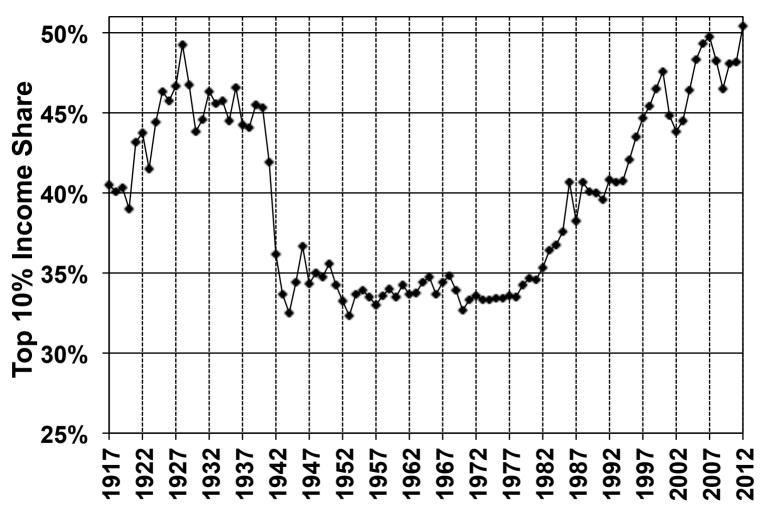
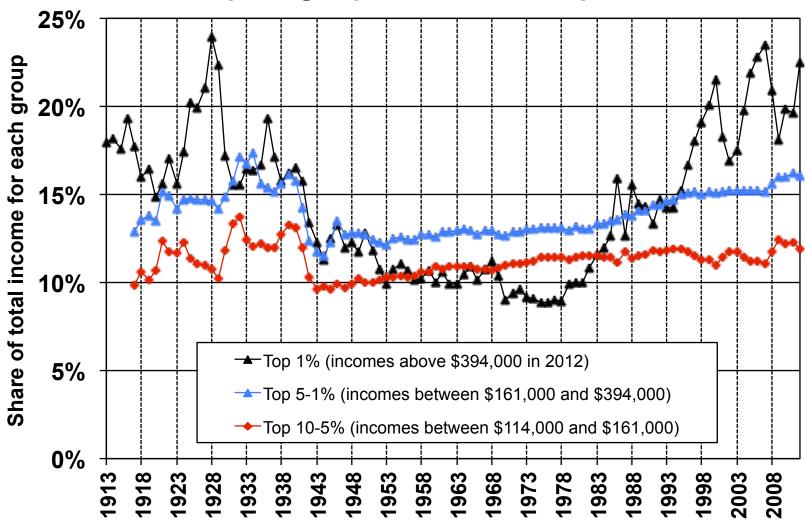
Top 10% Pre-tax Income Share in the US, 1917-2012



Source: Piketty and Saez, 2003 updated to 2012. Series based on pre-tax cash market income including realized capital gains and excluding government transfers. 2012 data based on preliminary statistics

Decomposing Top 10% into 3 Groups, 1913-2012



Source: Piketty and Saez, 2003 updated to 2012. Series based on pre-tax cash market income including realized capital gains and excluding government transfers. 2012 data based on preliminary statistics.

The Four Questions of Public Finance

APPLICATION

The Congressional Budget Office: Government Scorekeepers

► The methods and results derived from empirical economics are central to the development of public policy at all levels of government.

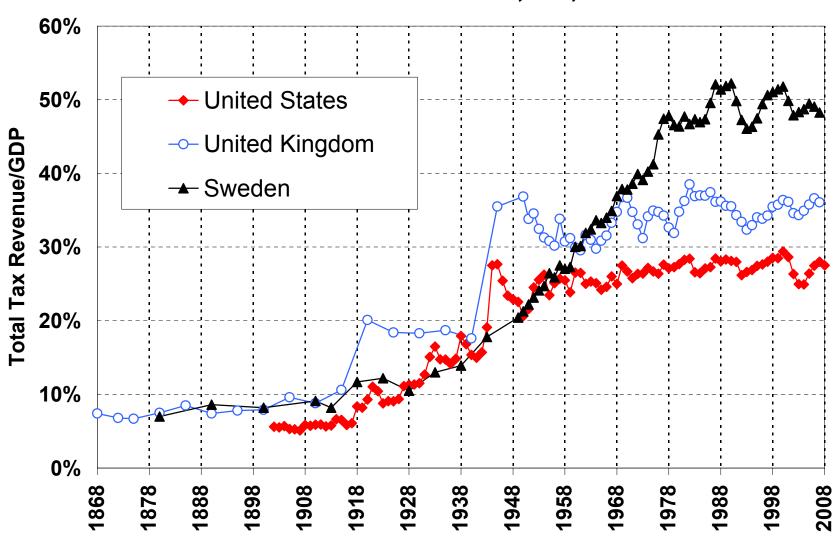


"We don't use the Congressional Budget Office. We have our own figures.

