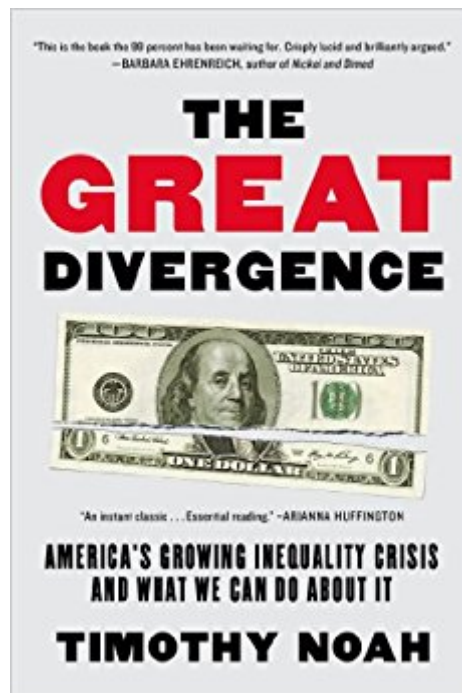




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# The Great Divergence: America's Growing Inequality Crisis And What We Can Do About It



## Synopsis

For the past three decades, America has steadily become a nation of haves and have-nots. Our incomes are increasingly drastically unequal: the top 1% of Americans collect almost 20% of the nation's income-more than double their share in 1973. We have less equality of income than Venezuela, Kenya, or Yemen. What economics Nobelist Paul Krugman terms "the Great Divergence" has until now been treated as little more than a talking point, a club to be wielded in ideological battles. But it may be the most important change in this country during our lifetimes-a sharp, fundamental shift in the character of American society, and not at all for the better. The income gap has been blamed on everything from computers to immigration, but its causes and consequences call for a patient, non-partisan exploration. In *The Great Divergence*, Timothy Noah delivers this urgently needed inquiry, ignoring political rhetoric and drawing on the best work of contemporary researchers to peer beyond conventional wisdom. Noah explains not only how the Great Divergence has come about, but why it threatens American democracy-and most important, how we can begin to reverse it. *The Great Divergence* is poised to be one of the most talked-about books of 2012, a jump-start to the national conversation about what kind of society we aspire to be in the 21st century: a land of equality, or a city on a hill-with a slum at the bottom.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for Timothy Noah's "The Great Divergence" series in Slate: "An important, exemplary, and finally passionate work of long-form journalism"--Hendrik Hertzberg "An excellent series"--Nicholas

Kristof, "New York Times" "A must-read"--Jesse Singal, "Boston Globe" "Characteristically thoughtful and well-written"--David Von Drehle, "Time" Praise for "The Great Divergence" "So you're busy and stressed and have time to read just one book on America's faultline crisis of widening inequality. This is the one. Tim Noah, a pro's pro among the nation's press corps, reveals why America has increasingly become a land of haves and have-nots--and how to reverse that soul-crushing trend--with insight, verve, thoroughness and surprising passion. A must read."--Ron Suskind, author of *Confidence Men* Wall Street, Washington and the Education of a President "This book is profoundly fascinating and important. The growth of income equality over the past three decades has caused a contentious partisan debate based more on ideology than fact. Timothy Noah provides a clear, dispassionate look at what has (and has not) caused this trend and what we can do about it. Everyone who cares about the future of America's middle class should read it."--Walter Isaacson, author of *Steve Jobs*, *Einstein*, and *Benjamin Franklin* and President of the Aspen Institute "This may be the most important book of the year. Timothy Noah explores the most significant long-term trend in our country, and he writes with an ease and clarity that makes reading this book a pleasure. Buy it now and read it. You'll probably end up buying more copies for your friends and colleagues."--Thomas E. Ricks, author of *Fiasco* and *The Gamble* "Essential background reading for the coming elections."--Kirkus Reviews "Comprehensive, fair-minded, and lucid ... Noah makes a convincing and passionate case for why rising inequality harms a working democracy." -Publisher's Weekly Praise for "The Great Divergence" "So you're busy and stressed and have time to read just one book on America's faultline crisis of widening inequality. This is the one. Tim Noah, a pro's pro among the nation's press corps, reveals why America has increasingly become a land of haves and have-nots--and how to reverse that soul-crushing trend--with insight, verve, thoroughness and surprising passion. A must read."--Ron Suskind, author of "Confidence Men Wall Street, Washington and the Education of a President" "This book is profoundly fascinating and important. The growth of income equality over the past three decades has caused a contentious partisan debate based more on ideology than fact. Timothy Noah provides a clear, dispassionate look at what has (and has not) caused this trend and what we can do about it. Everyone who cares about the future of America's middle class should read it."--Walter Isaacson, author of "Steve Jobs, Einstein, " and "Benjamin Franklin" and President of the Aspen Institute "This may be the most important book of the year. Timothy Noah explores the most significant long-term trend in our country, and he writes with an ease and clarity that makes reading this book a pleasure. Buy it now and read it. You'll probably end up buying more copies for your friends and colleagues."--Thomas E. Ricks, author of "Fiasco "and "The Gamble" "This is the book the 99

percent has been waiting for. Crisply lucid and brilliantly argued, "The Great Divergence" manages to entertain at the same time that it explains. Best of all, Noah offers some strikingly sensible steps to undo the economic polarization that is tearing America apart."--Barbara Ehrenreich, author of "Nickel and Dimed"

Timothy Noah was recently named "TRB," the lead columnist at The New Republic. He wrote for Slate for a dozen years, and previously served at the Wall Street Journal, the New Republic, and the Washington Monthly. He edited two collections of the writings of his late wife, Marjorie Williams, including the New York Times bestseller *The Woman at the Washington Zoo*. Noah received the 2011 Hillman Prize, the highest award for public service magazine journalism, for the series in Slate that forms the basis of *The Great Divergence*.

I think this book provides a good precursor to 2014's "Capital" by Piketty (same academic rigor, but with less technocratic financial speak). It passionately supports action to change current trends by providing useful and easily understood historic and current economic data. An enjoyable, if disturbing, portrait of a looming economic crisis.

Good book with lots of supporting information. Can be quite a bit like reading an economics treatise at sometimes. The last chapter about solutions is not as well developed as the rest of the book. However, overall a good read for understanding the underlying basics of income distribution over the past 70 years.

This is an excellent book explaining clearly why the United States will be a second rate power, perhaps like Russia, with our only strength that of the military which will be used to block and coerce other nations. We are no longer for our own people. The remedies that Mr. Noah suggests are good ones but so unlikely to happen that we are really looking at the doom that we have created.

This book explains what is happening to the wealth distribution in our country, and why so many people still are under the false impression that they are doing well, when in fact the propaganda that is being spread and the ineptitude of our political system continues to exacerbate this myth. A must read. Lets hope that the light will shine through soon and a peaceful change can occur without the trauma that has engulfed other countries.

Very informative. Needed as a text book for english 102 and they way he writes makes it easy for someone who knows nothing about politics to fully understand what is going on (income inequality).

Still in the process in reading this one, but all the chapters I have read (1-4) are very informative and well-researched. Love it so far, can't wait to learn more.

This ius a wonderful exposition on one of the most critical issues facing America. I found myself taking copious notes as if I were once again a schoolboy. The author has an engaging style that helps the reader come to grips with complex materials.

Everyone can learn from this one...no matter where you sit on the money spectrum. I just wish "the public" would really learn and understand what's going on in today's American...financially.Thanks

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