

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty

Capital in the Twenty First Century by Thomas Piketty: A Deep Dive into Wealth and Inequality

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty is more than just a book title; it represents a groundbreaking exploration of how wealth and income inequality have evolved over the centuries and what that means for our present and future. Thomas Piketty, a French economist, managed to spark global conversations about economic disparities with his meticulous research and compelling arguments. If you've ever wondered why the rich seem to get richer while the middle and lower classes struggle, this book offers some eye-opening answers.

Understanding the Core Arguments of Capital in the Twenty First Century by Thomas Piketty

Piketty's work centers around the dynamics of capital accumulation and its impact on income inequality. His thesis suggests that when the rate of return on capital (r) exceeds the rate of economic growth (g), wealth concentrates in the hands of a few, exacerbating inequality. This formula, $r > g$, underpins much of the historical analysis he presents.

Historical Data as the Backbone

One of the most impressive aspects of Piketty's book is the sheer volume of historical data he uses, spanning over 300 years and multiple countries. By analyzing tax records, estate data, and national accounts, Piketty uncovers patterns of wealth accumulation and distribution that challenge conventional economic thought. This extensive dataset enables him to demonstrate that inequality is not a modern anomaly but a recurring theme in capitalist economies.

Wealth Concentration and Its Implications

Piketty highlights that wealth concentration tends to increase during periods of low economic growth. For instance, the 19th century saw enormous wealth disparities, which only began to decline after the World Wars due to high growth rates and policy interventions like progressive taxation. Today, however, with slower growth and rising returns on capital, inequality is resurging, potentially leading to social and economic instability.

The Impact of Capital in the Twenty First Century by Thomas Piketty on Economic Thought

Before Piketty's book, discussions around inequality often lacked a comprehensive historical perspective. His work has reshaped economic debates by bringing inequality to the forefront and providing a solid empirical foundation.

Challenging Neoclassical Economics

Traditional economic theory often assumes that markets are efficient and that income inequality will naturally correct itself over time. Piketty challenges this by showing that without policy intervention, the natural tendency of capitalism is to concentrate wealth. This contradicts the idea that free markets alone can ensure equitable growth.

Inspiring New Research and Policy Discussions

Since its publication, the book has inspired economists, policymakers, and even the general public to rethink wealth distribution. It has led to increased interest in progressive taxation, wealth taxes, and other mechanisms to curb inequality. Countries have revisited their fiscal policies, and debates about economic justice have gained momentum in both academic and political arenas.

Key Concepts Explained: Making Sense of Piketty's Ideas

Some concepts in the book can seem complex at first glance, but breaking them down helps in understanding Piketty's message more clearly.

The Relationship Between Capital and Labor

Capital refers to assets like real estate, stocks, bonds, and other investments that generate income. Labor income, on the other hand, comes from wages and salaries. Piketty emphasizes that capital income tends to grow faster than labor income, leading to increasing disparities unless checked by policies.

The Role of Inheritance

Inheritance plays a pivotal role in the perpetuation of inequality according to Piketty. Wealth passed down through generations can accumulate faster than income earned from work, creating entrenched social classes. This insight challenges the meritocratic narrative that hard work alone determines success.

The Idea of a Global Wealth Tax

One of Piketty's most debated proposals is the implementation of a global tax on wealth. This idea aims to prevent the concentration of capital by taxing large fortunes progressively. While controversial, it is designed to fund public services and reduce inequality on a global scale.

Why Capital in the Twenty First Century by Thomas Piketty Matters Today

In a world grappling with widening income gaps and political polarization, Piketty's analysis remains deeply relevant. His work encourages us to question the sustainability of current economic systems and consider alternatives that promote fairness.

Globalization and Inequality

Piketty discusses how globalization has influenced capital flows and labor markets, often benefiting the wealthy disproportionately. Understanding these dynamics helps explain contemporary challenges such as job displacement and wage stagnation in many developed countries.

Technology and Capital Accumulation

The rise of technology and automation has further complicated the relationship between capital and labor. Capital owners who invest in tech reap significant returns, while many workers face uncertain futures. Piketty's framework assists in analyzing these modern shifts and their implications for inequality.

