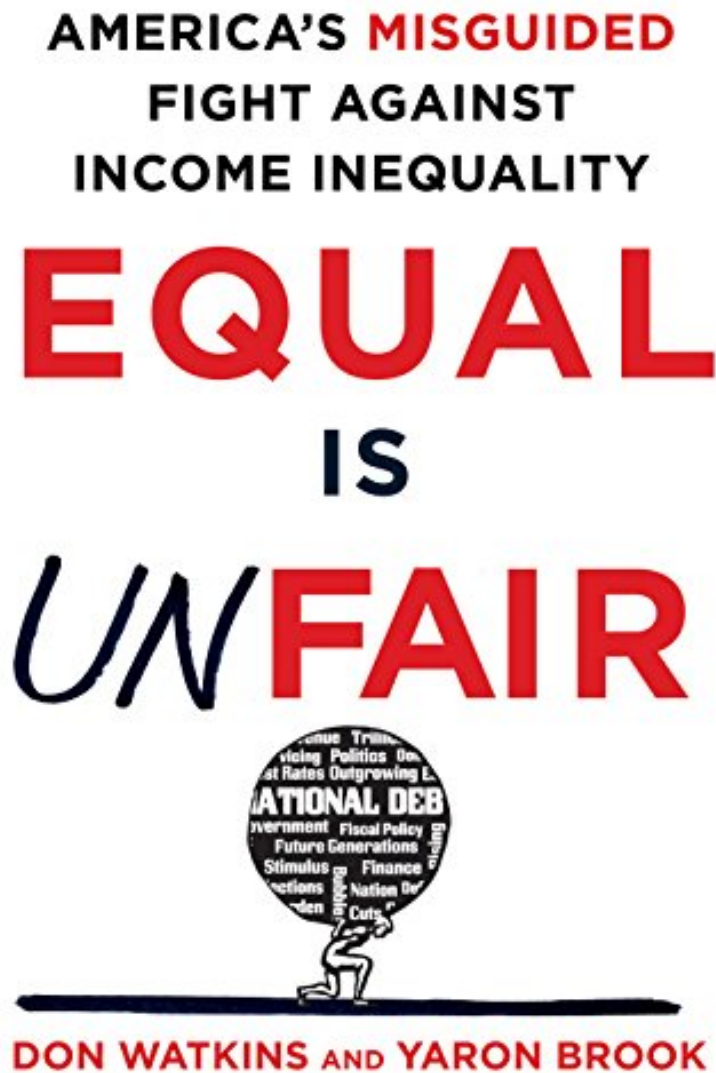


Equal Is Unfair: America's Misguided Fight Against Income Inequality

Don Watkins, Yaron Brook
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Don Watkins, Yaron Brook : Equal Is Unfair: America's Misguided Fight Against Income Inequality before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Equal Is Unfair: America's Misguided Fight Against Income Inequality:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Let the poor become rich - that is the promise of AmericaBy Robert VillegasThis book is about income inequality in America. It argues that income inequality exists but is a positive

