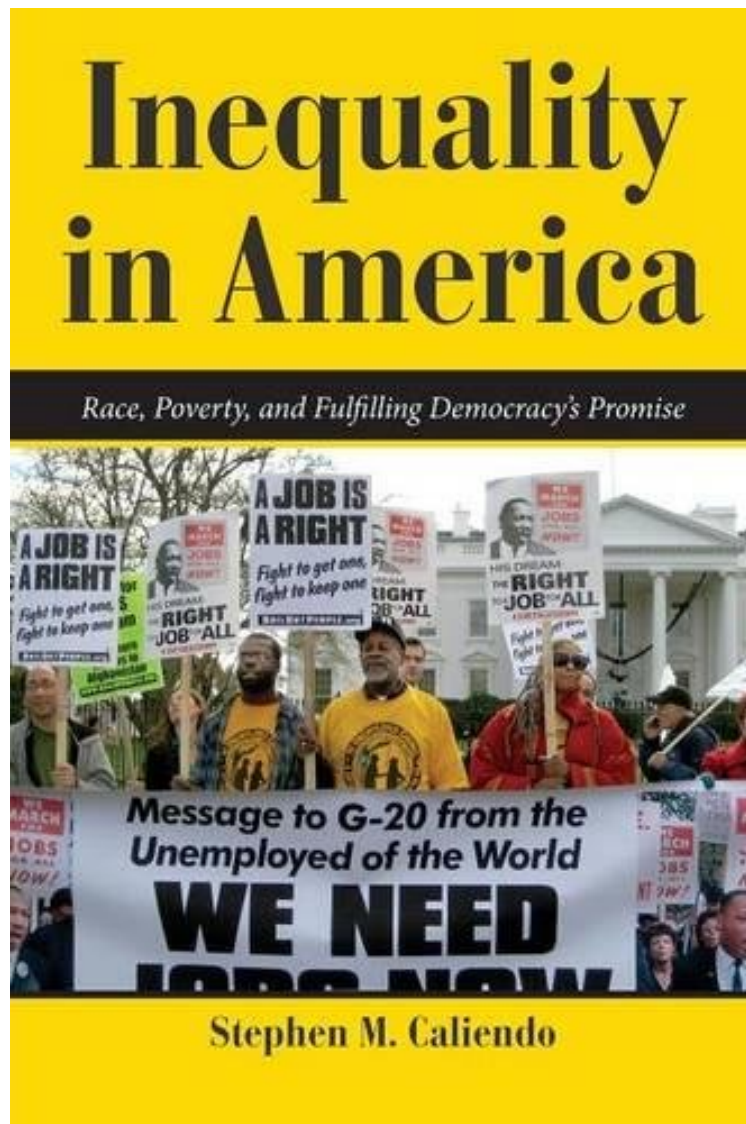


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## Inequality in America: Race, Poverty, and Fulfilling Democracy's Promise (Dilemmas in American Politics)

Stephen M. Caliendo

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#1367513 in Books Caliendo Stephen M 2014-07-22 2014-07-22 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .65 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0813344980288 pages Inequality in America Race Poverty and Fulfilling Democracy s Promise | File size: 35.Mb