Practical Lessons from Capital in the Twenty First Century by Thomas Piketty

For readers interested in applying Piketty's insights beyond theory, there are several takeaways worth considering.

- **Advocate for Progressive Taxation:** Supporting tax policies that target wealth accumulation can help address systemic inequality.
- **Promote Transparency:** Encouraging disclosure of wealth and capital ownership can lead to fairer economic policies.
- **Invest in Education and Social Services:** Enhancing access to quality education and healthcare can mitigate some effects of inequality.
- **Engage in Informed Political Dialogue:** Understanding the historical context of inequality empowers citizens to demand meaningful reforms.

Exploring Criticisms and Debates Around Piketty's Work

No influential work is without its critics, and "capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty" has sparked its fair share of debate.

Data Interpretation and Methodology

Some economists question the accuracy of historical data or argue that Piketty's conclusions may overgeneralize complex economic phenomena. They suggest that other factors, like technological innovation or globalization, might play a more significant role in inequality.

The Feasibility of a Global Wealth Tax

While the concept of a wealth tax is intriguing, critics highlight the challenges of implementation, enforcement, and potential capital flight. These practical concerns have sparked lively discussions about alternative policy solutions.

Political and Ideological Implications

Piketty's work is sometimes seen as politically charged, with some viewing it as a call for socialism or drastic economic restructuring. Others argue it simply sheds light on problems inherent in capitalism without prescribing extreme measures.

Final Thoughts on Capital in the Twenty First Century by Thomas Piketty

Reading Piketty's "capital in the twenty first century" offers a rich, data-driven perspective on one of the most pressing issues of our time: economic inequality. His blend of historical analysis, economic theory, and policy proposals invites readers to think critically about how wealth is created and distributed. Whether you agree with all his ideas or not, engaging with this work is essential for anyone interested in understanding the economic forces shaping our world today.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main thesis of 'Capital in the Twenty-First Century' by Thomas Piketty?

'Capital in the Twenty-First Century' argues that when the rate of return on capital exceeds the rate of economic growth over the long term, wealth inequality increases, leading to social and economic instability.

How does Piketty define capital in his book?

Piketty defines capital as assets that can be owned and exchanged on some market, including real estate, financial assets, and productive capital.

What historical data does Piketty use to support his arguments?

Piketty uses extensive historical data on income and wealth inequality from over 20 countries, spanning from the eighteenth century to the present.

What role does inheritance play in wealth inequality according to Piketty?

Inheritance plays a significant role in perpetuating wealth inequality as inherited wealth tends to accumulate faster than economic growth,

concentrating wealth within families.

What policy solutions does Piketty propose to address wealth inequality?

Piketty proposes a global progressive tax on wealth, increased transparency in financial markets, and policies aimed at reducing inherited wealth concentration.

How does the book explain the relationship between capital and economic growth?

The book explains that when the return on capital (r) is greater than economic growth (g), wealth accumulates faster than income, increasing inequality.

Why has 'Capital in the Twenty-First Century' been considered influential in economics?

The book has been influential because it provides a comprehensive historical analysis of wealth inequality and challenges conventional economic thought on growth and capital distribution.

What criticisms have been raised against Piketty's work?

Critics argue that Piketty's projections may overestimate future inequality, that his data may have limitations, and that his policy recommendations could be difficult to implement globally.

How does Piketty address the impact of globalization on capital and inequality?

Piketty discusses that globalization facilitates capital mobility and tax competition among countries, making it harder to regulate wealth and necessitating international cooperation.

What is the significance of the ' $r > g$ ' inequality in Piketty's analysis?

The inequality ' $r > g$ ' (return on capital greater than economic growth) is central to Piketty's argument, as it explains the tendency for wealth concentration and rising inequality in capitalist economies.

Additional Resources

Capital in the Twenty First Century by Thomas Piketty: A Critical Review and Analysis

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty has become a cornerstone in contemporary economic discourse, reshaping how scholars, policymakers, and the public understand wealth inequality in modern societies. Published in 2013, this seminal work by French economist Thomas Piketty offers a sweeping historical analysis of capital accumulation, distribution, and its implications for economic disparity from the 18th century to the present day. This article delves into the key themes, methodologies, and critiques of the book, while unpacking its relevance in today's economic landscape.

