

Making Sense of Change so that we can make real Change

1968-2012

**John Rogers
UCLA's Institute for Democracy,
Education, and Access**

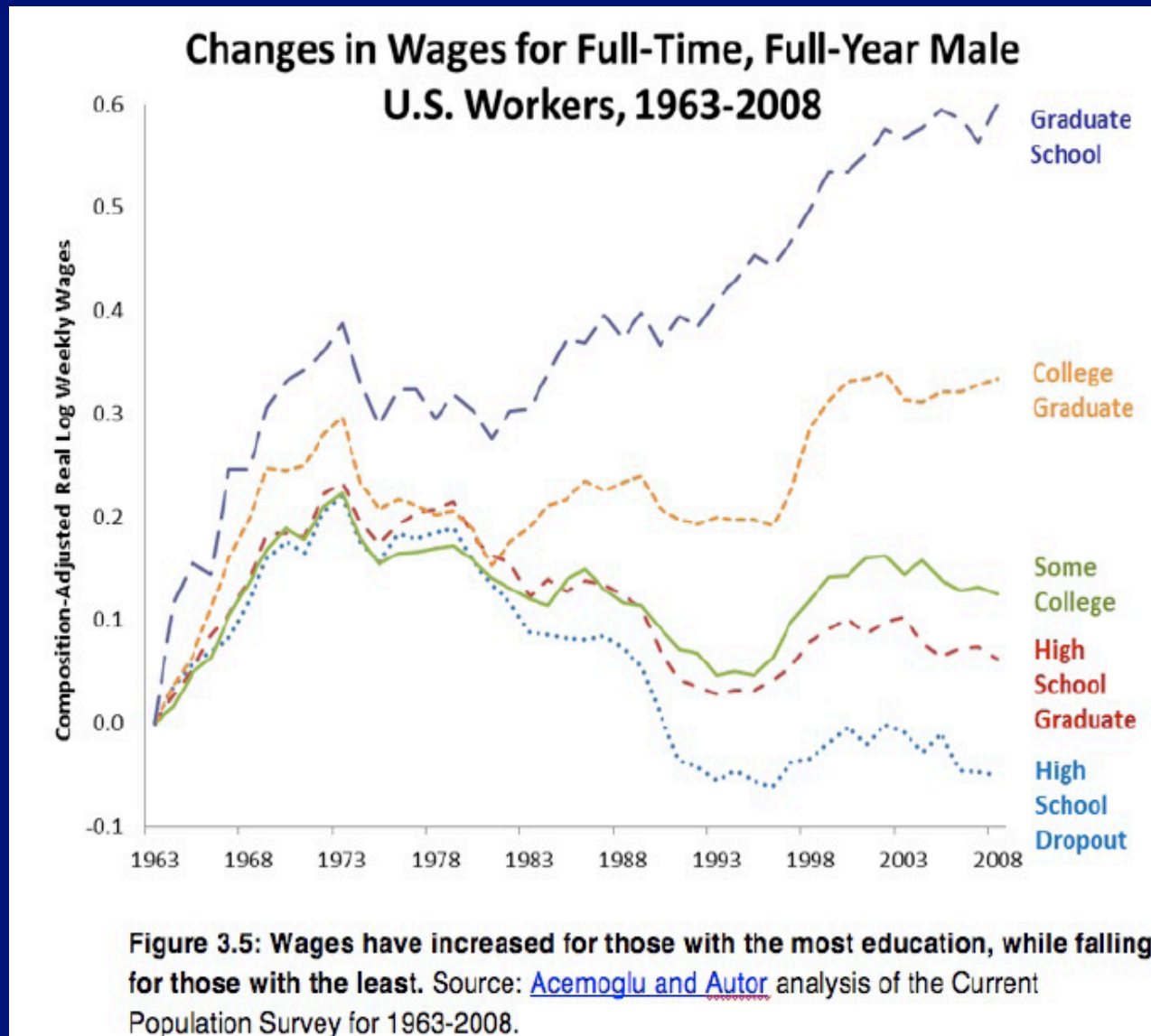


*Your children and grandchildren
[will] take their place in America,
going to high school and
college, and taking good jobs at
good pay.*