- ► The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provides Congress with the objective, timely, nonpartisan analyses needed for economic and budget decisions.
- ► The CBO increasingly plays a critical role as a "scorekeeper" for government policy debates.
- Legislative spending proposals that are to become law must first have their costs estimated by the analysts at the CBO.

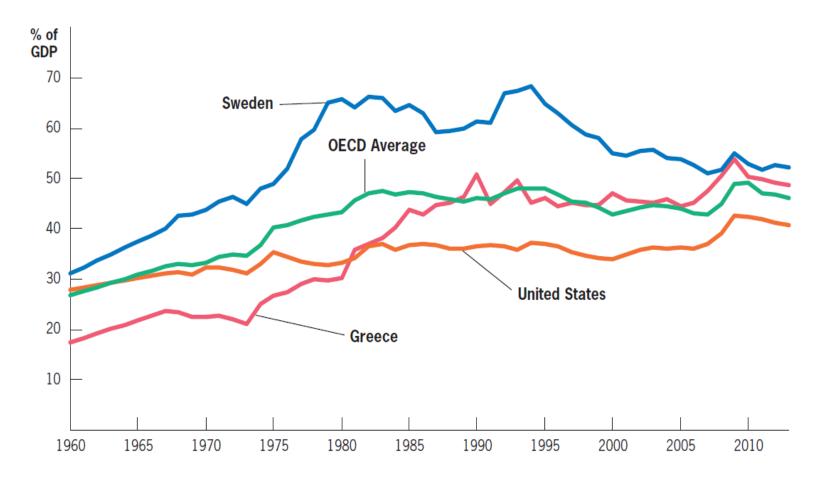
It is not an overstatement to say that the economists who work at the CBO frequently hold the fate of a legislative proposal in their hands. The large price tag that the CBO assigned to the Clinton administration's plan to reform health care in the United States in 1994 is often cited as a key factor in the defeat of that proposal.

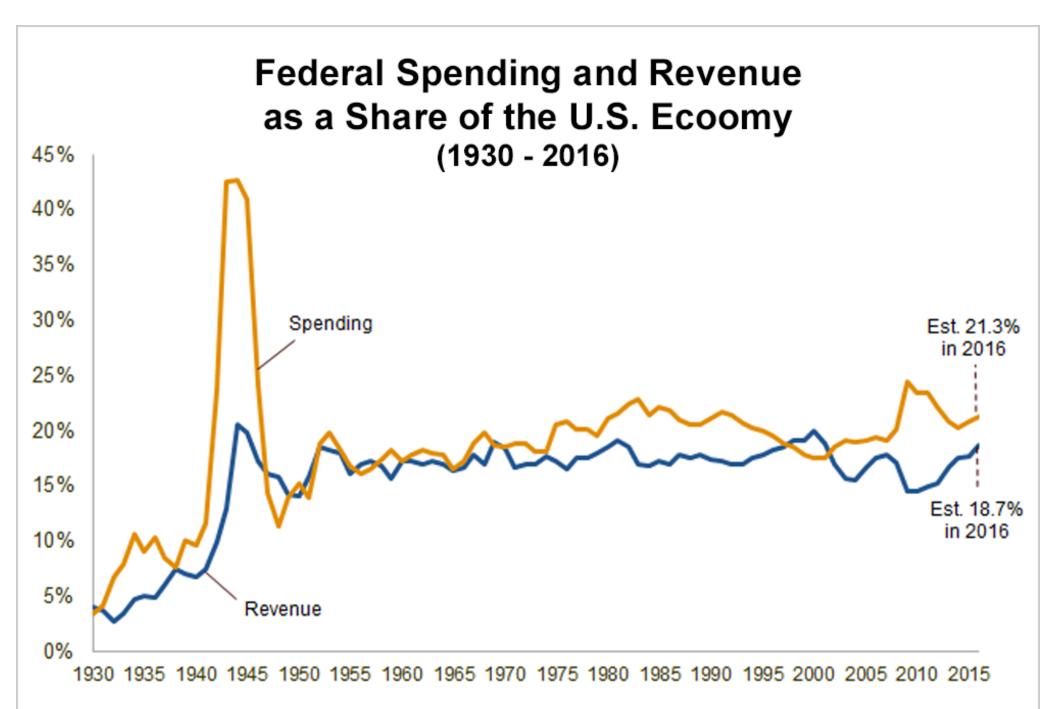
2A. Tax revenue/GDP in the US, UK, and Sweden



