

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778454803321
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Titolo	A short history of distributive justice [[electronic resource] /] / Samuel Fleischacker
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, c2004
ISBN	0-674-26346-4 0-674-03698-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (205 p.)
Disciplina	340.115
Soggetti	Distributive justice
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 173-181) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- 1. From Aristotle to Adam Smith -- 2. The Eighteenth Century -- 3. From Babeuf to Rawls -- Epilogue -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The surprising finding of this book is that, contrary to conventional wisdom, global income inequality is decreasing. Critics of globalization and others maintain that the spread of consumer capitalism is dramatically polarizing the worldwide distribution of income. But as the demographer Glenn Firebaugh carefully shows, income inequality for the world peaked in the late twentieth century and is now heading downward because of declining income inequality across nations. Furthermore, as income inequality declines across nations, it is rising within nations (though not as rapidly as it is declining across nations). Firebaugh claims that this historic transition represents a new geography of global income inequality in the twenty-first century. This book documents the new geography, describes its causes, and explains why other analysts have missed one of the defining features of our era--a transition in inequality that is reducing the importance of where a person is born in determining his or her future well-being.