Robert Kennedy, Delano, California

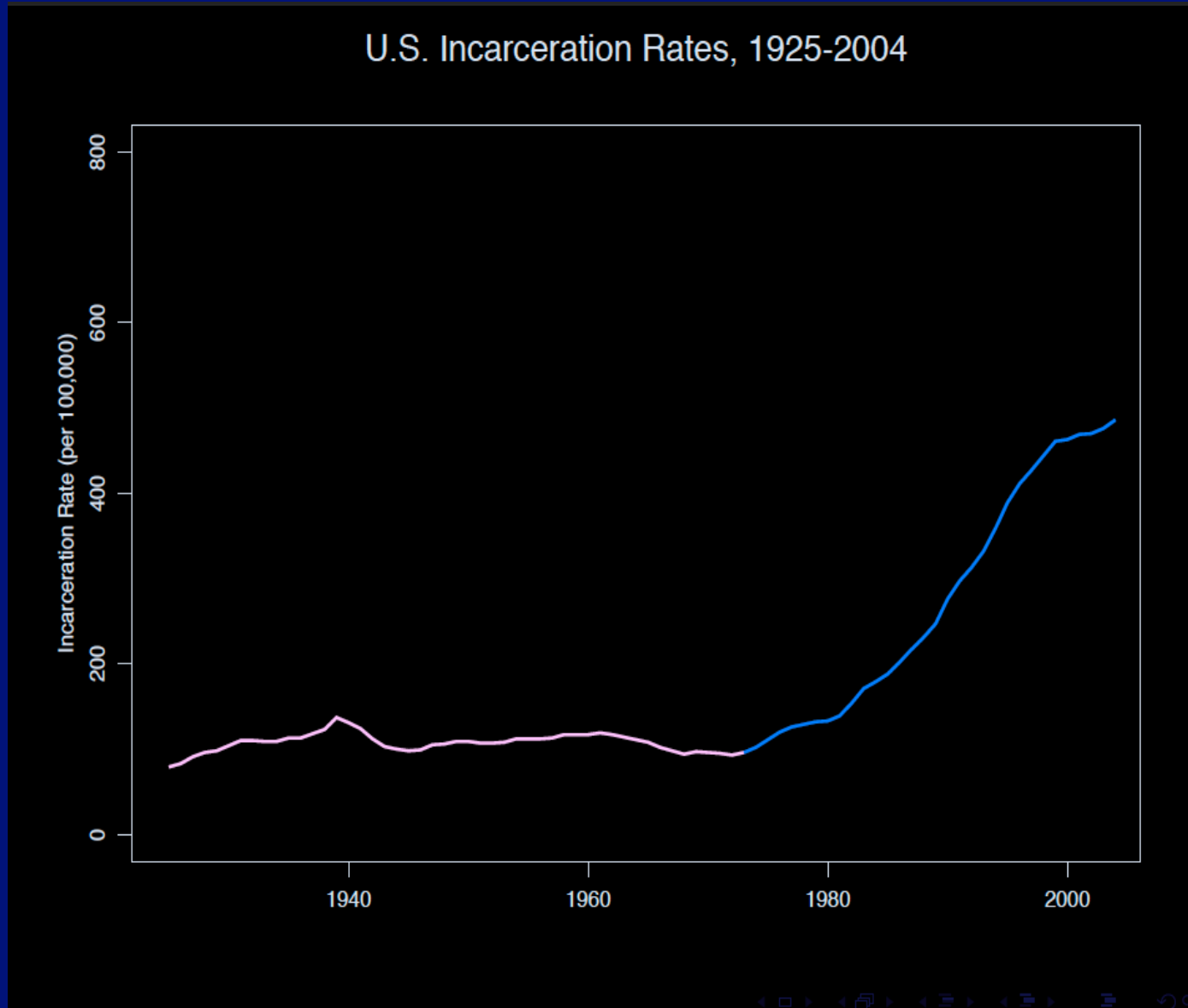


Education's Wage Premium