Unpacking the Core Argument of Capital in the Twenty First Century

At the heart of Piketty's thesis is the assertion that when the rate of return on capital (r) exceeds the rate of economic growth (g) over the long term, wealth inequality inevitably deepens. This formula, succinctly expressed as $r > g$, serves as a theoretical foundation for understanding why inherited wealth tends to dominate modern economies. Unlike traditional economic models that emphasize labor and innovation as drivers of growth and equality, Piketty's historical data suggest that capital accumulation remains the primary engine of inequality.

By compiling and analyzing extensive data sets—ranging from tax records to national accounts—across multiple countries and centuries, Piketty challenges the notion that wealth concentration is a transient or accidental phenomenon. Instead, he argues it is a structural feature of capitalist economies unless countered by significant political intervention.

Historical Scope and Methodology

One of the distinguishing features of **capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty** is its ambitious historical scope. Piketty traces patterns of wealth and income from the pre-industrial era through the post-World War II "Great Compression" and into the resurgence of inequality in recent decades. This longitudinal approach allows readers to contextualize contemporary economic disparities within a much broader temporal framework.

Piketty's methodology combines empirical rigor with innovative use of data. He meticulously reconstructs wealth distributions by leveraging archival tax data, estate records, and national income accounts. This empirical foundation lends credibility to his broader theoretical claims and sets a new standard

for economic history research.

Key Themes and Insights

The Dynamics of Wealth Inequality

A central theme in Piketty's work is the persistence and amplification of wealth inequality through capital. The book elucidates how inherited capital—such as real estate, stocks, and bonds—tends to accumulate faster than the economy grows, which perpetuates wealth concentration in the hands of a few. This dynamic is particularly evident in the resurgence of inequality since the 1980s, following decades of relative equality.

Piketty also highlights the role of political and social factors in shaping wealth patterns. For example, the destruction of capital during the World Wars and the progressive taxation policies in the mid-20th century contributed to reducing inequality temporarily. Conversely, deregulation and tax cuts on wealth in recent decades have reversed this trend.

Policy Recommendations and Their Implications

Beyond diagnosis, **capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty** proposes bold policy interventions aimed at curbing inequality. Piketty advocates for a global progressive wealth tax designed to limit the concentration of inherited wealth and to finance social programs. This idea, while controversial, underscores the author's belief in the necessity of political will to address systemic imbalances.

Critics of Piketty's proposals often debate the feasibility and unintended consequences of such taxation, citing challenges in implementation, evasion, and impact on investment. Nonetheless, the policy discussion sparked by the book has become a vital part of global economic dialogues regarding equity and growth.

Strengths and Limitations of Piketty's Work

Strengths

- **Comprehensive data analysis:** Piketty's exhaustive historical data compilation is unprecedented, providing a robust empirical foundation

for his conclusions.

- **Interdisciplinary approach:** The book bridges economics, history, and political science, offering a holistic view of wealth inequality.
- **Public engagement:** Its accessible prose and compelling narrative have brought complex economic issues into mainstream discussions.

Limitations and Critiques

- **Data limitations:** Some scholars question the accuracy and representativeness of historical data, particularly from non-Western countries.
- **Overemphasis on capital:** Critics argue that Piketty underestimates the role of technological innovation, human capital, and social mobility in shaping inequality.
- **Policy practicality:** The global wealth tax proposal faces skepticism regarding enforcement, political feasibility, and economic consequences.

Impact on Contemporary Economic Thought

The publication of **capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty** has had a profound influence on how economists and policymakers perceive inequality. It has revived debates about wealth redistribution and the sustainability of capitalist economies. The book's insights resonate in discussions about the concentration of wealth in tech billionaires, housing affordability crises, and the widening gap between top earners and the rest.

Furthermore, Piketty's work has inspired a new wave of empirical research focused on wealth dynamics, encouraging economists to dig deeper into long-term data trends and policy outcomes. His influence extends beyond academia into political platforms advocating for tax reform and social justice.

The Broader Socioeconomic Context

Understanding inequality through the lens of capital accumulation invites a broader reflection on societal values and governance structures. Piketty's analysis implicitly challenges the assumption that free markets alone can ensure equitable growth. It prompts questions about democracy, economic

power, and social cohesion in the face of growing disparities.

