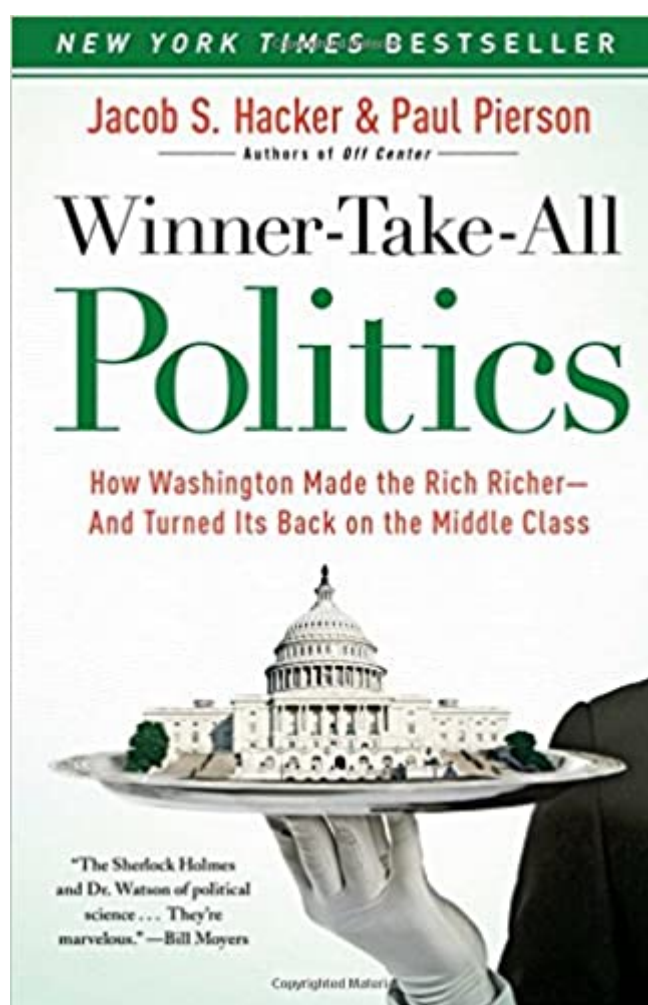


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# Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made The Rich Richer--and Turned Its Back On The Middle Class



## Synopsis

This acclaimed paradigm-shifting work identifies the real culprit behind one of the great economic crises of our time—the growing inequality of incomes between the vast majority of Americans and the richest of the rich. A groundbreaking work that identifies the real culprit behind one of the great economic crimes of our time—the growing inequality of incomes between the vast majority of Americans and the richest of the rich. We all know that the very rich have gotten a lot richer these past few decades while most Americans haven't. In fact, the exorbitantly paid have continued to thrive during the current economic crisis, even as the rest of Americans have continued to fall behind. Why do the "haves-it-alls" have so much more? And how have they managed to restructure the economy to reap the lion's share of the gains and shift the costs of their new economic playground downward, tearing new holes in the safety net and saddling all of us with increased debt and risk? Lots of so-called experts claim to have solved this great mystery, but no one has really gotten to the bottom of it—until now. In their lively and provocative *Winner-Take-All Politics*, renowned political scientists Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson demonstrate convincingly that the usual suspects—foreign trade and financial globalization, technological changes in the workplace, increased education at the top—are largely innocent of the charges against them. Instead, they indict an unlikely suspect and take us on an entertaining tour of the mountain of evidence against the culprit. The guilty party is American politics. Runaway inequality and the present economic crisis reflect what government has done to aid the rich and what it has not done to safeguard the interests of the middle class. The winner-take-all economy is primarily a result of winner-take-all politics. In an innovative historical departure, Hacker and Pierson trace the rise of the winner-take-all economy back to the late 1970s when, under a Democratic president and a Democratic Congress, a major transformation of American politics occurred. With big business and conservative ideologues organizing themselves to undo the regulations and progressive tax policies that had helped ensure a fair distribution of economic rewards, deregulation got under way, taxes were cut for the wealthiest, and business decisively defeated labor in Washington. And this transformation continued under Reagan and the Bushes as well as under Clinton, with both parties catering to the interests of those at the very top. Hacker and Pierson's gripping narration of the epic battles waged during President Obama's first two years in office reveals an unpleasant but catalyzing truth: winner-take-all politics, while under challenge, is still very much with us. *Winner-Take-All Politics*—part revelatory history, part political analysis, part intellectual journey—shows how a political system that traditionally has been responsive to the interests of the middle class has been hijacked

by the superrich. In doing so, it not only changes how we think about American politics, but also points the way to rebuilding a democracy that serves the interests of the many rather than just those of the wealthy few.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Perhaps you haven't heard: over the last 30 years the middle class has shriveled while the wealthy enjoy the skewed economics of the gilded age. The authors do their best to blow the dust off of their subject by taking a close look at this political "30 year war" and carefully parsing its roots. Corporate coalitions, lobbying, tax policies geared to the wealthy, and the extreme use of the "rule of 60" filibuster have tipped the scales and ultimately heaped blame onto the majority party. While Government can affect the distribution of wealth, it doesn't catch up with economic realities in time, and a changing Washington blocks attempts at reform. Where moderates used to rule the swing vote, now radical conservatives have taken hold. Unions are powerless, public interest groups prevail, and Christian conservatives drag Republicans ever right. Meanwhile, voters remain poorly informed. Though they never shed the sheen of "old news," Hacker and Pierson end on a note of optimism: the middle class can take the majority again with a "politics of renewal" shepherded in on a wave of "mass engagement" and "elite leadership." (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

