

Walter Scheidel, *The Great Leveler: Violence and the History of Inequality from the Stone Age to the Twenty-First Century*. Princeton University Press, 2017 (paperback 2018) <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10921.html>

Shortlisted for [Cundill History Prize 2017](#)

Shortlisted for [Financial Times & McKinsey Business Book of the Year 2017](#)  
[strategy+business Best Business Book 2017 \(Economics\)](#)

[Martin Wolf's Financial Times Summer Book of 2017](#)

[Economist "Books of the Year 2017: Economics and Business"](#)

[Financial Times "Best books of 2017: Economics"](#)

[Wall Street Journal "What business leaders read in 2017"](#)

[New York Times "In a year of nonstop news, a batch of business books worth reading"](#)

[CNBC "13 of the best business books of 2017"](#)

[Microsoft "Best business books of 2017"](#)

[Project Syndicate "PS commentators' best reads in 2017"](#)

[BBC History Magazine "Books of the Year 2017"](#)

["The HCSS Bookshelf"](#)

Shortlisted for [World "2017 Book of the Year: Understanding the World"](#)

[Nasdaq "Book recommendations for holiday season reading"](#)

[Moneyweb "Great books to read in the Christmas break"](#)

[Zenda "Esto no es una lista, es una advertencia: los libros que leeremos en 2018"](#)

[Vozpópuli "Una guía para el Día del Libro y Sant Jordi: menos romería y más lectura"](#)

[El Periódico de Catalunya "10 llibres d'història per Sant Jordi 2018"](#)

[Philippine Star "Books as gifts"](#)

Shortlisted for [Wissenschaftsbuch des Jahres 2019](#)

["History Workshop's Radical Books of the Year"](#)

[Zeit "Buchempfehlungen"](#)

[El Cultural "Lo mejor de 2018: ensayo internacional"](#)

[Le Devoir "La liste de lecture de Konrad Yakabuski" 2020](#)

[Politico "What politicians are reading this summer" 2021](#)

[Lire "Les 100 livres de 2021"](#)

## **Audiobook**

Narrated by Joel Richards, [Tantor Audio](#) (published October 2017)

## **Princeton Classics edition**

<https://press.princeton.edu/books/paperback/9780691271842/the-great-leveler> (published May 2025 with a new preface)

## **Translations**

Chinese Simplified: China CITIC Press (published June 2019)

Chinese Traditional: Linking Publishing (published January 2023)

Czech: [Argo](#) (published October 2020)

French: [Actes Sud](#) (published January 2021)

German: [wbg Theiss](#) (published September 2018)

Italian: [Il Mulino](#) (published October 2019)

Japanese: Toyo Keizai (published June 2019)

Korean: [Eco Livre Publishing](#) (published September 2017)  
Polish: Glowbook (published June 2025)  
Portuguese: [Almedina](#) (published November 2018)  
Portuguese Brazil: [Zahar Editoria](#) (published April 2020)  
Russian: AST Publishing (published 2019)  
Spanish: [Editorial Crítica](#) (published March 2018)  
Turkish: Fol Kitap (published January 2024)

### Press reports and interviews

Oliver Grimm, [“Eine friedliche Senkung der Ungleichheit gibt es nicht.”](#) *Presse* March 19, 2016  
Uri Pasovsky, [“רק אסון יביא שוויון.”](#) *Calcalist* July 28, 2016  
Eduardo Porter, [“A dilemma for humanity: stark inequality or total war.”](#) *New York Times* December 6, 2016  
Giuseppe Sarcina, [“Più uguaglianza? Con le catastrofi.”](#) *Corriere della Sera* December 18, 2016  
David Talbot, [“Growing wealth gap is a recipe for disaster.”](#) *San Francisco Chronicle* January 19, 2017  
George F. Will, [“Want to reduce inequality? Try the Black Death.”](#) *Washington Post* February 3, 2017 (widely syndicated)  
Gonzalo Toca, [“¿Hacen falta plagas, revoluciones y guerras para frenar la desigualdad?”](#) *Yorokubu* February 3, 2017  
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Bertrand Jacquillat, [“Un moment Minsky aussi en géopolitique.”](#) *Le Nouvel Economiste* February 8, 2017  
Shahid Mehmood, [“Redistribute or not?”](#) *Dawn* February 8, 2017  
Ryan Bourne, [“Want a more equal society? Be careful what you wish for.”](#) *City A.M.* February 14, 2017 (with the rejoinder by Sam Pizzigati, [“A new rationalization for riches.”](#) *Inequality.org* February 17, 2017)  
Luis Fajardo, [“El problema de la lucha contra la desigualdad en América Latina es que “no ha habido suficiente violencia.”](#) *BBC Mundo* February 15, 2017  
Cory Scarola, [“Income inequality is likely here to stay.”](#) *Inverse* February 15, 2017  
Wang Youran, [“解决社会不平等必须找到创新性方案.”](#) *Chinese Social Sciences Today* February 15, 2017  
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Ian Morris, [“The price we pay for better living.”](#) *Stratfor* February 22, 2017 and *Forbes* February 23, 2017  
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Cory Doctorow, [“Catastrophes are reliable levelers of inequality; inequality creates catastrophes.”](#) *Boing Boing* February 22, 2017  
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Ewald Pironet, [“Hoe meer dood en verderf, hoe meer gelijkheid.”](#) *Knack* March 22, 2017  
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John Horgan, [“Is nuclear war the only cure for inequality?”](#) *Scientific American* March 26, 2017