The resurgence of capital-driven inequality also intersects with global issues such as migration, education access, and environmental sustainability, making Piketty's findings relevant across multiple domains.

Relevance in the 2020s and Beyond

As economies grapple with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing automation, and geopolitical tensions, the insights from **capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty** remain critically important. The pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities, highlighting vulnerabilities in wealth distribution and social safety nets.

Piketty's emphasis on capital dynamics offers a framework for understanding how crises can accelerate wealth concentration and why proactive policy measures are necessary. Moreover, the digital economy and new forms of capital—such as intellectual property and data assets—introduce fresh complexities that extend Piketty's analysis into uncharted territory.

In this evolving landscape, the book continues to serve as a reference point for economists, activists, and decision-makers seeking to balance growth with fairness.

In sum, **capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty** represents a landmark contribution to the study of economic inequality. Its meticulous historical analysis, provocative policy proposals, and broad influence make it essential reading for anyone interested in the forces shaping wealth and society today. While debates about its conclusions and prescriptions persist, its role in advancing our understanding of capital and inequality is undeniable and ongoing.

[Capital In The Twenty First Century By Thomas Piketty](#)

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty: *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* Thomas Piketty, 2014-03-10 The main driver of inequality--returns on capital that exceed the rate of economic growth--is again threatening to generate extreme discontent and undermine democratic values. Thomas Piketty's findings in this ambitious, original, rigorous work will transform debate and set the agenda for the next generation of thought about wealth and inequality.

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty: Thomas Piketty's Capital in the Twenty-First Century Stephen Kaufmann, Ingo Stützle, 2017-08-01 An introduction to Thomas Piketty's monumental work US Nobel Prize-winner Paul Krugman described Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* as "perhaps the most important book of the last decade." It has sparked major international debates, dominated bestseller lists and generated a level of

enthusiasm—as well as intense criticism—in a way no other economic or sociological work has in a long time. Piketty has been described as a new Karl Marx and placed in the same league as the economist John Maynard Keynes. The “rock star economist’s” underlying thesis is that inequality under capitalism has reached dramatic levels in the last few decades and continues to grow—and that this is not by chance. A small elite is making itself richer and richer and acquiring everincreasing levels of power. Given the sensational reception of Piketty’s not-so-easily digested 800-page study, the question as to where the hype around the book comes from deserves to be asked. What does it get right? And what should we make of it—both of the book itself and of the criticism it has received? This introduction lays out the argument of Piketty’s monumental work in a compact and understandable format, while also investigating the controversies Piketty has stirred up. In addition, the two authors demonstrate the limits, contradictions and errors of the so-called Piketty revolution.

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capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty: *Capital in the Twenty First Century:* by Thomas Piketty | Summary & Analysis Elite Summaries, Economics inequality, the uneven concentration of wealth, and prospects of economic growth will stay amongst the top of the world’s issues list of all time. Modernization of economic growth, as well as a more even spread of knowledge, have played a great role in minimizing inequalities at least to a lesser extent than what Karl Marx has predicted. However, the tendency of returns on capital to exceed economic growth rate still aids in the creation of significant inequality. Brilliantly added with empirical data and not just arguments, “Capital in the Twenty-First Century” provides a comparative historical research on income inequality that is definitive, fresh, and enlightening. p.p1 {margin: 0.0px 0.0px 10.0px 0.0px; text-align: justify; font: 11.0px 'Trebuchet MS'; color: #000000; -webkit-text-stroke: #000000} span.s1 {font-kerning: none} A major work on inequalities throughout economic history, “Capital in the Twenty-First Century” uncovers major economic and social patterns, providing answers through a vast collection of data to supplement the already provided clear guiding theories. This book is extraordinarily ambitious and rigor, aiming to reorient the reader’s understanding of the history of economics. Further, the readers will be confronted by awakening economic lessons in today’s modern life. It is monumental and influential especially with regard to making an economic analysis. Written by a renowned French economist, Thomas Piketty, “Capital in the Twenty-First Century” is one of the most important books of the year, if not of the decade. It compares history and its relevance in the modern day society. Impossible to ignore, “Capital in the Twenty-First Century” is available online with free shipping options.

