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Les Leopold

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RUNAWAY INEQUALITY

AN ACTIVIST'S GUIDE TO
ECONOMIC JUSTICE

— Revised, Updated Edition —

Les Leopold

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#552579 in Books 2015-10-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.30 x .70 x 5.30l, .0 #File Name:
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Les Leopold : Runaway Inequality: An Activists Guide to Economic Justice before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Runaway Inequality: An Activists Guide to Economic Justice:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Book Every American MUST ReadBy Tom RozofMr. Leopoldo has written what I consider to be the most compelling and accessible investigation regarding the origins and ongoing

factors that continue to empower the rampant spread of inequality in America and other parts of the world. While I don't agree with all of the authors suggested remedies, his analysis of the subject is so comprehensive and convincing that many readers will, for the very first time, finally be able to understand where, how and why each piece of the inequality puzzle fits into its larger, logical place. The result is a clear, colorful and panoramic picture of a topic that, up to now, the majority have found to be highly complex and confusing. I've always believed that before the average person can fight effectively against the pervasive and corrosive presence of inequality, he or she must first understand the central forces that empower that issue. In the end Leopoldo imparts this to his readers...leaving them with a larger degree of both wisdom and hope. This is one of the first times where I feel totally at peace recommending that a book be read by an entire nation. I've read many selections on this topic, but for my money Runaway Inequality has earned the right to be positioned at the TOP of my list...it really is that good. Thomas Rozof 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book will make you mad, and it should! By Julie Gordon This is a great book! Should be required reading for all Americans, especially anyone (like me) who wonders why the rich keep getting richer and the rest of us are going backwards. So much information packed into a small volume. Informative charts paired with succinct explanations. Pair it with "Dark Money" and "Saving Capitalism" and you will look at our government and large multinational corporations through different lenses. What you learn will make you angry, but at least things will make sense. Hopefully it will inspire you to take action. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A book that everybody needs to read. Eye-opening! By Mariner woman 5 Stars! I read this book straight through, thinking, "Finally! Someone is able to make sense of this mess we're in." Now, how to go on from here!

Revised, Updated Edition Runaway inequality is now America's most critical economic fact of life. In 1970, the ratio of pay between the top 100 CEOs and the average worker was 45 to 1. Today it is a shocking 829 to one! During that time a new economic philosophy set in that cut taxes, deregulated finance, and trimmed social spending. Those policies set in motion a process that greatly expanded the power of financial interests to accelerate inequality. But how exactly does that happen? Using easy-to-understand charts and graphs, Runaway Inequality explains the process by which corporation after corporation falls victim to systematic wealth extraction by banks, private equity firms, and hedge funds. It reveals how financial strip-mining puts enormous downward pressure on jobs, wages, benefits, and working conditions, while boosting the incomes of financial elites. But Runaway Inequality does more than make sense of our economic plight. It also shows why virtually all the key issues that we face from climate change to the exploding prison population are intimately connected to rising economic inequality. Most importantly, Runaway Inequality calls upon us to build a common movement to tackle the sources of increasing income and wealth inequality. As the author makes clear, the problem will not cure itself. It will take enormous energy and dedication to bring economic justice and fairness back to American society. The book is divided into four parts: Part I: What is the fundamental cause of runaway economic inequality? What has made our economy less fair and left most of us less secure? Part II: How does the United States really compare with other major developed countries? How do we stack up on quality of life, health, and well-being? Part III: What does economic inequality have to do with so many of the critical issues we face, including taxes, debt, education, criminal justice, racism, climate change, foreign trade, and war? Part IV: What concrete steps can we take to begin building a fair and just society? From the book: There is nothing in the economic universe that will automatically rescue us from runaway inequality. There is no pendulum, no invisible political force that naturally will swing back towards economic fairness. Either we wage a large-scale battle for economic, social, and environmental justice, or we will witness the continued deterioration of the world we inhabit. The arc of capitalism does not bend towards justice. We must bend it.

Salon- "the book has many virtues besides its timeliness. And more than most of the other high-profile books on inequality in recent years, Runaway Inequality doesn't just explain where the U.S. economy went wrong; it also explains how American citizens can organize to get it back on track. About the Author After attending Oberlin College and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (MPA 1975), Les cofounded and currently directs the Labor Institute (1976). He designs research and educational programs on occupational safety and health, the environment and economics for unions, worker centers and community organizations. He is the author of The Man Who Hated Work and Loved Labor (2007), and The Looting of America (2009) and How to Make a Million Dollars an Hour (2013).