Dignity, Inequality, and the Populist Backlash

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How we got here
Globalization in History
A global economy already in flux
And then, for a time, shut down
In a world already awash in debt

Source: Calculated based on data from the Bank of International Settlements (debt securities) and the World Bank via Global Financial Data (GDP).
And epistemological fragmentation
In an ever-changing, incomprehensible world the masses had reached the point where they would, at the same time, believe everything and nothing, think that everything was possible and that nothing was true.

—Hannah Arendt
Amidst rising inequalities, magnified
Family advantage: Cross-country estimates of father-son earnings correlation

Countries are ranked according to the degree of earnings advantage sons inherit from their fathers. The higher the percentage, the higher the advantage, and the lower the intergenerational mobility. For example, the ranking of 47% for the United States means that if a father A makes $100 more than a father B, then the adult son A is likely to earn $47 more than the adult son B.

At 0%, the Gini coefficient indicates equally distributed income; the greater numbers express increasing inequality, culminating at 100% in a theoretical case of all income accruing to one person or household.

The Gini coefficient here is measured at two stages, before and after income redistribution by the social welfare system of France and the United States. "Gross" represents market income, before taxes and transfers. The effect of the tax system and grants is drawn in the category of “Net.”

Working from Home in the United States

%  

- **Household income range**
  - Green circle: Share of people in an income group who work from home
  - Purple circle: Share of people in an income group who have an option to work from home

Source: Calculated based on data from National Household Travel Survey, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation, https://nhts.ornl.gov.
Note: Survey is based on the 2017 data.
Working from Home around the World

COUNTRIES CLASSIFIED BY INCOME

Share of jobs that can be performed from home in each country

Range of GDP per capita (PPP)

Low

Lower middle

Upper middle

High

Source: Based on calculations by Jonathan I. Dingel and Brent Neiman, "How Many Jobs Can be Done at Home?" University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, NBER, and CEPR, May 12, 2020.

Note: The classification of countries by income is based on the World Bank schema.
In Europe, income and teleworking jobs seem to increase with a general regularity: if the GDP per capita is less than $30,000, the share of jobs tends to be confined to the 20-30% range. Economies with an income of more than $30,000 but less than $40,000 in most cases create 30-40% teleworking jobs. The group of countries beyond the $40,000 income threshold has the greatest share of teleworking jobs: from 40% to the maximum of 53% in Luxembourg, which also has highest per capita income of $116,152. Some economies deviate from this pattern: if the share of jobs is higher than the income group, it is marked with . If the share of jobs is lower than expected, it is indicated with .

Level of Employment in the United States by Quartile of the Income Distribution, 2020

% change since the first half of January 2020


Note: The “High Wage” and “Low Wage” categories represent, respectively, the top and bottom quartiles. The “Middle Wage” combines the middle two quartiles of the income distribution.
### Quality Level of Remote Instruction

#### % of K-12 students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Low-Quality Remote Instruction</th>
<th>Above-Average Remote Instruction</th>
<th>No Instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White</strong></td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black</strong></td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hispanic</strong></td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low income</strong></td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An opportunity to reimagine the global economy
Dignity, purpose, meaning
Connecting macro to micro
Saving globalization
From the ground up
And from the Center
Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

—W. B. Yeats, *The Second Coming*