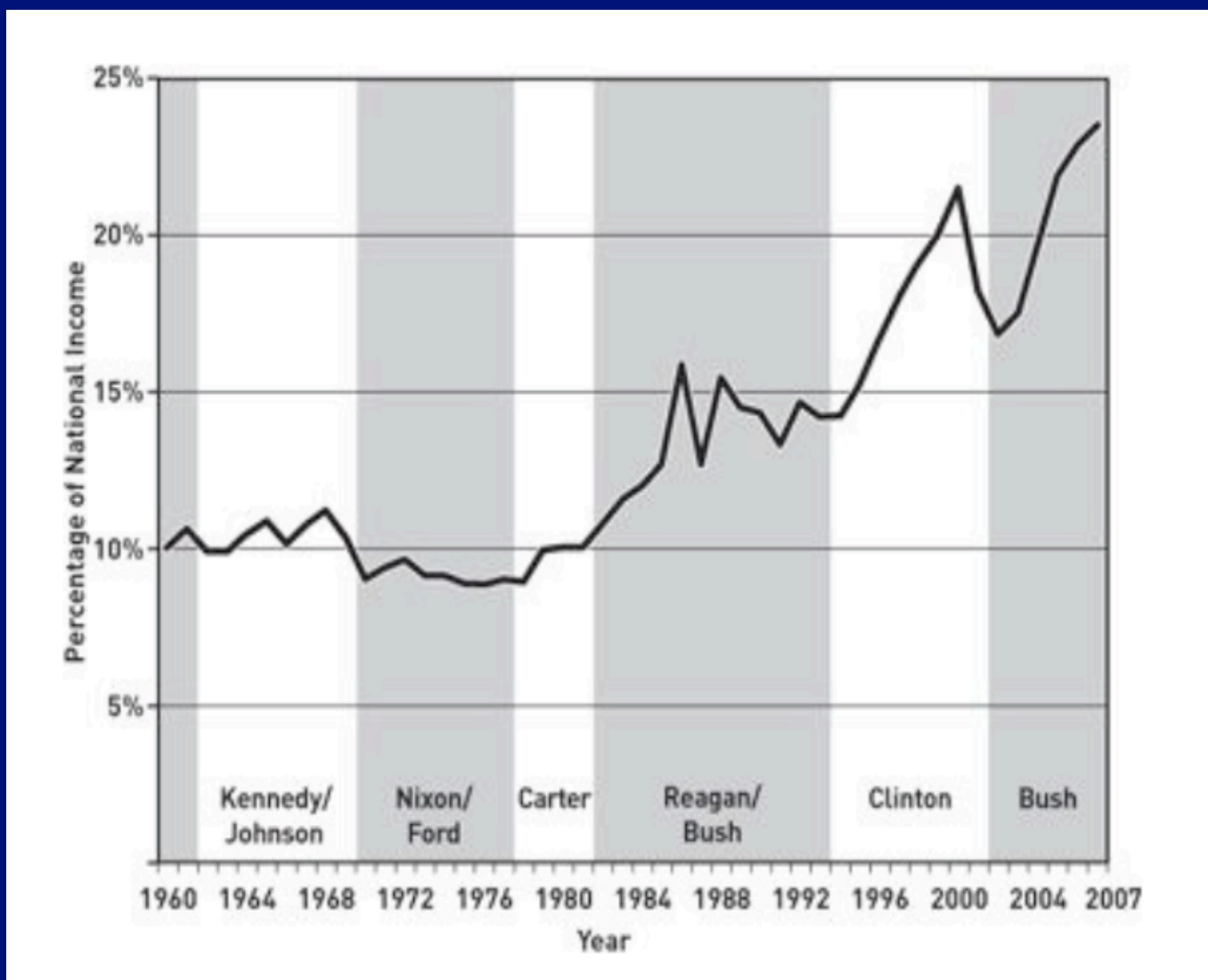
Source: Archon Fung, "Why has Inequality Grown in America," 2011.

