

Over the past few decades, the U.S. has seen a growing inequality of incomes between the middle class and the rich. In their lively and provocative book, *Winner-Take-All Politics*, renowned political scientists Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson demonstrate convincingly that the usual suspects – foreign trade and financial globalization, technological changes in the workplace, increased education at the top – are largely innocent of the charges against them. Instead, they indict an unlikely suspect and take us on an entertaining tour of the mountain of evidence against the culprit. The guilty party is American politics.

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Professor Jacob Hacker joined us to discuss his most recent book, *Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer – and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class* (2010). **Professor Larry Jacobs** moderated a conversation with Professor Hacker following his presentation.



JACOB HACKER

Jacob S. Hacker, Ph.D., is the Stanley B. Resor Professor of Political Science at Yale University, and a Resident Fellow at the Institution for Social and Policy Studies. He is also a Fellow at the New America Foundation in Washington, D.C., and a former Junior Fellow of the Harvard Society of Fellows. Hacker received a B.A. from Harvard in 1994 and a Ph.D. from Yale in 2000.

An expert on the politics of U.S. health and social policy, his most recent book, *Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer--and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class* (2010), was written with Paul Pierson. He is also author of *The Great Risk Shift: The New Economic Insecurity and the Decline of the American Dream* (2006, in paperback January 2008), *The*

Divided Welfare State: The Battle over Public and Private Social Benefits in the United States (2002), and *The Road to Nowhere: The Genesis of President Clinton's Plan for Health Security* (1997), co-winner of the Brownlow Book Award of the National Academy of Public Administration. He is also co-author, with Paul Pierson, of *Off Center: the Republican Revolution and the Erosion of American Democracy* (2005) and has edited two volumes – most recently, *Health at Risk: America's Ailing Health System and How to Heal It* (2008).