Martina Winkelhofer, "Der Druck nimmt zu," *Kronen Zeitung* March 26, 2017

Karl Gaulhofer, "[Was uns gleichmacht, bringt uns um](#)" and "[Wie es mit der Ungleichheit weitergeht.](#)" *Presse* March 26, 2017

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Ramón González Ferriz, "[¿La mejor manera de acabar con la desigualdad? Una catástrofe violenta.](#)" *El Confidencial* April 11, 2017

Ana Swanson, "[History suggests there is a way to lower inequality. But you're not going to like it.](#)" *Washington Post* April 19, 2017

João Pedro Calero, "[Doença, guerra e revolução: os exterminadores de desigualdade.](#)" *Exame* May 1, 2017

Dirk Vlasblom, "[Gelijkheid? Dan eerst een apocalypse \(of een oorlog\)](#)" and "[Twee hoogleraren reageren op Walter Scheidel.](#)" *NRC Handelsblad* May 5, 2017

Tom Saler, "[History suggests wealth disparity is nothing new.](#)" *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* May 6, 2017

Arnon Grunberg, "[Slechts zelden leidt een oorlog tot meer gelijkheid.](#)" *Volkskrant* May 8, 2017

Andreas Baumer, "[Gibt es Gleichheit nur nach dem Krieg?](#)" *Augsburger Allgemeine* May 9, 2017

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Rafał Woś, "[Czterej jeźdźcy ekonomisty.](#)" *Polityka* May 23, 2017

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Konrad Yakabuski, [“What Trudeau isn’t saying about inequality.”](#) *Globe and Mail* November 27, 2017

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Matthias Punz, [“Im Teufelskreis.”](#) *Wiener Zeitung* December 9, 2017

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Luís Eduardo Assis, [“Precisamos falar sobre desigualdade.”](#) *Estado de S. Paulo* January 8, 2018

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Ana Clara Costa, [“A catástrofe é igualitária.”](#) *Veja* January 12, 2018

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Øystein Kløvstad Langberg, [“Forskeren har studert økonomisk ulikhet fra steinalderen til i dag. Han har dårlige nyheter.”](#) *Aftenposten* January 21, 2018

Camilla Vera Motas, [“Da Roma Antiga ao século 20, violência foi fator-chave para reduzir desigualdade, diz historiador.”](#) *BBC Brasil* January 21, 2018

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Rune Lykkeberg, [“Glem globalisering og teknologisk udvikling: den overvejende samfundstendens er, at uligheden stiger.”](#) *Information* January 27, 2018

Thomas Mahler, [“Faut-il un conflit nucléaire ou une épidémie pour réduire les inégalités?”](#) *Le Point* February 24, 2018

Cándido Marquesán, [“Paz y estabilidad igual a desigualdad.”](#) *El Periódico de Aragón* February 24, 2018

Daniel Marques Soares, [“La cura de la desigualdad.”](#) *La Hora* March 21, 2018

Hilbrand Rozema, [“Rampen verkleinen kloof tussen arm en rijk.”](#) *Nederlands Dagblad* April 12, 2018

Dirk Vlasblom, [“Historicus Walter Scheidel: ‘De mens doet te weinig tegen ongelijkheid.’”](#) *NRC Handelsblad* April 26, 2018

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Cory Doctorow, [“History’s solutions to runaway inequality: warfare, revolution, state collapse and plague.”](#) *Boing Boing* September 11, 2018

Alexandra Stockmeyer, [“Historiker: Ausgleich Arm-Reich gab es historisch nur durch Gewalt.”](#) *Austria Presse Agentur* September 24, 2018

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Jean-Claude Rennwald, "[Contre les inegalités: le role moteur du syndicalisme.](#)" *L'Événement Syndical* October 13, 2021

Giuseppe di Tonto and Ernesto Perillo, *Il Bollettino di Clio* 17, July 2022, 11-18

Louis Vanfraechem, "El gran anivellador: els quatre genets de l'apocalipsi," *Esperit* 4/28, May 7, 2023

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*See also pages 11-13*

### **Radio and television interviews, reports and podcasts**

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Dave Ross (KIRO, March 2017)

Andrew Krystal, "Krystal Nation" (SiriusXM, March 11/12, 2017)

Kara Miller, "[Innovation Hub](#)" (PRI/WGBH, March 17, 2017)

Richard Aedy, "[The Money](#)" (Australian Broadcasting Corporation, March 23, 2017)

[Market Wrap with Moe Ansari](#)" (Wall Street Business Network, March 27, 2017)

Marlene Nowotny (ORF, March 2017)

Joanna Bostock (FM4.ORF, March 2017)

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Keith Pluymers and Patrick Wyman, "[History Matters](#)" (April 7, 2017)

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Bill Mares, "[Commentary Series](#)" (Vermont Public Radio, April 17, 2017)

Andrew Krystal, "Krystal Nation" (Sirius XM, April 23, 2017)

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