Incarceration Rates Triple



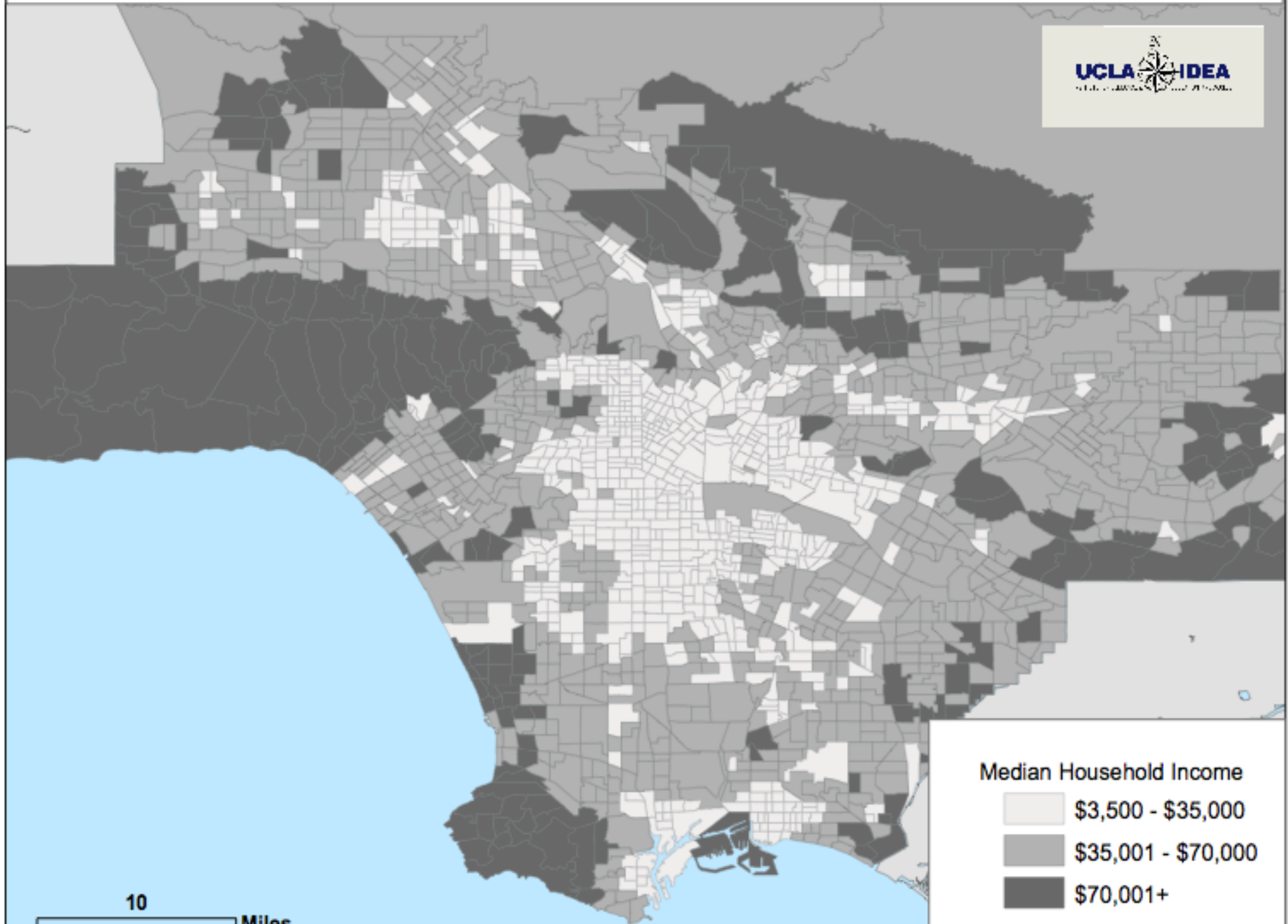
Source: Bruce Western, "Punishment and Inequality in America." 2007.

Income Inequality Rises (share of income for top 1%)



Source: Archon Fung, "Why has Inequality Grown in America," 2011.