Source: Kleven-Kreiner-Saez NBER WP 2009

Total Government Spending Across Developed Nations, 1960–2013

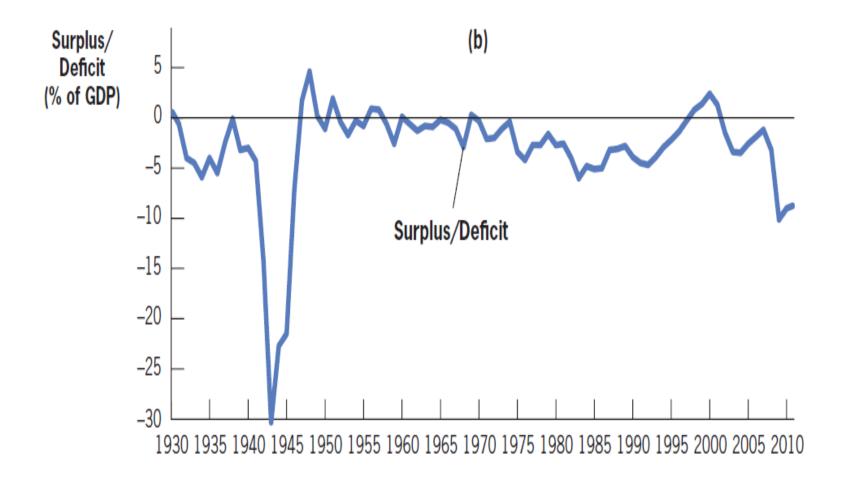




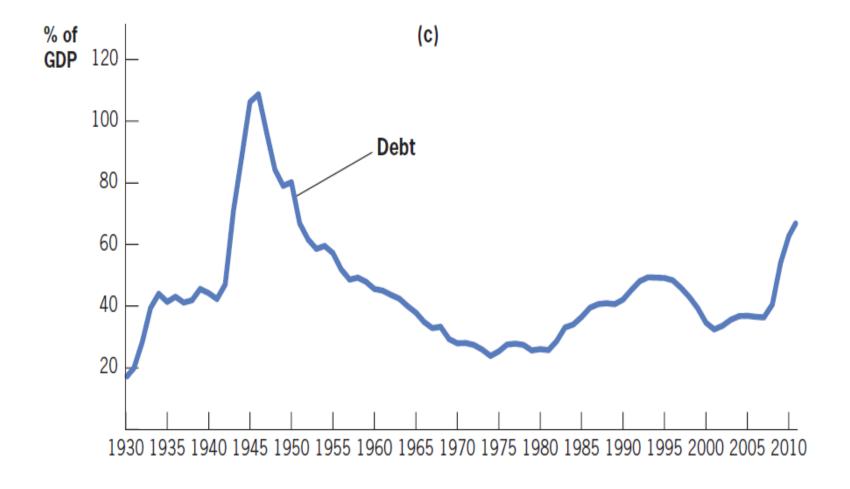




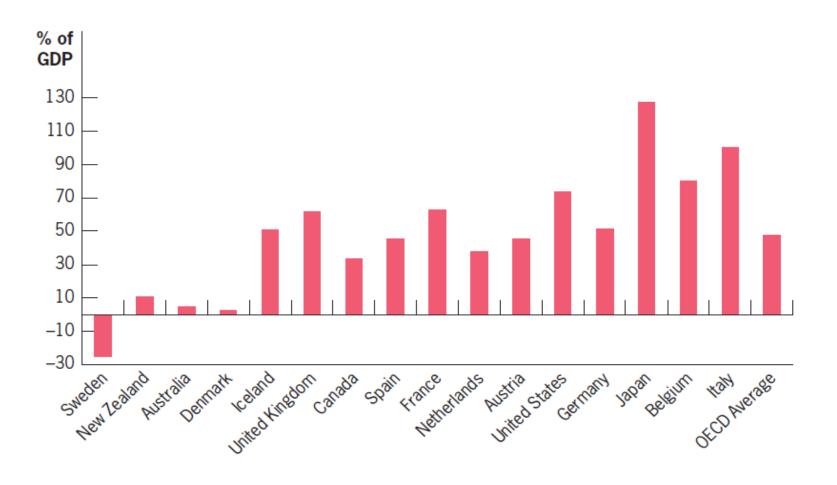
Federal Surplus/Deficit, 1930-2011



Federal Debt, 1930-2011



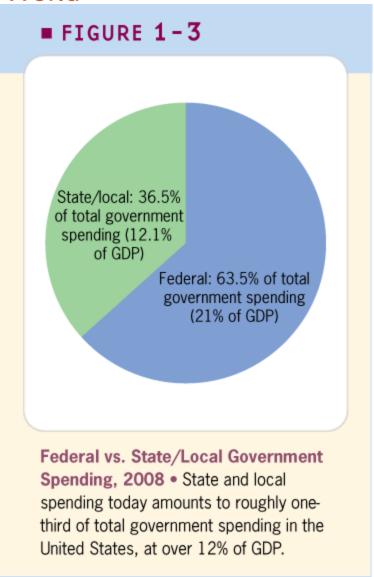
Debt Level of OECD Nations in 2011



