

Walter Scheidel, *The Great Leveler: Violence and the History of Inequality from the Stone Age to the Twenty-First Century*. Princeton University Press, 2017

<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"](#)

## **Audiobook**

Narrated by Joel Richards, [Tantor Audio](#) (published October 10, 2017)

## **Translation rights**

Chinese Complex: Linking Publishing

Chinese Simplified: China CITIC Press

Czech: Argo

French: Actes Sud

German: [wbg Theiss](#) (published September 17, 2018)

Italian: Il Mulino (to be published in spring 2020)

Japanese: Toyo Keizai

Korean: [Eco Livre Publishing](#) (published September 29, 2017)

Portuguese: [Almedina](#) (published November 2018)

Portuguese Brazil: Zahar Editoria

Russian: AST Publishing

Spanish: [Editorial Crítica](#) (published March 20, 2018)

## Press reports and interviews

- Oliver Grimm, [“Eine friedliche Senkung der Ungleichheit gibt es nicht.”](#) *Presse* March 19, 2016
- Uri Pasovsky, [“שווייון יביא אסון רק.”](#) *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?”](#) *Yorokobu* February 3, 2017
- Jean-Marie Pottier, [“Pour réduire les inégalités, rien ne vaut la peste noire ou une guerre mondiale.”](#) *Slate*<sup>FR</sup> February 4, 2017
- Oleh Ahmed Humad Hamid, [“Pesan kientimpagan Davos 2017.”](#) *Serambi Indonesia* February 6, 2017
- 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
- Matt Taylor, [“One recipe for a more equal world: mass death.”](#) *Vice* February 21, 2017
- Ian Morris, [“The price we pay for better living.”](#) *Stratfor* February 22, 2017 and *Forbes* February 23, 2017
- Hamilton Nolan, [“Apocalypse is the only path to equality, says the new prophet of doom.”](#) *Deadspin* February 22, 2017
- Cory Doctorow, [“Catastrophes are reliable levelers of inequality; inequality creates catastrophes.”](#) *Boing Boing* February 22, 2017
- Anders Boas, [“Via død og ødelæggelse.”](#) *Weekendavisen* February 24, 2017
- Franco Sarcina, [“Lo storico di Stanford: solo catastrofi e violenze portano a un livellamento sociale.”](#) *Il Sole 24 Ore* March 3, 2017
- Eshe Nelson, [“Throughout history, the best ways to reduce inequality have been disease and destruction.”](#) *Quartz* March 6, 2017 (= Bogdan Cojocaru, [“Există vreo rezolvare eficientă pentru problema distribuirii inegale a avuției?”](#) *Business Magazine* March 24, 2017)
- Dave Neese, [“Trump gets it, his foes don’t.”](#) *Trentonian* March 6, 2017
- Enrique Moreira, [“Ce que l’Histoire nous apprend sur la réduction des inégalités.”](#) *Les Echos* March 12, 2017
- Ewald Pironet, [“Hoe meer dood en verderf, hoe meer gelijkheid.”](#) *Knack* March 22, 2017
- Tobias Straumann, [“Gewalt als grosser Gleichmacher.”](#) *NZZ Geschichte* March 23, 2017
- 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
- [“Kriege und Seuchen: die grossen Gleichmacher.”](#) ORF/Austria Presse Agentur, March 27, 2017
- Sandra Lumetsberger, [“Kriege, Seuchen und Chaos führen zu mehr Gleichheit – so die provokante These eines Wiener Historikers.”](#) *Kurier* March 29, 2017
- Eva Stanzl, [“Gleichheit frisst ihre Kinder.”](#) *Wiener Zeitung* March 29, 2017
- Carlos Elizondo Mayer-Serra, [“En gran igualador.”](#) *Excélsior* March 30, 2017

Giulia Fink and Andreas Sator, [“Lieber Minderstleistungsbezieher als Pharaoh.”](#) *Standard* March 31, 2017

Roland Johansson, TT Nyhetsbyran March 2017

Inna-Katrin Hein, [“Ajaloaane: vaid apocalüpsis võrdsustab rikkad ja vaesed.”](#) *Elu24*, April 3, 2017

Janerik Larsson, [“Om hur samhällen går under.”](#) *Svenska Dagbladet* April 5, 2017

[“Lidstvu pomůže jen totální termonukleární válka, jinak se nic nezmění, tvrdí historik.”](#) *EuroZprávy* April 6, 2017

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

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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

Carl Rudbeck, [“Priset för jämlikhet är katastrofalt högt.”](#) *Svenska Dagbladet* May 15, 2017

Rafał Woś, [“Cztery jeźdźcy ekonomisty.”](#) *Polityka* May 23, 2017

Eduardo Klinger Pevida, [“Reducción de pobreza y desigualdad.”](#) *Hoy* May 29, 2017

Pieter Klok, [“Dé remedie tegen ongelijkheid: grote rampen en oorlog.”](#) *Volkskrant* June 3, 2017 = [“Oorlogen heffen de verschillen tussen arm en rijk op.”](#) *Morgen* June 7, 2017