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How did the widening gap between haves and have-nots -- even worse, the haves and

have-moresÃ¢â¬âcome about? In the past 30 years, the top 1 percent have enjoyed 36 percent of all the income growth generated in the U.S. economy. Treating the growing socioeconomic gap like a whodunit, Hacker and Pierson painstakingly detail the gap between the superrich and everyone else. They paint a portrait of a nation that has fallen behind other developed nations in the widening income gap among its citizens. Worse, the wealth gap cannot be explained away by a lack of education or skills. Even among the well educated, a chasm has developed between the middle class and the wealthy. Whodunit? The U.S. government, which details changes in taxation and public policy, particularly regarding the financial markets, which have favored the wealthy at the expense of others over the last 30 years. Finally, they consider the long-term implications of this troubling trend and offer some encouraging signsÃ¢â¬âhealth care and financial reform, however anemicÃ¢â¬âand a growing discontent with the status quo. --Vanessa Bush --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Regardless of what your political affiliations may be, if you want to get a well researched and unbiased look into why the greatest redistribution of wealth in the history of human kind has occurred over the last forty years in the " freest" country on Earth and with out a barely a whimper from the voters of our country. Then this book is for you. It will shock, drive you mad with outrage, and break your heart on how our elected officials, year after year both Democrats and Republicans, have sold our souls to the highest bidding of lobbyists and special interest who have polluted our entire political system. Honestly folks are worried about the new world order, when in fact they should fear the new corporate order.

The author seems to have put his finger on a trend that is becoming pervasive -- here and abroad. I can't remember who said it but the phrase is " there is more to Democracy than two foxes and a goose having a vote on what they are going to have for dinner." The idiotic claim, repeated over and over, "Morsi (Egypt) was elected to the presidency by a Democratic election" is an example. No, it was an election. That all it was. The word "Democratic" is inserted to give the impression that somehow that election was the first step in setting up a democracy as we know it in the West. That just bunk. It was just like the two foxes and the goose. After dinner the foxes would do just as they darn well pleased i.e. "winner take all". I'm afraid we are seeing this in our government as well. If one party isn't getting all that it wants it will block every effort of the party in power "until 2014 or 2016" and then try to win the election, by hook or by crook, and if successful, exclude the other party, as much as possible, from the process of governing. TV is little help since it seems devoted to giving

us very few even handed, considered explanations or views but, rather, present an individual who gives us a self-serving portion of the facts -- or TWO individuals who do the same thing but with an entirely opposite conclusion -- and "let the listener decide".

This book was important before 2017. Now, it is required reading for anyone interested in keeping this country strong and truly making it great again.

Very interesting read that allowed me to look at the U.S. economic standings from a new view. I recommend this, especially with today's actions!

This is an excellent book. It is accessible and easy to follow. And it tells a powerful and important story. Hacker and Pierson show that US inequality is not just due to a broad increase in professional incomes, but an explosion in the incomes of a tiny minority. And more impressively, they explain how such a change is possible in a democracy. How can a tiny minority have their way by leaving behind a huge majority? The answer lies in an old truth that is more recently forgotten - organising matters. And the rich have become very well organised while the rest have become less. The story is detailed and convincing, linking business strategies to political outcomes on specific policy proposals. It is essential reading for anyone wanting to know how things came to be this way - and how they might be different.

The book offers a revealing review and analysis of the politics behind America's shift from a nation of middle-class opportunity to one of ÃfÅber-rich privilege. Convincingly tossing aside the usual culprits--globalization, technology, educational decline, China, etc.--the authors illustrate the bipartisan nature of this swing in economic reality, with flashpoints occurring in the Carter and Clinton administrations when Democrats held sway, not during the popularly suspected Reagan and Bush-I regimes. The egregious role of money in our political system--surely to be amplified following the recent Supreme Court decision allowing unfettered use of corporate funds in political campaigns--looms large in the analysis. It helps explain why both parties have abandoned economic fairness in favor of the have-it-alls, but party strategy and effectiveness on the ground also have played their role. Although much content is disheartening for those concerned with decency and fairness in the economic lives of all Americans (and amazingly light in terms of prescriptions for change), it is certainly important fodder for those who favor a Congress concerned about the middle-class instead of the already very rich.

Should be required reading for anybody voting in 2016

The book gives you a good understanding of how and the rich and powerful manipulate Congress for their own gain and at the expense of the middle class. Feel the Bern!!

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