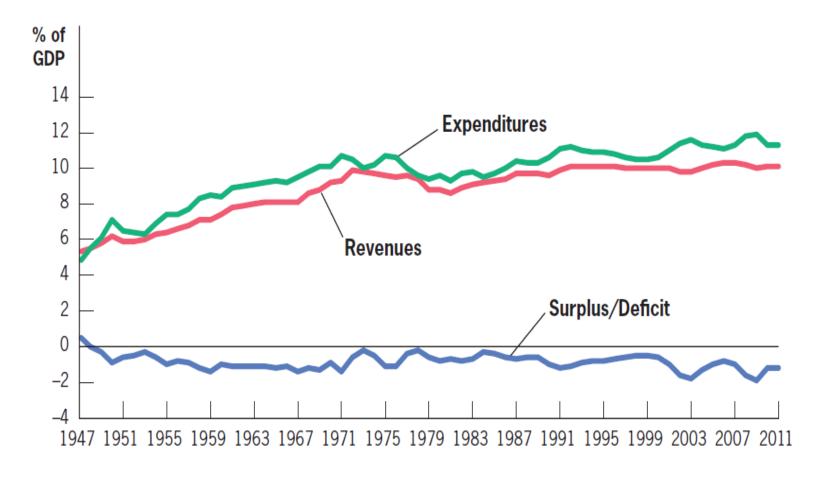
Why Study Public Finance? Facts on Government in the United States and around the World

Decentralization

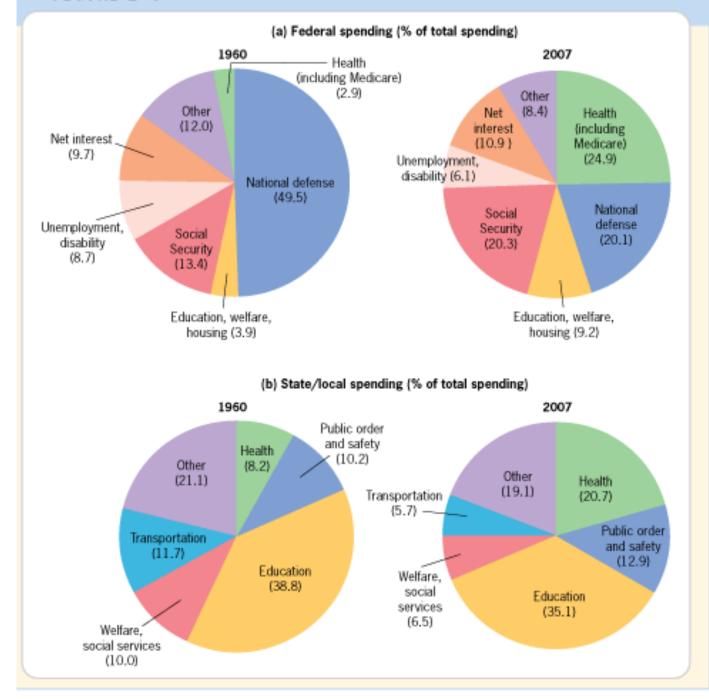
A key feature of governments is the degree of *centralization* across local and national government units—that is, the extent to which spending is concentrated at higher (federal) levels or lower (state and local) levels.