Hélio Schwartzman, [“Igualdade ou morte.”](#) *Folha de S.Paulo* June 11, 2017

Miguel Ormaetxea, [“El cambio tecnológico va a acelerar brutalmente las desigualdades.”](#) *Media-Tics* June 20, 2017

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Diego Castañeda, [“¿Se puede atenuar la desigualdad en el siglo XXI? Una entrevista con Walter Scheidel.”](#) *Nexos* June 29, 2017

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Göran Thernborn, [“Öjemlikhet som högerporr.”](#) *Aftonbladet* July 3, 2017

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Korkut Duman, [“Eşitliği göze alabiliyor muyuz?”](#) *Gazete Duvar* August 11, 2017

Janan Ganesh, [“What the summer book choices of the elites reveal about politics.”](#) *Financial Times* August 14, 2017 and *Irish Times* August 15, 2017

Peter Foster, [“Why growing inequality might actually be a good thing.”](#) *Financial Post* August 16, 2017

Humberto Laudares, [“Desigualdade, violência, Estado e teimosia.”](#) *Nexo* August 23, 2017

George Eaton, [“Is catastrophe the only cure for inequality?”](#) *New Statesman* August 28, 2017

M. Ziauddin, [“What kills inequality.”](#) *Business Recorder* September 6, 2017

Esteban Hernández, [“Habrá que elegir: o paz y vives mal, o guerra y vives mayor.”](#) *El Confidencial* September 8, 2017

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Martina Bachler, “Nur Schocks helfen wirklich,” *Trend* October 27, 2017

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

Eve Ottenberg, [“How socialism can replace mass death as a tool for leveling inequality.”](#) *Truthout* December 6, 2017

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Martin Wolf, [“Inequality is a threat to our democracies.”](#) *Financial Times* December 19, 2017

Edouard Husson, [“Inégalités: le livre perturbant qui soutient que seules les guerres ou les destructions ont permis de remettre les pendules à zéro au cours de l’histoire.”](#) *Atlantico* December 25, 2017

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Paul De Grauwe, [“Meer gelijkheid op vredelievende wijze. Kan het?”](#) *Morgen* January 8, 2018

Bill Bonner, [“History proves it – you can’t drain the swamp.”](#) *Capital & Conflict* January 11, 2018

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Vinicius Müller, [“Entre o sangue da Direita e o sangue da Esquerda, a criatividade está no centro.”](#) *Estadão* January 15, 2018

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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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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Per Molander, [“Så kan en modern välfärdspolitik rida ikapp apokalypsens ryttare.”](#) *Dagens Nyheter* June 28, 2018

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Nam-Gyue Kang, [“정치적 불평등이 경제적 불평등을 조장한다”](#) and [“피케티 “누진세로 불평등 완화” vs 사이델 “현실적으로 불가능.”](#) *JoongAng Ilbo* September 29, 2018

Louis Putterman, [“Inequality and violence.”](#) *Psychology Today* October 22, 2018  
Dietmar Mascher, [“Die grosse Illusion von der Gleichheit.”](#) *Oberösterreichische Nachrichten* December 7, 2018  
[“Kriege bringen Gleichheit.”](#) *Katapult* December 13, 2018  
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[“Diritto & Rovescio.”](#) *Italia Oggi* February 6, 2019  
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### **Radio and television interviews and podcasts**

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Tom Ashbrook, [“On Point”](#) (NPR-WBUR, December 14, 2016)  
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Janice Stein, [“Disrupting the Global Order”](#) (January 30, 2017)  
Jefferson Smith, “XRAY In The Morning” (KXRY, February 15, 2017)  
Scott Lanman and Daniel Moss, [“Benchmark”](#) (Bloomberg News, February 23, 2017)  
Karla Heredia (Circuito Éxitos Unión Radio, February 2017)  
Sean Moncrieff, “Moncrieff” (Newstalk, March 2017)  
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)  
[“Standard Economics”](#) (dSt.at, March 30, 2017)  
Keith Pluymers and Patrick Wyman, [“History Matters”](#) (April 7, 2017)  
[“Saturday Morning with Kim Hill”](#) (Radio New Zealand, April 8, 2017)  
Bill Mares, [“Commentary Series”](#) (Vermont Public Radio, April 17, 2017)  
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Audrey Borowski, [“The great leveler”](#) (New Books Network, October 19, 2017)  
Alex Jensen, [“This Morning”](#) (tbs eFM, Seoul, November 6, 2017)  
Annabelle Quince, [“Rear Vision”](#) (Australian Broadcasting Corporation, February 18, 2018)  
Jerome McDonnell, [“Worldview”](#) (WBEZ, March 21, 2018)  
Chuck Mertz, [“This Is Hell!”](#) (WNUR, July 21, 2018)  
Jesse Ventura, [“The World According to Jesse”](#) (RT, August 11, 2018)  
Nick Hanauer, [“Pitchfork Economics”](#) (TYT, December 11, 2018)  
Luís Caetano & Suzana Ramos, [“Última Edição”](#) (RTP, January 7, 2019)  
[“Lesart”](#) (Deutschlandfunk Kultur, January 26, 2019)  
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### **Reviews**

