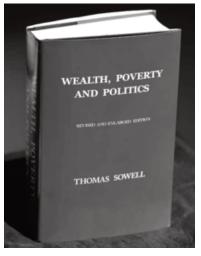
WEALTH, POVERTY



Wealth, Poverty and Politics is a new approach to understanding age-old issues about economic disparities among nations and within nations. These disparities are examined in the light of history, economics, geography, demography and culture.

Wealth, Poverty and Politics is also a challenge to much that is being said today about income distribution and wealth concentration— a challenge to the underlying assumptions and to the ambiguous words and misleading statistics in which those assumptions are

embedded, often even by leading economists. This includes statistics about the much-discussed "top one percent."

This revised and enlarged edition should be especially valuable to those who teach, and who want to confront their students with more than one way of looking at issues that are too important to be settled by whatever the prevailing orthodoxy happens to be.

At a time when many politicians, academics and media commentators are focusing on income inequality, Thomas Sowell's *Wealth*, *Poverty and Politics: An International Perspective* offers a refreshing and stimulating view.

(Professor John B. Taylor, Stanford University)

A true gem in terms of exposing the demagoguery and sheer ignorance of politicians and intellectuals in their claims about wealth and poverty... Dr. Sowell's new book tosses a monkey wrench into most of the things said about income by politicians, intellectuals and assorted hustlers, plus it's a fun read.

(Professor Walter E. Williams, George Mason University)

Sowell... draws from this well of research to do what he has done so well for so long: question basic assumptions behind public policy and follow the facts where they lead him.

(Jason Riley, Wall Street Journal)

and POLITICS

It's a scandal that economist Thomas Sowell has not been awarded the Nobel Prize. No one alive has turned out so many insightful, richly researched books. His latest is another triumph of crackling observations that underscore the ignorance of our economists and policymakers. His take on how culture, geography, politics and social factors affect how societies progress—or don't—will rile those addicted to political correctness but leave everyone else wiser. (Steve Forbes, *Forbes* magazine)

	CONTENTS	
Preface Chapter 1:	Issues	v 1
PART I: Chapter 2: Chapter 3: Chapter 4:	GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS Waterways Lands Climate, Animals and Diseases	13 27 43 61
PART II: Chapter 5: Chapter 6: Chapter 7:	CULTURAL FACTORS Culture and Economics Cultural Diffusion Culture and Progress	85 95 118 135
PART III: Chapter 8: Chapter 9:	SOCIAL FACTORS Population Mental Capabilities	155 167 184
PART IV: Chapter 10: Chapter 11: Chapter 12:	POLITICAL FACTORS Political Institutions Politics and Diversity The Welfare State	215 225 249 273
PART V: Chapter 13: Chapter 14: Chapter 15: Chapter 16:	CONCLUSIONS Economic Differences Implications and Prospects Causation versus Blame Goals	307 319 352 382 406

Had such an approach been available in this reviewer's student days, his understanding of the world would be that much better. (Library Journal)