From reviews of Capital in the Twenty-First Century

"'The most important economics book of the year—and maybe of the decade.'
—P. KRUGMAN, New York Times

"Piketty's economic analysis and historical proofs are breathtaking."
—R. B. REICH, Guardian

"A book that nobody interested in defining issues of our era can afford to ignore."
—J. CASSIDY, New Yorker

"[Piketty] is now the most talked-about economist on the planet."
—R. FOROOHAR, Time

Early acclaim for Capital and Ideology

"Thomas Piketty's magisterial global and connected history takes us on a whirlwind journey across the world during the past 50 years to show how shifting ideas and politics have shaped a wide variety of inequality regimes. Fully embracing the power of historical analysis, Capital and Ideology emboldens us to reimagine what is possible today. Enormously rich in argument and evidence, this tour de force by one of the most influential thinkers of our age is a must-read for anyone grappling with the dilemmas of our present."
—S. BECKERT, author of Empire of Cotton: A Global History

"A book of remarkable clarity and dynamism. Drawing lessons from a breathtaking survey of different historical experiences, it teaches us that nothing is inevitable, that there exist a whole range of possibilities between hypercapitalism and the disasters of the communist experiment. It's up to us to make our future. Let's roll up our sleeves."
—E. DUFLO, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences

"Might become even more politically influential than... Capital in the Twenty-First Century."
—S. KUPER, Financial Times

Our economy, Piketty observes, is not a natural fact. Markets, profits, and capital are all historical constructs that depend on choices. Piketty explores the material and ideological interactions of conflicting social groups that have given us slavery, serfdom, colonialism, communism, and hypercapitalism, shaping the lives of billions. He concludes that the great driver of human progress over the centuries has been the struggle for equality and education and not, as often argued, the sacralization of property rights or the pursuit of stability.

The new era of extreme inequality that has derailed that progress since the 1970s, he shows, is partly a reaction against communism, but it is also the fruit of ignorance, intellectual specialization, and our drift toward the dead-end politics of identity.

Once we understand this, we can begin to envision a more balanced approach to economics and politics. Piketty argues for a new “participatory” socialism, a system founded on an ideology of equality, social property, education, and the sharing of knowledge and power. Capital and Ideology is destined to be one of the indispensable books of our time, a work that not only will help us understand the world, but will change it.

THOMAS PIKETTY is Director of Studies at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and Professor at the Paris School of Economics. He is the author of Capital in the Twenty-First Century.