factor in society — not a bad thing. It challenges the progressive view that income inequality must be “fixed” by income re-distribution. In fact, the authors argue that government interference is the best way to create true income equality; the poverty of the masses and that free markets are the best way to raise everyone up. Watkins and Brook argue persuasively that most people do not lose lots of sleep over inequality in America but instead prefer the opportunity to earn a lot of money. They come to America for that opportunity not for any promise about fixing income inequality. In other words, they don’t come because the rich are too rich; they come because the poor can become rich. This book examines some of the prevailing myths about inequality and explains their unfairness. The authors conclude that equalizing income can only result in failed policies. They declare that we should want to have inequality because it is based, not on unfairness, but on justice. Those who make the most money are generally the most productive; they work harder and think smarter than others and they deserve the income they are making. This is the reward system inherent in the idea of working to benefit your own life which is the source of morality. Important disclosures in the book include statistical studies that show inequality to be a positive factor in society. The authors argue effectively against egalitarian myths such as the “fixed pie” assumption (which sees wealth as a fixed sum which must be distributed fairly), the “group pie” assumption (which assumes that wealth is created by society as a whole) and other assumptions used by egalitarians to justify a particular form of re-distribution. They show that any effort to equalize the distribution of wealth is unfair and contrary to the principle of justice. *Equal is Unfair* is not only replete with the philosophical arguments necessary for a defense of individual rights and limited government, but it also provides valuable suggestions on how to effectively propagate the ideas of equality and opportunity. For anyone seeking to understand the issues of equality and freedom, this book is an excellent read.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Atlas in Chains: America's Misguided Fight Against Income Inequality* By iskeen The title of this review could have been the title of this book. The book is well-written and very readable. If you're angry at the political establishment, you need to read this book. If you've been trained from adolescence to hate or fear Ayn Rand, forget everything about her you have ever heard and pay attention NOW! This is the real deal. Income inequality is the result of political equality. That's right: Watson and Brooks show us that the very foundations of this country depended on people getting what they earned, not what some bureaucrat or politician saw fit to bestow. Their premise is that the United States is in great danger of losing what made the country exceptional: the protection of individual rights. Individual rights guarantee a person the right to pursue his or her own happiness, to create, own and trade property, and to interact cooperatively in a social environment. A civil society disallows the use of force between individuals. A tyranny installs the use of force against its constituency -- and that is the aim of the inequality movement -- to empower the political elites to cut exceptional Americans down to size. Agenda items such as robbing the 1% of 100% of their wealth (even though it would disappear into the black hole of bureaucracy). To cut the exceptional down, not to make the mediocre better, but to make everyone equally miserable. Yes, Watkins and Brooks abhor cronyism and entitlements of every kind. The US was founded on the right to pursue a your own happiness and the government's obligation to defend and protect the property you created or earned. It was the recognition that productivity creates wealth, not government fiat. Watkins and Brooks argue that when you strive for income or wealth equality, you get poverty, starvation and death, with the political elites living off the blood of the dupes who support their agenda. If you think that communism is good and capitalism is evil, ask yourself which countries lock you in? North Korea or South. East Germany or West? Communist Russia or the USA? For those who have heard wild stories about Ayn Rand and her life, please know that none of those matter now. What matters now was whether in 1943 when she started her research and 1957 when she published *Atlas Shrugged*, she nailed it. She was right then, and she is still right. I've been a fan since 1966. Personalities come and go, but ideas are what is important -- and these ideas can save you.

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. *Outcome Equality or Outcome Fairness?* (Spoiler alert, you can only choose one). By J.A. Cobra *Equal is Unfair* is one of the most important books written on income inequality this decade. Watkins and Brook do a tremendous job of unraveling the argument against income inequality, and they provide a clear and thoughtful depiction of the opportunities that have been afforded to Americans since her beginnings. The most potent chapters are three and five. In the third chapter, Watkins and Brook juxtapose the inherent freedom of an individualist America with the inherent lack of freedom of collectivist countries like Cuba. In the fifth, they shed light on the inevitable outcome of a war on inequality, that its proponents will achieve not the creation of opportunity that they purportedly seek but the destruction of opportunity, that a war on inequality is a war on freedom and opportunity as such. For those who are concerned either with theirs and their loved one's prosperity or with the prosperity of America moving forward, this book offers a clear and thorough discussion of what will and will not ensure the opportunity to pursue it.

We've all heard that the American Dream is vanishing, and that the cause is rising income inequality. The rich are getting richer by rigging the system in their favor, leaving the rest of us to struggle just to keep our heads above water. To save the American Dream, we're told that we need to fight inequality through tax hikes, wealth redistribution schemes, and a far higher minimum wage. But what if that narrative is wrong? What if the real threat to the American Dream isn't rising income inequality — but an all-out war on success? In *Equal is Unfair*, a

timely and thought-provoking work, Don Watkins and Yaron Brook reveal that almost everything we've been taught about inequality is wrong. You'll discover: why successful CEOs make so much money and deserve to; how the minimum wage hurts the very people it claims to help; why middle-class stagnation is a myth; how the little-known history of Sweden reveals the dangers of forced equality; the disturbing philosophy behind Obama's economic agenda. The critics of inequality are right about one thing: the American Dream is under attack. But instead of fighting to make America a place where anyone can achieve success, they are fighting to tear down those who already have. The real key to making America a freer, fairer, more prosperous nation is to protect and celebrate the pursuit of success; not pull down the high fliers in the name of equality.