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Gregory Clark, [“The surest cure for inequality.”](#) *Wall Street Journal* January 21, 2017

Mark Mazower, [“The endless exodus: three millennia of fearing and depending on refugees.”](#) *Financial Times* February 10, 2017

Glenn Altschuler, [“There are four ways to reduce inequality and all of them are bad.”](#) *Huffington Post* March 1, 2017

[“Apocalypse then: only catastrophic events really reduce inequality, according to a historical survey.”](#) *Economist* March 4, 2017 (with Buttonwood, [“Is inequality here to stay?”](#) *Economist.com* April 1, 2017)

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Victor Davis Hanson, [“Equal by catastrophe.”](#) *Inference* August 2, 2017 (with the response by Vincent Goulding, [“Remedies worse than the disease.”](#) *Inference* 3.3)

Timur Kuran, [“What kills inequality.”](#) *Foreign Affairs* August 15, 2017

Anthony Comegna, [“History is a horrible thing.”](#) *Libertarianism.org* (Cato Institute), August 16, 2017 = [Cato Journal](#) 37.3 (Fall 2017), 580-585

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David Rollison, [Social History](#) 43, 2018, 126-128.

Erik Bengtsson, [“Högerperspektiv på ojämlikhetens grunder.”](#) *Dagens Arena* January 10, 2018

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Lennart Gilhaus, [sehepunkte](#) 18, no.7/8 (2018)

D. H. Valero, [ViaNews](#) August 3, 2018

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Pere Rusiñol, [“El gran nivelador: luces largas e una conclusion perturbadora.”](#) *Alternativas Económicas* 64, November 2018

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Urs Hafner, [“Nur Gewalt bringt Gleichheit – aber stören sich die Menschen überhaupt an Ungleichheit?”](#) *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* December 20, 2018

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Anastasia Piliavsky, [“Inequality or death.”](#) *Anthropology of this Century* 24, January 2019

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### Excerpts and author’s essays

[“What tames inequality? Violence and mayhem.”](#) *Chronicle of Higher Education* February 2, 2017

[“The only thing, historically, that’s curbed inequality: catastrophe.”](#) *Atlantic* February 21, 2017

[“Inequality has historically been leveled only by terrible violence and upheaval.”](#) *Huffington Post* February 23, 2017

[“How deprivation and the threat of violence made Sweden equal.”](#) *Zócalo Public Square* April 19, 2017

[“Only cataclysm can cure inequality.”](#) *Boston Globe* June 8, 2017

[“The only conquerors of inequality are the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.”](#) *PBS Newshour* (“Making Sense”) June 16, 2017

[“The bloodstained leveller.”](#) *Aeon* June 19, 2017

[“The frightening truth about inequality: only violence and catastrophes have consistently reduced it over time.”](#) *LinkedIn Pulse* October 7, 2017

[“Die vier apokalyptischen Reiter der Nivellierung.”](#) *Schweizer Monat* no. 1051, November 2017, 12-17

[“La violence réduit les inégalités, enseigne l’histoire.”](#) *Le Monde* December 1, 2017

[“How to fix inequality.”](#) Open Future, *Economist.com* September 10, 2018

“Kriege nivellieren Gesellschaften – wie gelingt friedliche Gleichmacherei?” *WirtschaftsWoche* September 14, 2018, 44-45

### **Presentations and events**

[Europe Center](#), Stanford University, February 9, 2017

[Institute for Public Knowledge](#), New York University, February 15, 2017

[Population Center](#), UC Berkeley, March 2, 2017

[Austrian Academy of Sciences](#), Vienna, March 27, 2017

[Institute of Science and Technology Austria](#), Klosterneuburg, March 29, 2017

H&S Council, Stanford University, May 4, 2017

World Bank, Washington DC, May 11, 2017

[Stone Center for Socio-Economic Inequality](#), CUNY Graduate Center, June 7, 2017

[Skeptics Society](#), Altadena CA, June 11, 2017

[American Political Science Association Annual Meeting](#), San Francisco, September 2, 2017

CLSA 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Investors’ Forum, Hong Kong, September 11, 2017

Center for Study of Public Choice, George Mason University, October 4, 2017

Central Intelligence Agency, October 5, 2017 and September 13, 2018

[Università Bocconi](#), Milan, November 20, 2017

[Bruno Kreisky Forum](#), Vienna, November 21, 2017

[London School of Economics](#), November 27, 2017

Hewlett Foundation, Stanford, November 29, 2017

[John F. Kennedy School of Government](#), Harvard University, February 26, 2018

Department of Sociology, McGill University, March 23, 2018

[12<sup>th</sup> European Social Science History Conference](#), Belfast, April 5, 2018

[Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences](#), Amsterdam, April 11, 2018

[Center for Global Humanities](#), University of New England, April 30, 2018

[BCA Research Investment Conference 2018](#), Toronto, September 24, 2018

16<sup>th</sup> Annual Global ARC, Boston, October 22, 2018

[New York University](#), March 7, 2019