State and Local Government Receipts, Expenditures, and Surplus, 1947–2008



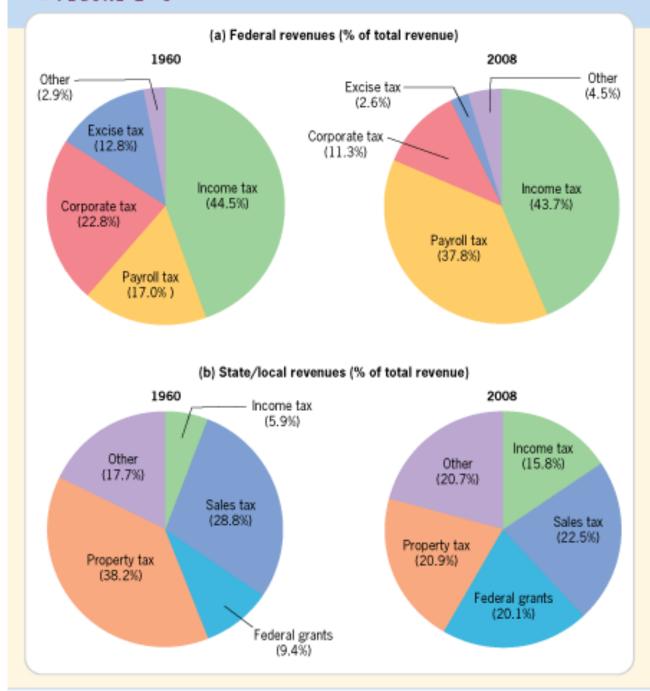
■ FIGURE 1-7



Distribution of Spending

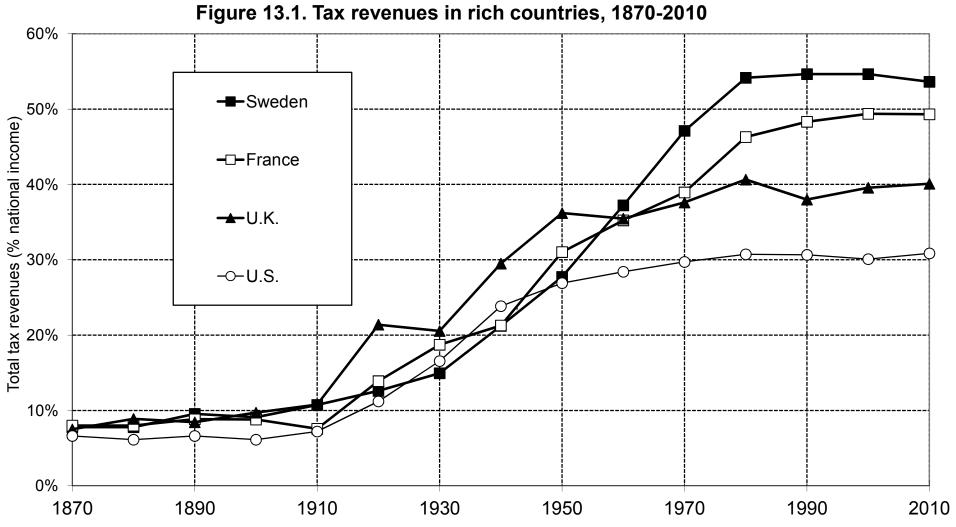
The Distribution of **Federal and State** Expenditures, 1960 and **2007** • This figure shows the changing composition of federal and state spending over time, as a share of total spending. (a) For the federal government, defense spending has fallen and Social Security and health spending have risen. (b) For the states, the distribution has been more constant, with a small decline in education and welfare spending and a rise in health spending.

■ FIGURE 1-8



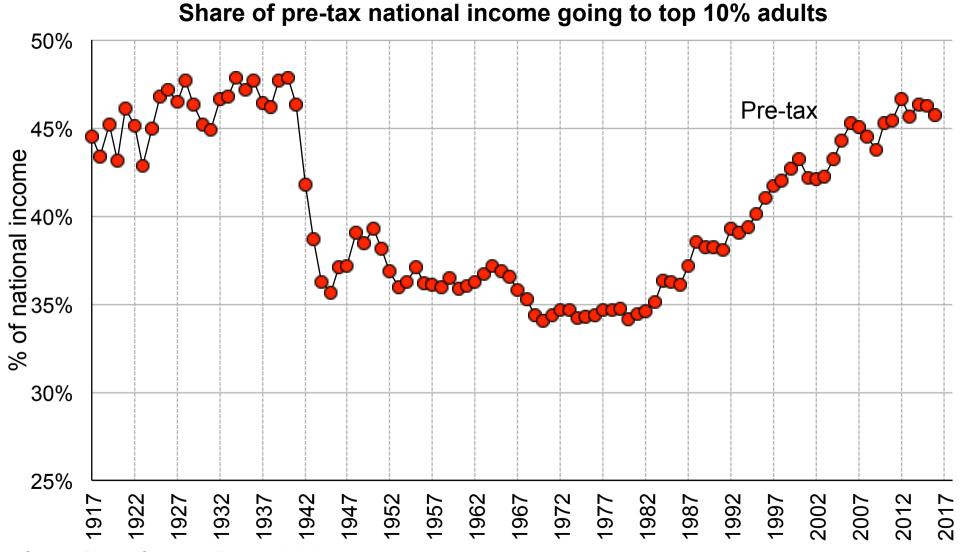
Distribution of Revenue Sources

The Distribution of Federal and State Revenues, 1960 and 2008 • This figure shows the changing composition of federal and state revenue sources over time, as a share of total revenues. (a) At the federal level, there has been a large reduction in corporate and excise tax revenues and a rise in payroll tax revenues. (b) For the states, there has been a decline in property taxes and a rise in income taxes and federal grants.



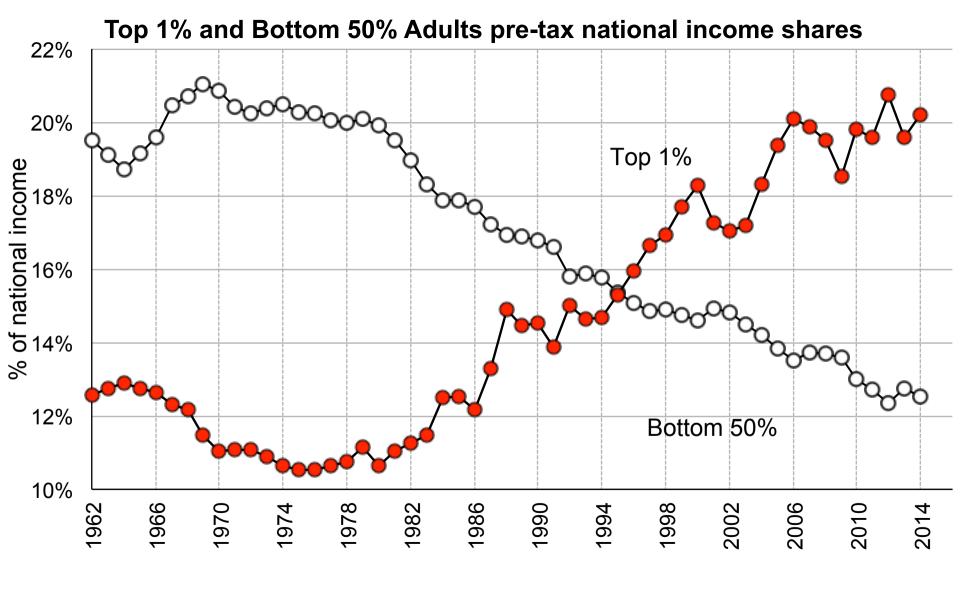
Total tax revenues were less than 10% of national income in rich countries until 1900-1910; they represent between 30% and 55% of national income in 2000-2010. Sources and series: see piketty.pse.ens.fr/capital21c.