#1 Conservative Book Club Bestseller "This is an extraordinary book that will open your eyes and increase your awareness about this politically charged subject. You learn how and why inequality is largely a myth and that the key to higher incomes lies in making yourself more productive throughout your life." --Brian Tracy, author of *No Excuses!* "Incisive, well-written, much-needed and powerful antidote to the pernicious 'wisdom' about income inequality. The real problem is not free markets but arbitrary government power. An impressive achievement." --Steve Forbes, Editor-in-Chief, *Forbes* "There are all sorts of very good books and articles exposing the economic fallacies underlying recent calls for more aggressive government-sponsored wealth-redistribution. But none exposes the misguided ethics underlying such calls as effectively as Don Watkins' and Yaron Brook's *Equal is Unfair*. Defenders of free markets need to recapture the high moral ground from their redistributionist opponents, and this book supplies just the ammunition needed for the job." --George Selgin, Director, Center for Monetary and Financial Alternatives at the Cato Institute "Watkins and Brook have written the best summary of Ayn Rand's classic *Atlas Shrugged I* could imagine in *Equal is Unfair*. This is a must read for every individual who wonders about America's direction these past few years. The American Dream is under attack and this book clearly and succinctly explains the motives of the attackers and the defense which we all must provide. A brilliant piece of work." --David L Sokol, Chairman of Teton Capital, LLC. "This book is like an oasis in the desert. At LAST the voice of reason breaks through the prejudices and presumptions and outright misrepresentations that are at the heart of the hysterical cries of the inequality fighters." --Mark Pellegrino, star of *Lost*, *Dexter*, *Supernatural* and *Quantico* "More bad ideas are promoted under the beguiling banner of 'equality' than anything else these days. If you've been seduced into thinking that it's the key to personal or material progress, this book is your antidote. Read it cover to cover and you'll never see humanity, the economy or public policy the same again." --Lawrence W. Reed, President of the Foundation for Economic Education "Equal Is Unfair demolishes the Left's myths and demonstrates that the campaign against income inequality is actually an attack on the concept of the 'land of opportunity' -- America's unique sense of life. As Watkins and Brook show, reason and freedom, not handouts and high taxes, are the foundations of human progress. And production, not redistribution, is the source of human flourishing." --John A. Allison, retired President and CEO of the Cato Institute, and retired Chairman and CEO of BBT "There are basically two ways of thinking about policy responses to inequality: raising or leveling. Leveling tends to promote the idea that there is a fixed pie of wealth in society and distribution is a function of luck, while raising tends to promote the idea that wealth must be created by individuals who realize the gains from trade and the gains from innovation, and as such distribution is a function of rewards for superior talent and insight into how to satisfy the demands of others in the market. Human excellence must be acknowledged before it can be rewarded, and talents are to be celebrated rather than explained away as a consequence of luck. In *Equal is Unfair*, Watkins and Brook provide a persuasive defense of human excellence, and of true capitalism which brings out the best in humanity and unleashes the creative genius in man in the arts, science and commerce. Highly recommended." --Peter Boettke, University Professor of Economics and Philosophy at George Mason University; the BBT Professor for the Study of Capitalism, Vice President for Research, and Director of the F.A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at the Mercatus Center at GMU "Arguing the unarguable, Watkins and Brook blow the top off established wisdom on the evil of income inequality and the culpability of the 1%. Today's one-sided debate on income inequality amounts to envy politics, not logic or fact, as these authors demonstrate in their explosive and entertaining book, *Equal Is Unfair: America's Misguided Fight Against Income Inequality*. This book shows why the profit motive is noble and shows that government intervention in all areas of our lives -- not income inequality -- is what's really threatening the American Dream. A must read for those who desire prosperity for more of the world's people." --Mallory Factor, NYT Bestselling Author of *Shadowbosses* and *Big Tent*, FoxNews Contributor and Professor, Oxford University and Buckingham University "Don Watkins' and Yaron Brook's latest book, *Equal is Unfair* is a much needed and well crafted take down of the attempt to force a political consensus that the State must focus on ending 'inequality.' Government does not like concrete tasks like building a bridge on time on budget. Government prospers when it convinces voters to demand that it pursue the impossible. Why? Because every failure becomes an argument for more centralized power." --Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform "About the Author Don Watkins is coauthor, with Yaron Brook, of the bestseller *Free Market Revolution*. A fellow at the Ayn

Rand Institute and a former Forbes.com columnist, Watkins writes for The Guardian, USA Today, and FoxNews.com, among many others. He is the host of the podcast The Debt Dialogues. Yaron Brook is executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute and host of the weekly radio show The Yaron Brook Show. Brook writes for the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Investor's Business Daily and many others.