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty: *Understanding Piketty's Capital in the Twenty-First Century* Steven Pressman, 2015-10-05 Thomas Piketty's Capital in the

Twenty-First Century reached the top of most best-seller lists last year shortly after it was released. Nonetheless, few people actually read the book. Yet reviewers have agreed that the book is important because it touches on one of the major problems facing the US economy, the UK economy and many developed nations: rising income and wealth inequality. It also provides an explanation of the problem and a policy solution: a global wealth tax. This book is intended to do three things. First, it provides a summary of the argument of Piketty's book, which many people have bought and few people have read. Second, it fills in some of the gaps in the book, by providing readers with the background that is needed to understand the volume and the argument. This background information discusses economic data sources, measures of inequality and why income inequality is such an important issue today. Finally, the work provides a defense of Piketty's analysis and at times some criticism of his work. Pressman explains why the problem of rising inequality is important, where Piketty's data comes from, and the strengths and weaknesses of that data. It defends Piketty's inequality, $r > g$, as the reason inequality has risen over the past several decades in many developed nations. Using Piketty's own data, this book argues that rising inequality is not just a characteristic of capitalism, but results from different growth rates for income and wealth, which can occur under any type of economic system. Understanding Piketty's Capital in the Twenty-First Century is the ideal introduction to one of the most important books of recent years for anyone interested in Piketty's work and the inevitability of inequality.

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty: Book Review: Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Piketty 50Minutes,, 2017-03-16 It can be hard for busy professionals to find the time to read the latest books. Stay up to date in a fraction of the time with this concise guide. Thomas Piketty's 2013 book Capital in the Twenty-First Century was an immediately bestseller in the UK and US, and has been widely praised by both economists and the general public. Piketty provides a richly detailed account of the development of inequality in the Western world, and argues that economic inequality is an inherent feature of capitalism and can only be resolved by decisive action from governments. His powerful historical insights are backed by extensive data and analysis, thus offering a thorough critique of the modern capitalist system. Whatever your political and economic leanings, Piketty's ideas are sure to provide plenty of food for thought. This book review and analysis is perfect for: • Anyone interested in the causes of wealth inequality in Europe and the USA • Anyone who wants to understand how this inequality can be overcome • Students of, or anyone interested in, modern politics and economics About 50MINUTES.COM | BOOK REVIEW The Book Review series from the 50Minutes collection is aimed at anyone who is looking to learn from experts in their field without spending hours reading endless pages of information. Our reviews present a concise summary of the main points of each book, as well as providing context, different perspectives and concrete examples to illustrate the key concepts.

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty: Piketty's Capital in the Twenty-First Century Edward Fullbrook, Jamie Morgan, 2014-11-24 Thomas Piketty's book Capital in the 21st Century has already attracted more serious attention than any economics book published in the last seventy-five years. This collection of 17 essays by some of the world's most prominent economists explores Piketty's book at depth and from various vantage points. Here is what economists around the world are already saying about this book. Marx's Capital is strong on theory but, it detractors allege, weak on data. In a dialectic worthy of Hegel himself, the critics assembled here argue that Piketty's Capital stands opposite to Marx's, as strong on data but weak on theory. This combination--plus its exquisite timing--explains its critical acclaim. The juxtaposition of economic stagnation and obscene inequality in the aftermath of the financial crisis made it impossible for mainstream economists to continue ignoring inequality, let alone applauding it as they have done for so long. Piketty made it possible for them to acknowledge it without abandoning their comforting but false mainstream theories of capitalism. These authors in this volume applaud Piketty for his contribution to empirical knowledge, but reject his views on how this inequality came about. The true Capital for the 21st century is still yet to be written. - Steve Keen, Kingston University, London