Source: Piketty (2014)

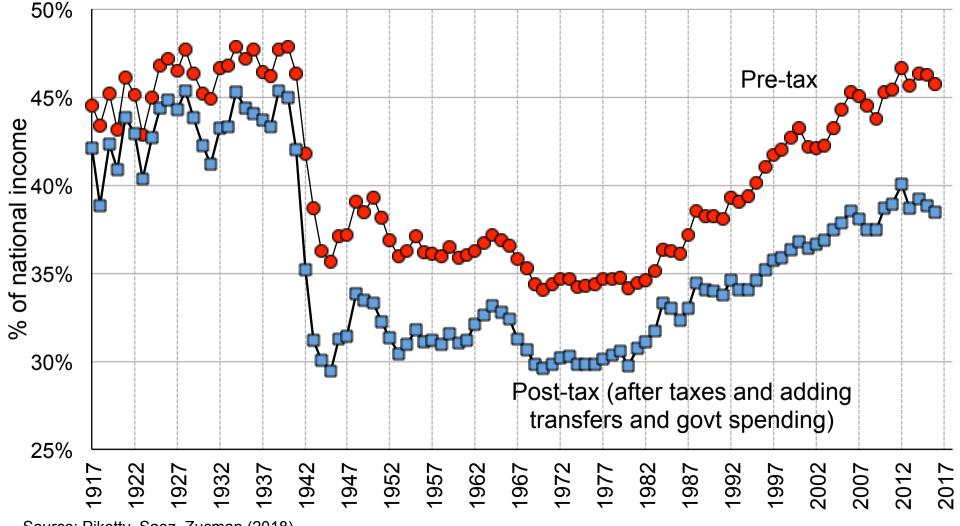


Source: Piketty, Saez, and Zucman (2018)

Average, bottom 90%, bottom 50% real incomes per adult 60,000 Average national income per adult: constant 2014 dollars 61% growth from 1980 to 2014 50,000 40,000 Average income in 30,000 Bottom 90% pre-tax: 30% growth from 1980 to 2014 20,000 10,000 Bottom 50% pre-tax: 1% growth from 1980 to 2014 962 982 986



Top 10% national income share: pre-tax vs. post-tax



Source: Piketty, Saez, Zucman (2018)

Average vs. bottom 50% income growth per adult

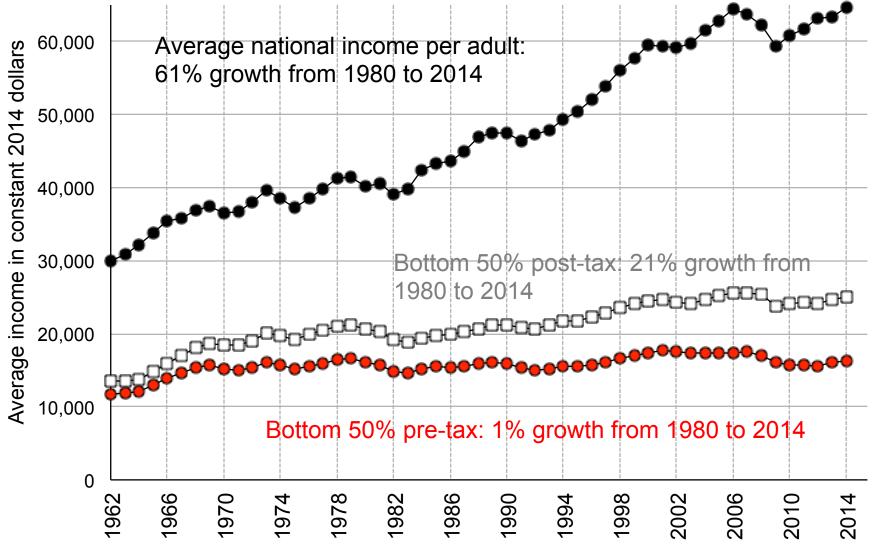
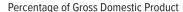
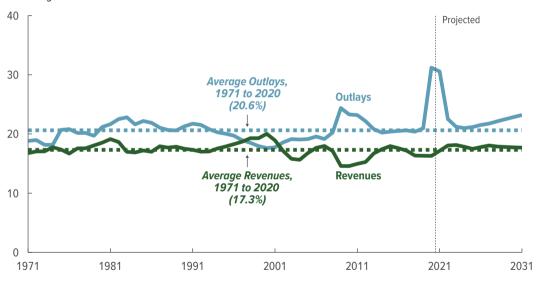


Figure 1-3.

