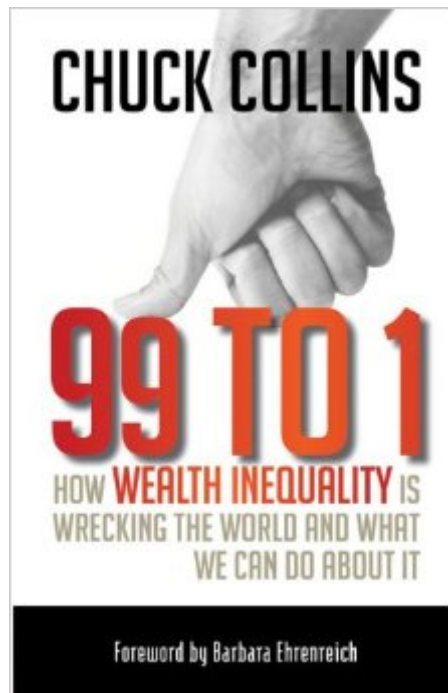


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# 99 To 1: How Wealth Inequality Is Wrecking The World And What We Can Do About It



## Synopsis

The focus of the worldwide Occupy protests is creating a world that works for 99% of people and businesses, not just the richest and most powerful 1%. But who are the 99%? Who are the 1%? How extensive and systemic is inequality in different areas of society? What are its causes and consequence? How is inequality changing in our world? And what can be done about it? For many years Chuck Collins has been a top leader in studying, speaking about, and writing about these questions. In this book he brings together in one place, for the first time, information that has been widely scattered in many different articles, reports, and websites. He provides revealing and powerful information about inequality in all realms of today's world, including individual wealth and power, corporate wealth and power, media control, political influence, and other areas. He then describes the functioning of the Wall Street Inequality Machine and describes how inequality wrecks everything we care about. And he tells how people and groups are pushing back against inequality and taking action to reduce inequality and create a world that works for the many and not just the few.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Leave it to a scrappy little San Francisco publishing house to be first out of the gate with a primer on the central lesson to be learned from the Occupy Wall Street movement: that the disparity in wealth (not income) between the 99% and the 1% is the most significant economic fact about the U.S. today. Most books spring from the minds of authors, who in turn seek out publishers, but Berrett-Koehler has a long history of identifying themes and issues that cry out for analysis -- and

then finding the authors to take them on. In Chuck Collins, one of the nation's leading scholars and activists on the topic of wealth inequality, Berrett-Koehler struck paydirt. In 99 to 1, Collins lucidly spotlights the terrible price we all pay for the massive imbalance in wealth between today's haves and have-nots. He surveys U.S. economic history, drawing a parallel between the Gilded Age of the 1890s through the 1920s and the current era, beginning in the late 1970s -- both of them periods when the disparity of wealth grew to unprecedented proportions. Collins explains the political dynamics that gave rise to today's wealth disparity, identifying those responsible as the "rule-riggers" among the 1%, chiefly the leaders of Wall Street-based financial institutions and of the transnational corporations they finance as well as a small number of the individuals who are benefiting the most from the current economic regime. "In a nutshell," Collins writes, "(1) the rules of the economy have been changed to benefit asset owners at the expense of wage earners, and (2) these rule changes have benefited global corporations at the expense of local businesses.

Chuck Collins release of 99 to 1: How Wealth Inequality Is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do about It comes on the heels of the Occupy Wall Street movement which gained mainstream notoriety throughout the press. 99 to 1 seeks to explore the concepts of inequality as well as their origins and how inequality impacts us as a society today. In other words, it provides a more in-depth exploration of the gross disparities that the Occupy movement highlighted within the American economic system. Collins delivers an informative glance into the issues of wealth, power, and influence within the United States while avoiding the opportunity to engage in rhetoric and blame. 99 to 1 examines what wealth is and how it has become such a pervasive and defining element within both our social and political systems today. Personally I found myself gravitating toward Collins' non-accusatory writing style. Interestingly one of the major facets of Collins's book is how wealth has become the key to influence within our modern political system. As we've all expected, political contributions appear to purchase influence and those who have lots of money to throw at politics typically gain a level of direct access that's unavailable to us. It's not necessarily any one dramatic revelation within the book that makes it worth the read, but rather Collins' well-referenced discussion that really drives home the audacity of wealth. Collins wraps things up with some specific recommendations regarding reform and the 1%. As one might imagine, they're not altogether palatable if you're a member of a 1%, but the reality of the situation is that we can't continue to engage in rhetoric which avoids directly addressing the advantages that the 1% has within the current system.

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