

Table 7.2. Inequality of capital ownership across time and space

Share of different groups in total capital	Low inequality (never observed; ideal society?)	Medium inequality (≈ Scandinavia, 1970s-1980s)	Medium- high inequality (≈ Europe 2010)	High inequality (≈ U.S. 2010)	Very high inequality (≈ Europe 1910)
The top 10% "Upper class"	30%	50%	60%	70%	90%
<i>including: the top 1%</i> <i>("dominant class")</i>	10%	20%	25%	35%	50%
<i>including: the next 9%</i> ("well <i>to-do class")</i>	20%	30%	35%	35%	40%
The middle 40% "Middle class"	45%	40%	35%	25%	5%
The bottom 50% "Lower class"	25%	10%	5%	5%	5%
Corresponding Gini coefficient (synthetic inequality index)	0.33	0.58	0.67	0.73	0.85

In societies with "medium" inequality of capital ownership (such as Scandinavian countries in the 1970s-1980s), the top 10% richest in wealth own about 50% of aggregate wealth, the bottom 50% poorest about 10%, and the middle 40% about 40%. The corresponding Gini coefficient is equal to 0.58. See technical appendix.