

On Inequality



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Economic inequality is one of the most divisive issues of our time. Yet few would argue that inequality is a greater evil than poverty. The poor suffer because they don't have enough, not because others have more, and some have far too much. So why do many people appear to be more distressed by the rich than by the poor?

In this provocative book, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *On Bullshit* presents a compelling and unsettling response to those who believe that the goal of social justice should be economic equality or less inequality. Harry Frankfurt, one of the most influential moral philosophers in the world, argues that we are morally obligated to eliminate poverty—not achieve equality or reduce inequality. Our focus should be on making sure everyone has a sufficient amount to live a decent life. To focus instead on inequality is distracting and alienating.

At the same time, Frankfurt argues that the conjunction of vast wealth and poverty is offensive. If we dedicate ourselves to making sure everyone has enough, we may reduce inequality as a side effect. But it's essential to see that the ultimate goal of justice is to end poverty, not inequality.

A serious challenge to cherished beliefs on both the political left and right, *On Inequality* promises to have a profound impact on one of the great debates of our time.

作者介绍:

Harry G. Frankfurt is professor emeritus of philosophy at Princeton University. His books include the #1 New York Times bestseller *On Bullshit* and *The Reasons of Love* (both Princeton).

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标签

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评论

说不平等没有道德意义，并且不止经济不平等如此，权利等问题上的不平等也是。跟帕菲特的 Equality and Priority 一样晒出了平等主义者的含糊混乱。很好，值四星半。

经济平等没有内在道德价值，重要的是sufficiency；追求经济平等会从本真欲求令人分神而催生异化。任何平等（机会、权利、考量、关照etc.）主义理想都无有道德非衍生的道德worth，实质而非形式的考量才有，"The evil lies simply in the conspicuous fact that bad lives are bad" (73)。尊重和无偏性道德地重要，它们常常与平等仅仅是会聚。顺便感到法兰克福倾向于用作为目的的人来论证内在价值。《事关己者》有收录此篇的原论文版，改动较大though，作者出版单行小册子的能力也是一流

level down论证+对个体的尊重+基于信息分配的无偏倚

大众读物，不新鲜了。不涉及什么是sufficiency。

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