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STEVEN VOGEL

PROFESSOR,
POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

THE PREDISTRIBUTION SOLUTION: HOW TO TACKLE INEQUALITY AT ITS ROOTS

Should the government compensate people for the inequalities that result from a market economy? Or should it restructure markets to generate less inequality in the first place? Addressing economic inequality requires both: redistributive and predistributive remedies. Nevertheless, this paper presents the case for giving priority to predistribution because this would be more just, more effective economically, and more feasible politically. 1) Predistribution is more fundamental because it seeks to address the causes of inequality whereas redistribution focuses more on the symptoms. 2) Predistribution is more just because it does not accept value extraction and then compensate for it, but rather strives to give workers fair wages and consumers fair value in the first place. 3) Predistribution strives to create more just and more efficient institutions rather than taking away from some and giving to others. 4) Predistribution is more respectful of human dignity because it favors fair wages and fair value over government aid. 5) Predistribution enhances democracy by balancing power in the economy. 6) Predistribution is more market-conforming because it seeks to make markets work better rather than to override them. 7) Predistribution is more feasible politically.