



Tax Policy Center

Urban Institute and Brookings Institution

Thomas Piketty's Book Release: *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*

BIOGRAPHIES

Thomas Piketty is Professor of Economics at the Paris School of Economics. He is the author of numerous articles and of a dozen books. He has done major historical and theoretical work on the interplay between economic development and the distribution of income and wealth. In particular, he is the initiator of the recent literature on the long run evolution of top income shares in national income (now available in the World Top Incomes Database). These works have led to radically question the optimistic relationship between development and inequality posited by Kuznets, and to emphasize the role of political and fiscal institutions in the historical evolution of income and wealth distribution.

Dean Baker is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC. He is frequently cited in economics reporting in major media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, CNN, CNBC, and National Public Radio. He writes a weekly column for the [Guardian Unlimited](#) (UK), the [Huffington Post](#), [TruthOut](#), and his blog, [Beat the Press](#), features commentary on economic reporting. His analyses have appeared in many major publications, including the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *Washington Post*, the *London Financial Times*, and the *New York Daily News*. He received his Ph.D in economics from the University of Michigan. Dean has written several books, his latest being [Getting Back to Full Employment: a Better Bargain for Working People](#).

Leonard Burman is the Director of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, a Professor of Public Administration and International Affairs at the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, and senior research associate at Syracuse University's Center for Policy Research. He co-founded the Tax Policy Center, a joint project of the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution, in 2002. He has held high-level positions in both the executive and legislative branches, serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Analysis at the Treasury from 1998 to 2000, and as Senior Analyst at the Congressional Budget Office. He is past-president of the National Tax Association. Burman is the author of *Taxes in America: What Everyone Needs to Know*, with Joel Slemrod, and *The Labyrinth of Capital Gains Tax Policy: A Guide for the Perplexed*, co-editor of *Taxing Capital Income and Using Taxes to Reform Health Insurance*, and author of numerous articles, studies, and reports. Burman's recent research has examined US federal budget dynamics, tax expenditures, financing long-term care, the individual alternative minimum tax, the changing role of taxation in social policy, and tax incentives for savings, retirement, and health insurance.

Kevin Hassett is the State Farm James Q. Wilson Chair and Director of Economic Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute. Before joining AEI, Mr. Hassett was a senior economist at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and an associate professor of economics and finance at the Graduate School of Business of Columbia University, as well as a policy consultant to the Treasury Department during the George H. W. Bush and Clinton administrations. He served as an economic adviser to the George W. Bush 2004 presidential campaign, chief economic adviser to Senator John McCain during the 2000 presidential primaries, senior economic adviser to the McCain 2008 presidential campaign, and economic adviser to the Mitt Romney 2012 presidential campaign. Mr. Hassett is a columnist for National Review.

Sarah Rosen Wartell is the president of the Urban Institute. Wartell became the third president of the Urban Institute in February 2012. A public policy executive and housing markets expert, Wartell was President Bill Clinton's deputy assistant for economic policy and the deputy director of his National Economic Council. In 2003, she co-founded the Center for American Progress, serving as its first chief operating officer and general counsel. Later, as executive vice president, she oversaw its policy teams and fellows. Her work has focused on the economy and housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. In 2012, she was named a "Woman of Influence" by HousingWire. Wartell has an A.B. degree with honors in urban affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and holds a J.D. degree from Yale Law School.