Stephen M. Caliendo : Inequality in America: Race, Poverty, and Fulfilling Democracy's Promise (Dilemmas in American Politics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inequality in America: Race, Poverty, and Fulfilling Democracy's Promise (Dilemmas in American Politics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One Star  
By High Hopes  
Some information is exaggerated and author doesn't dispute opposing views.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars  
By Diane Doucette  
Timely piece with some strong support, backed up.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Classic statement and analysis of racial and economic inequality  
By Gderf  
This is a classic statement and analysis of racial and economic inequality in America. It's valuable as a fairly pragmatic discussion of many issues of concern to egalitarians.  
Introduction  
Representation, roots  
Income and wealth  
Housing  
Education  
Crime and employment  
Health  
Gender  
Affirmative Action  
Conclusion: Space between power and powerless  
On page 16 Calliendo says that few argue for equality of outcome. It's not true as egalitarians have dropped the pretext of equality of opportunity in favor of an unabashed demand for dollar for dollar equality. See for example 'Divided', edited by David Kay Johnson and 'The Great Divide' by Joseph Stiglitz. There are a number of misrepresentations, such as America is still a rich nation and the top 1% control income and wealth. A recent article in Time magazine shows how the composition of the top 1% as well as the bottom quintile changes year over year. There is no 1% as many of us take our turn rising and falling. Citing the 1% is cover for the attack on the middle class. The introduction cites an aim of not to attach blame. However there is always implied if not stated blame on the rich instead of where it really belongs, on government policy. With government share nearing 50% GDP, if the 1% is receiving an inordinate share it's our government that is giving it to them. Wealth accounting doesn't consider per capita share of national debt. We are spending enough to make the bottom quintile into multi millionaires. As it is they consume more than the next quintiles. Calliendo writes of single motherhood with empathy for their struggles to make ends meet. We continually hear the altruistic popular mantra that it's not right to punish the children with deprivation. It's easy for the public to subscribe, but with near 100% correlation between single motherhood and poverty, equality can never be achieved as long as we encourage and subsidize single mothers. There is little consideration of how to pay for egalitarian recommendations. America's favorite political pastime of adding pork to every welfare bill is not considered. In health care the biggest question is how to pay, apparently no concern to the equality crowd. Even as we read Calliendo's call for equal treatment it's being revised to special treatment. It's just like Sheryl Sandberg said: paid leave and affordable child care would help achieve gender equality on a global level. Equal opportunity is not enough to ensure gender equality, according to a groundbreaking new report from U.N. Women. Instead, governments must commit to social policies that treat women differently in order to help them achieve economic parity with men. No egalitarian complains about the overpay of athletes. In the past thirty years the payoff for a boxing championship bout has gone from ½ million dollars to over 100. I suppose it's impolitic to cite this phenomenon as so many top athletes are black and Hispanic. More than other positions, perverse interpretation of poverty and wealth statistics shows that American egalitarianism is more about jealousy of the rich than concern for the poor as well as ignorance of the effects of dominant public policy. I prefer the more thoughtful egalitarian approach of John Rawls, Peter Singer and Vandana Sheva. More than 4 million borrowers, or 8 percent of all homeowners with a mortgage, remain underwater. While that is a 30 percent drop from a year ago, it's still a significant remnant of the Clinton fueled housing bubble. Now Bill Clinton defends his speaking fees "I gotta pay my bills." That exemplifies actual public policy towards equality. Much of the book is wishful thinking about the effects of public policy. At the end of the book is an excellent, informative, thought provoking list of questions.

Why does inequality have such a hold on American society and public policy? And what can we, as citizens, do about it? Inequality in America takes an in-depth look at individual-level and systemic inequality, focusing in particular on race, poverty, and gender, across a wide range of issues from housing and education to crime, employment and health. Calliendo shows how individual-level prejudice and systemic inequality are interrelated, how individual beliefs and attitudes can affect public opinion and lawmakers' policy solutions and how systemic barriers to advancement as a result of these policies then contribute to individual perceptions, creating a cycle of disadvantage and advantage that can be difficult to break, though not impossible. Feature boxes throughout the book offer insight into key public figures who have worked to combat inequality and suggestions for individual action. Concise and written in an accessible manner, Inequality in America paves the way for students to think critically about the effects of the attitudes, behaviors and structures of inequality.

"Uncommonly balanced and fully accessible." —Publishers Weekly  
"A well-researched and insightful perspective on economic inequality and its conflict with American ideals." —Booklist  
"A welcome addition to American politics classes. Calliendo's textbook covers an array of important topics within the broad field of American income inequality. He provides a thorough exploration of America's representational design and offers detailed definitions of income and wealth alongside trends in both variables. . . . In addition to providing foundational definitions, Calliendo's textbook offers an excellent introduction to the drivers of income inequality, with a particular focus on racial income inequality." —Political Science Quarterly