Income Inequality in Los Angeles County Neighborhoods



Source: 2000 Census

Changes to Education,
Incarceration, and Income
are interconnected



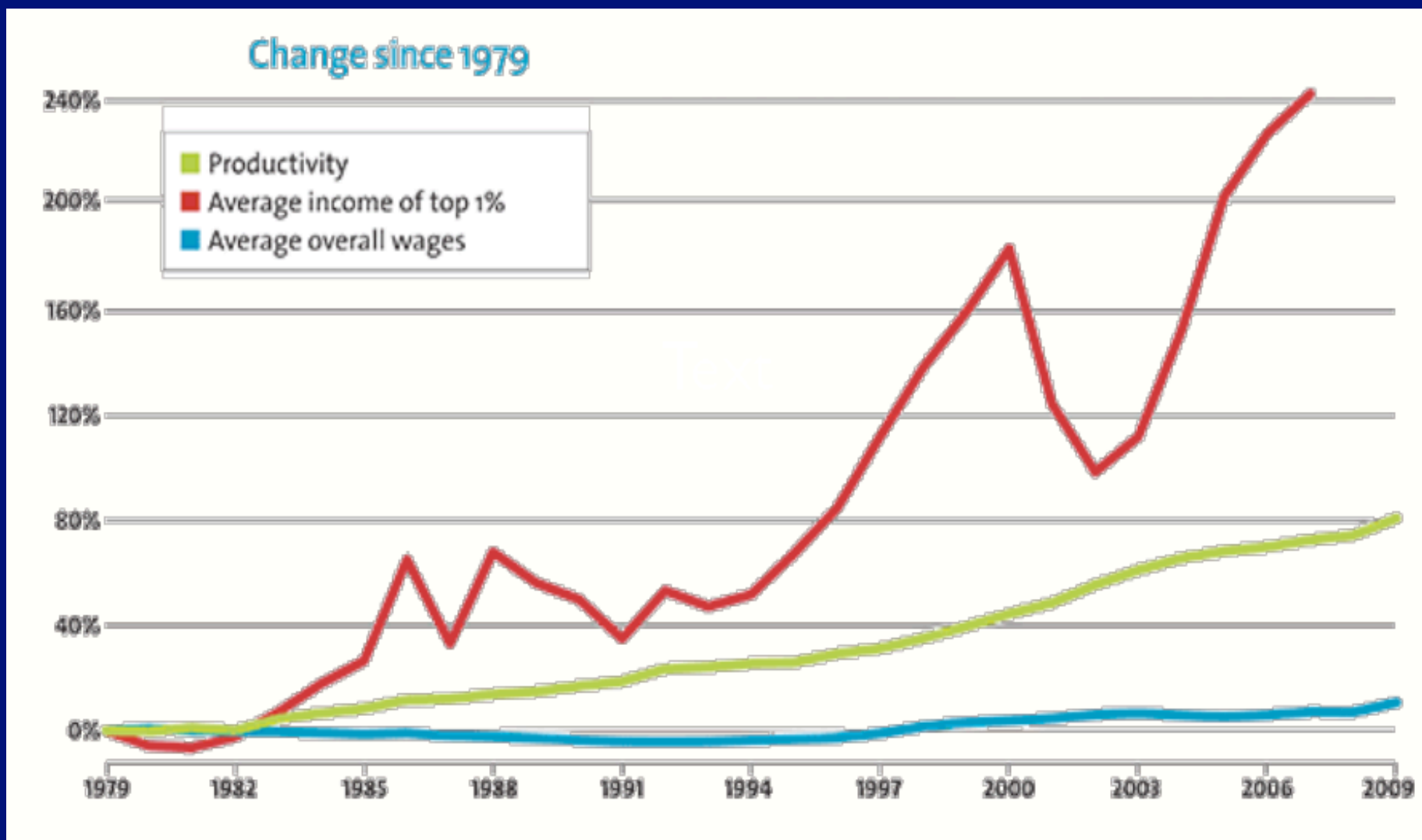
Three Explanations

Economic
Political
Cultural

Economic Explanations

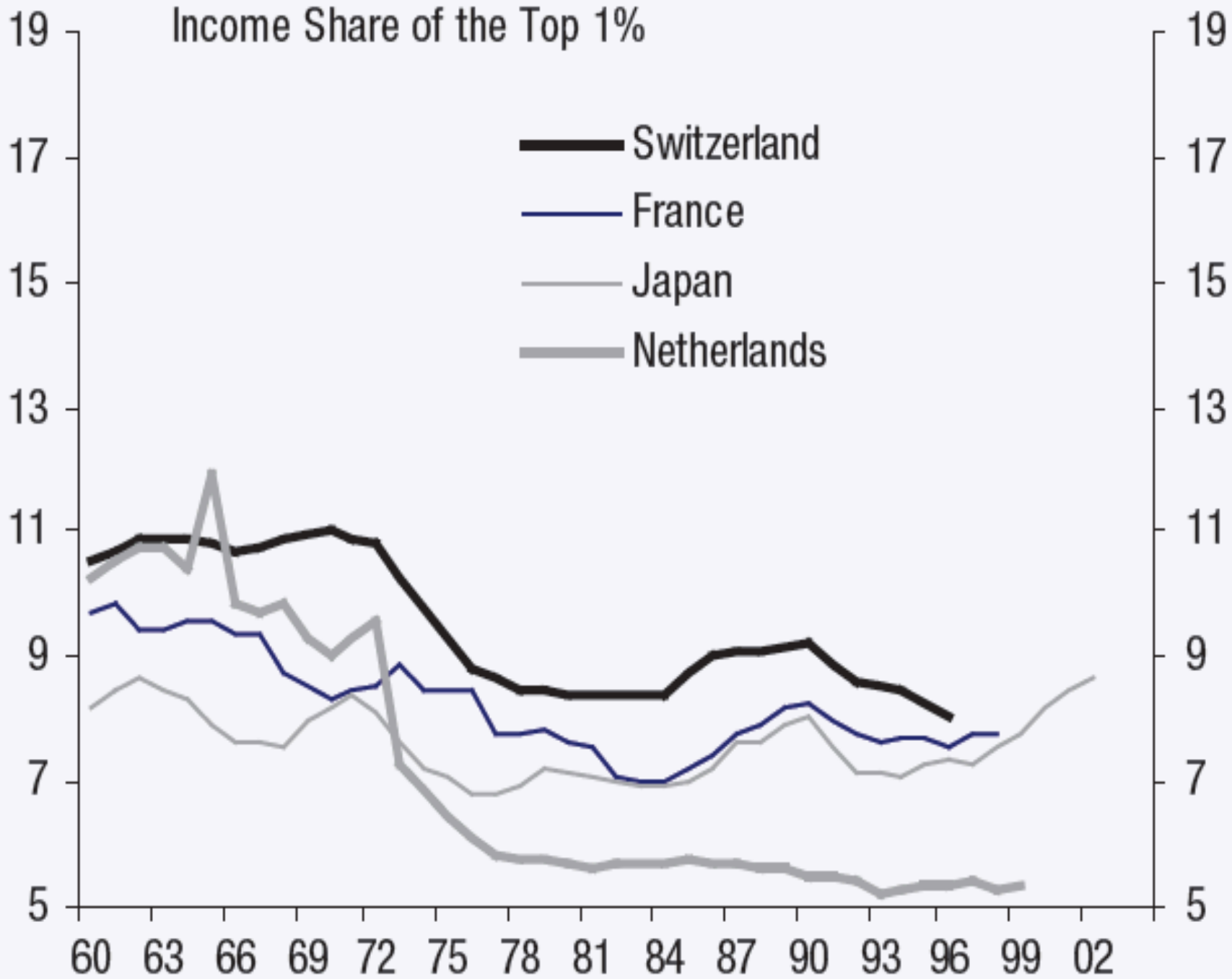
Introduction of new technology leads to reduction in routinized work and greater productivity

Why then are most gains concentrated in the top 1%



Source: Archon Fung, "Why has Inequality Grown in America," 2011.

Income Share of the Top 1%



A Political Project (neoliberalism)

Shrinking public sector
Eroding regulation
Undermining unions

See: David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, 2005



A Cultural Shift

The culture of the new
capitalism



Culture of new capitalism characterized by ...

- Security is constructed as a negative thing;
- Short term contracts and short term jobs, rather than long term careers;
- Assumption that skills are portable;
- Diminished commitment to investment in workers.

See: Richard Sennett, *The Culture of the New Capitalism*, 2005.



Culture of New Capitalism Leads to

- Lower institutional loyalty;
- Diminishment of informal trust among workers;
- Weakening of institutional/local knowledge.

See: Richard Sennett, *The Culture of the New Capitalism*, 2005.



A Progressive Alternative

Link education to economic and
community change

Challenge false freedom and
the logic of scarcity



Reclaim Change

Invest (long term) in individual and collective capacity;

Build institutions that promote and value trust and collaboration

Develop and value local knowledge and local problem solving

