

2021

Inequality in America: Causes and Consequences

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Original Publication Citation

Tench, R. (2021). Inequality in America: Causes and consequences. *Library Journal*, 146(11), 109.
<https://www.libraryjournal.com/review/inequality-in-america-causes-and-consequences-2128081>

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the religious lives of women or to those interested in a more inclusive society.—**Dave Pugl, Ela Area P.L., Lake Zurich, IL**

SOCIAL SCIENCES
Inequality in America: Causes and Consequences. ABC-CLIO. Jun. 2021. 359p. ed. by Robert Rycroft & Kimberley Kinsley. ISBN 9781440865145. \$97. REF

With this excellent compilation, Rycroft (economics, Univ. of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA) and Kinsley (business law, Univ. of Mary Washington) bring students, primarily undergraduates, and other readers up to speed on the current state of inequality in the United States. The work is organized around core themes including education, health care, housing, the environment, and the justice system. It begins with a brief overview and essay on the nation's history of inequality, followed by chapters on varying dimensions of inequality; it concludes with two assessments of the future of inequality. The work is written by scholars, advanced graduate students, and expert practitioners but will be accessible even to those with limited background on the issues. The content is rich, thought-provoking, and extensive. All chapters have short, insightful introductions on the topic at hand and extended lists of further reading. Chapters on emerging issues (e.g., intergenerational mobility, food deserts, consumer credit/payday loans) complement and balance entries that focus on long-standing inequalities in education, housing, health, and law. Throughout, contributors address the role of racism and gender and how socioeconomic status intersects with these identities. The last two sections are cautionary tales of what could happen if the United States doesn't develop and implement policies to address inequality. **VERDICT** A well-written and cogently organized work that expertly reflects the current financial and social inequalities in American life and possible ramifications if they go unaddressed.—**Rob Tench,**

Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA

★**Schwartz, David Asa. Modern Sports Around the World: History, Geography, and Sociology. ABC-CLIO. Jun. 2021. 381p. ISBN 9781440868795. \$97. REF**

Though there are many reference works on sports, few are as thorough as this one, which reviews 50 sports and their histories, origins, representations in popular culture, key athletes, and scandals, plus fascinating tidbits (e.g., the British constructed the first indoor swimming pool and established competitive swimming in the 1830s). Schwartz (multimedia journalism and mass communication, Augustana Coll., Rock Island, IL) selected the book's variety of sports, taking into consideration global and gender representation and acknowledging the role of British imperialism in sports culture (he writes: "It is important to recognize that sports history neither begins nor ends with the United Kingdom"). Accordingly, the sports discussed here come from cultures around the world, including Polynesia, Mongolia, Indigenous America, and South Africa. Entries, averaging seven pages each, tackle e-sports, horse racing, jai alai, lacrosse, rodeo, rugby, and more; each entry includes a time line that charts the first time the game was known to be played, plus sidebars and a short list of additional reading. The book also has an alphabetical cumulative bibliography, a separate topical bibliography organized by sport, and a detailed index that makes access a breeze. Schwartz's work nicely complements Rachel Laws Myers's *Race and Sports*, plus other titles on sports in specific regions. **VERDICT** This superbly written volume will appeal to sports and physical education students; researchers in foreign policy, gender studies, history, politics, sociology, and technology; and general high school and college readers who enjoy the odd sports history factoid.—**Laurie Selwyn, formerly at Grayson Cty. Law Lib., Sherman, TX**

United States Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publication) Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

1. Publication Title: Library Journal

2. Publication Number 508-110

3. Filing Date 10/1/2021

4. Issue Frequency: Monthly

5. No. of Issues Published Annually 12

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$157.99

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication
 123 Willam Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10038-3822
 Contact Person: Kolin Rankin 305-859-0063

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) Media Source Inc 7858 Industrial Parkway Plain City OH 43064

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher
 Publisher Rebecca Miller, 123 Willam Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10038-3822
 Managing Editor Meredith Schwartz, 123 William Street, Suite 802, New York, NY 10038-3822

10. Owner Media Source 7858 Industrial Parkway, Plain City, OH 43064

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check here. None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates). The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months.

13. Publication Title: Library Journal

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below September 2021

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies No. Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)	8,286	8,036
b. Paid Circulation (by Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541. (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	7,345	7,130
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	333	335
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution [Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3) and (4)]	7,678	7,465
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	378	351
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	10	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (sum of 15d(1),(2),(3),(4))	388	351
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	8,066	7,816
g. Copies not Distributed (see Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	220	220
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	8,286	8,036
j. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	95.2%	95.5%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		
a. Paid Electronic Copies	347	421
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	8,025	7,886
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	8,413	8,237
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	95.4%	95.7%

I certify that 50% of all distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership Publication required. Will be printed in the November 2021 issue of this publication.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner:
 Rebecca Miller, Chief Financial Officer, October 1, 2021

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

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