Total Outlays and Revenues

Federal government only (state+local excluded)

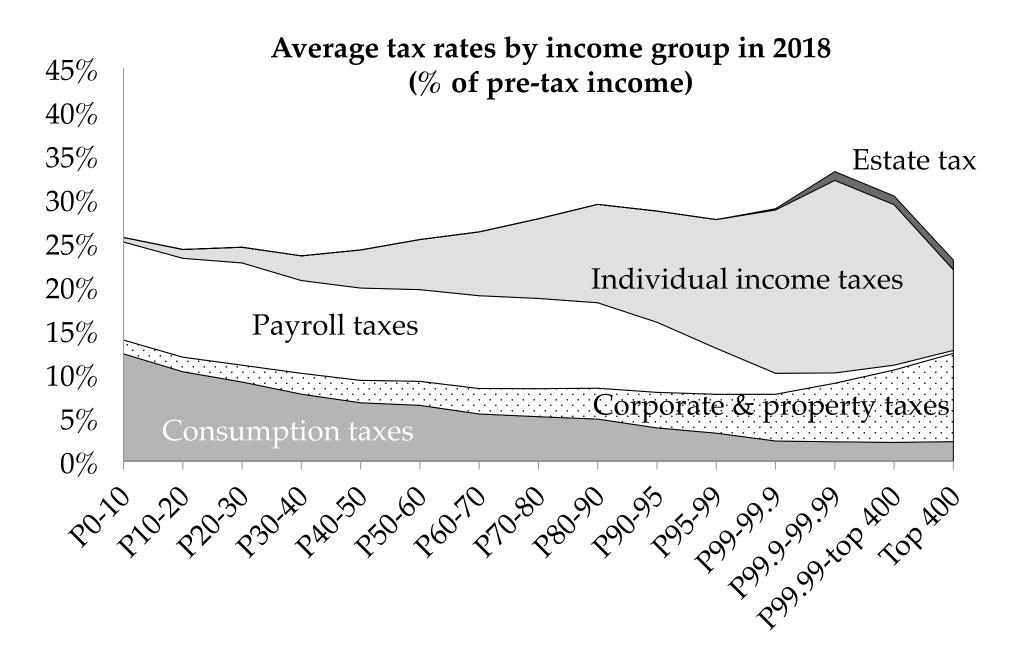




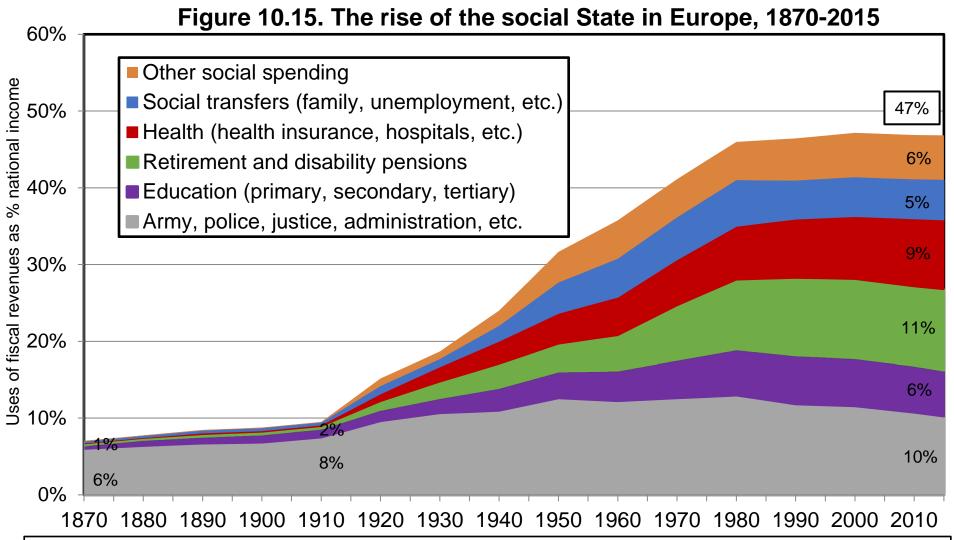
Outlays are projected to drop from recent highs as pandemic-related spending wanes and then trend upward, as they did before the pandemic. Revenues are projected to hover around their historical average as a share of the economy.

Data source: Congressional Budget Office. See www.cbo.gov/publication/57263#data.