Neoclassical economics spawned a utopian belief in capitalism with unregulated market forces. Thomas Piketty's empirical analysis has dealt a fatal blow to that belief by highlighting the recent huge redistributions of income and wealth to the ultra-rich. This raises a fundamental question for people around the world: How do we achieve a better world through economic policies? This global collection addresses that question and explores theoretical explanations for Piketty's empirical findings. - Ping Chen, Fudan University and Peking University, China Are the theoretical explanations proposed by Thomas Piketty of the rising inequalities valid? What is the meaning of his first and second laws of capitalism? This book is indispensable for anyone seeking answers to these questions. - Andre Orlean, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris By examining Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* from different angles, the 18 contributors to this invaluable book add enormously to our understanding of inequality and of policy options for reducing it. They point to the lack of a distinction between rentier income and earned income, to the severe limits of marginal productivity theory that Piketty employs and to the utopian nature of Piketty's only suggested remedy. - Norbert Haering, Economics Editor, Handelsblatt, Germany Piketty's book *Capital in the Twentieth Century* served the cause of drawing the world's attention to inequality under capitalism in the long haul, based on a fresh and innovative look at new evidence. This book serves that cause even better by focusing on the inadequacies of Piketty's analysis of the processes and mechanisms leading to that inequality, and, therefore, on what needs to be done to address it. - C. P. Chandrasekhar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* was the publishing sensation of 2014, focussing the world's attention on the huge and continuing growth in inequality that poses a serious economic, political and social threat to us all. In this important new book, 18 economists from Europe, North America and Asia offer sympathetic but critical appraisals of Piketty's theoretical framework, his empirical analysis and his radical policy proposals. This is not the last word on Piketty - whatever could be? - but it is indispensable reading for everyone who is interested in one of the most important challenges of our time. - John King, La Trobe University, Australia

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty: SUMMARY - Capital In The Twenty-First Century By Thomas Piketty Shortcut Edition, 2021-05-31 * Our summary is short, simple and pragmatic. It allows you to have the essential ideas of a big book in less than 30 minutes. *By reading this summary, you will learn that the very unequal global distribution of wealth in the 21st century is likely to increase in worrying proportions if nothing is done to curb this trend. *You will also discover that : capital, at all times, tends to be concentrated in a few hands or countries; only a succession of world wars and crises has made it possible to redistribute wealth more equitably; strong growth allows more equal access to wealth, but this is only a short-term solution; no natural phenomenon has ever controlled or limited the accumulation of capital ; only a progressive tax on wealth would make it possible to curb the inequalities caused by capitalism. *Capital in the 21st century is an ambitious work: it draws up, for the very first time, a global panorama of the distribution of wealth from the 18th century to the present day, based on the most reliable international data on income and wealth. *Previously, most of the economists who have marked history, from Malthus to Kuznets to Marx, lacked not only hindsight but also reliable sources, when they did not use the latter for ideological or political purposes. *Yet it is clear that, over three centuries, the distribution of wealth is as much linked to economic factors as to political and social choices. *Buy now the summary of this book for the modest price of a cup of coffee!

capital in the twenty first century by thomas piketty: *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* Nick Broten, 2017-07-05 Thomas Piketty is a fine example of an evaluative thinker. In *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, he not only provides detailed and sustained explanations of why he sees existing arguments relating to income and wealth distribution as flawed, but also gives us very detailed evaluations of the significance of a vast amount of data explaining why incomes are distributed in the ways they are. As Piketty stresses, "the distribution question... deserves to be studied in a systematic and methodical fashion." This stress on evaluating the significance of data leads him to focus on the central evaluative questions, and look in turn at the acceptability, relevance, and

adequacy of existing justifications for the unequal distribution of wealth. In doing so, Piketty applies his understanding of the data to answering the deeply important question of what political structures and what policies are necessary to move us towards a more equal society. Piketty's evaluation of the data supports his argument that inequality cannot be depended on to reduce over time: indeed, without government intervention, it is highly likely to increase. In addition, he evaluates international data to argue that poor countries do not necessarily become less poor as a result of foreign investment. This strong emphasis on the interrogation of data, rather than the building mathematical models that are divorced from data, is a defining feature of Piketty's work.

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grows fast due to the rich-get-richer trend. In his book, Piketty argues that as long as the rate of return on capital exceeds the rate of growth, the income and wealth of the rich will grow faster than the typical income from work. This trend will continue to support rising economic inequality. In our critique of Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, we examine issues raised in Piketty's book, for the benefit of those who wish to read or study Piketty's book in the future. The critique includes summary and critical analysis of how Piketty's book treats a theory of capitalism and the issue of rising economic inequality.

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book. This reader's guide will not make sense unless you read it along with, or after reading, *Capital in the 21st Century*.

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