Gesprek | Taxation of the Rich

Social Inequality in the Long-Run

Activiteit van Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam
Datum: woensdag 11 februari 2026 om 20:00 uur
Locatie: SPUI25, Spui 25-27, Amsterdam / Online
Informatie: Voertaal: Engels. De bijeenkomst is volgeboekt maar online te volgen en terug te kijken via de website van SPUI25
Toegang: Gratis

Deze bijeenkomst is volgeboekt. Je kunt hem online volgen en terugkijken op de website van SPUI25.

In 2014 meldde Oxfam dat de 85 rijkste mensen ter wereld evenveel vermogen bezaten als de armere helft van de wereldbevolking. Twee jaar later waren daarvoor slechts 62 superrijken nodig en in 2018 waren het nog maar 26. Deze cijfers bevestigen de indruk dat we in een tijdperk van exponentieel groeiende ongelijkheid leven. Welke centrale rol spelen belastingen in deze ontwikkeling, ook historisch gezien? Op 11 februari gaat historicus Marc Buggeln in SPUI25 (Amsterdam) hierover in gesprek met Hanno Balz (DIA).

De voertaal is Engels.

At the beginning of 2014, Oxfam reported that the richest 85 people globally owned as much wealth as the poorer half of the world's population, i.e. over three and a half billion people. Two years later, it took only 62 super-rich people to equal the wealth of the poorer half of humanity, and by 2018, only 26 super-rich individuals. Such figures confirm the impression that we are currently living in times of exponentially growing inequality. Top wealth in the United States has returned to the levels that had been accumulated there at the end of the 19th century.

After taxes had primarily contributed to promoting inequality until the 19th century, this trend began to reverse. In most instances, income tax contributed to this, but wealth and inheritance taxes also played a role. Comparing industrialised countries in the 20th and 21st century, the lecture examines how this development came about and why taxes no longer slow down the increasing

concentration of wealth today. It will also be asked to which extent the world wars and the political orientation of governments played a defining role in shaping the respective tax policies.

Speakers:

Marc Buggeln is Professor for Regional History and Public History at the European University in Flensburg, Germany. His Ph.D. analysed forced labour in Nazi Concentration Camps in WWII. His habilitation was on taxation and social inequality in Germany in comparative perspective from 1871 until today. The study was published in 2022 by Suhrkamp under the title “Das Versprechen der Gleichheit” (The Promise of Equality).

Hanno Balz is a member of the academic staff at the Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam and a Lektor for the Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst. He teaches German and European history at the University of Amsterdam. Hanno’s fields of research are the history of social movements, cultural and media history, and the Shoah and Nazi rule and its legacy. He published extensively on media and terrorism in West Germany.

Dit is een artikel gedownload via duitslandinstituut.nl.

Artikel: https://www.duitslandinstituut.nl/agenda/15558/gesprek-taxation-of-the-rich