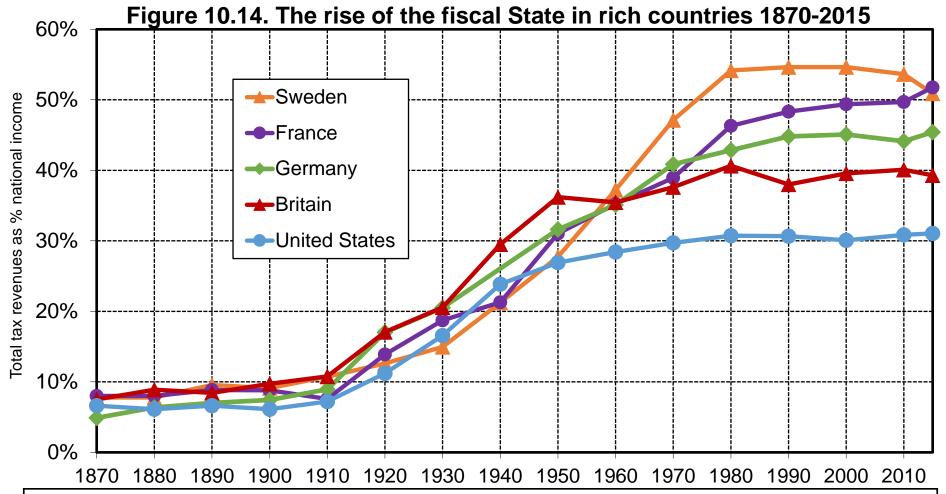
When October 1 (the first day of the fiscal year) falls on a weekend, certain payments that would have ordinarily been made on that day are instead made at the end of September and thus are shifted into the previous fiscal year. All projections presented here have been adjusted to exclude the effects of those timing shifts. Historical amounts have been adjusted as far back as the available data will allow.



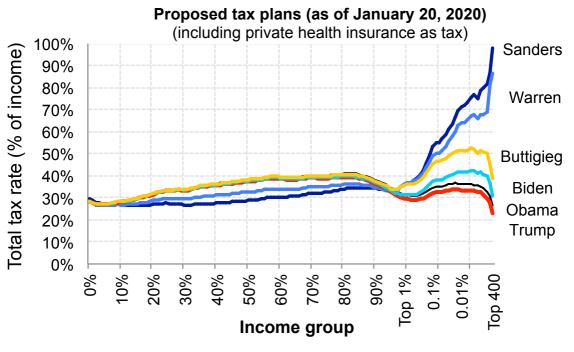
Source: Saez and Zucman (2019)



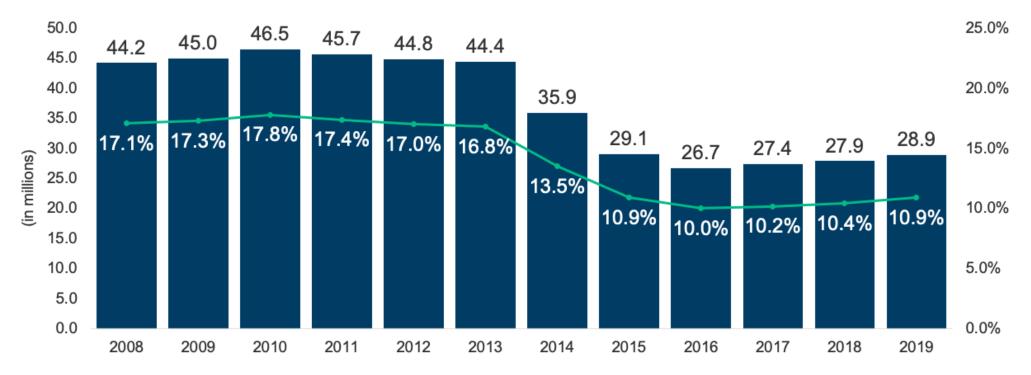
Interpretation. In 2015, fiscal revenues represented 47% of national income on average in Western Europe et were used as follows: 10% of national income for regalian expenditure (army, police, justice, general administration, basic infrastructure: roads, etc.); 6% for education; 11% for pensions; 9% for health; 5% for social transfers (other than pensions); 6% for other social spending (housing, etc.). Before 1914, regalian expenditure absorbed almost all fiscal revenues. **Note.** The evolution depicted here is the average of Germany, France, Britain and Sweden (see figure 10.14). Sources and séries: see piketty.pse.ens.fr/ideology.



Interpretation. Total fiscal revenues (all taxes and social contributions included) made less than 10% of national income in rich countries during the 19th century and until World War 1, before rising strongly from the 1910s-1920s until the 1970s-1980s and then stabilizing at different levels across countries: around 30% in the U.S., 40% in Britain and 45%-55% in Germany, France and Sweden. **Sources and series**: see piketty.pse.ens.fr/ideology.



Number of Uninsured and Uninsured Rate among the Nonelderly Population, 2008-2019



NOTE: Includes nonelderly individuals ages 0 to 64.
SOURCE: KFF analysis of 2008-2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.



GLOBAL TEMPERATURE & CARBON DIOXIDE

