

THE
EQUALITY
EFFECT

Improving life for everyone

DANNY DORLING

Illustrations by
Ella Furness

Foreword by
Owen Jones

Contents

Foreword by Owen Jones	7
1 The Equality Effect	9
Why equality is better for everyone – rich or poor.	
The uninspiring nonsense of inequality advocates	
Inequality worldwide	
Inequality and class	
Equality and poverty	
How some countries recently set out to become more unequal	
Rich and poor in China and India	
The international landscape	
The incremental, imperceptible changes that add up to progress	
2 When we were more equal	51
Why the history of human equality may surprise you	
Hunting, fighting and feasting	
Hierarchy, conquest, revolution	
Empire and religion	
Renaissance, mercantilism, enlightenment	
Independent shocks and new thinking in Europe	
Communism, colonialism, capitalism	
Social democracy versus corporate greed	
3 Why children need greater equality	91
Setting sail for Utopia	
Equality and child mortality	
Singapore: the national equivalent of a country mansion	
Extreme inequality and Apartheid	
Sustainable Development Goals	
Learned ignorance	
Sewers as cathedrals of the commons	
4 Equality and the environment	121
The rich and the planet	
The meat-eating problem	
Using too much water	
World leaders in waste	
Carbon dioxide and consumption	

Gasoline (petrol) consumption	
Wasting young lives	
Ecological footprints	
Air travel	
Crimes committed	
Education and environment	
Cycling and walking	
5 Population, housing and migration	163
Why contraception was revolutionary	
The right to equal treatment	
Why women's rights change everything	
Fertility and income inequality	
Health and equality	
Housing: building equality	
Rent regulations in more equal European countries	
It does not have to happen all at once	
6 Where equality can be found	198
Why the weekend gives us a taste for equality	
Cuba, Costa Rica and Kerala	
Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland	
Crime, gender equality and intervention	
Japan, Germany, despair and hope	
Oases in apparent deserts of inequality	
Americans are becoming less happy	
7 Firing up the equality effect	228
How the rich are hiding their wealth	
The one per cent have the most to lose	
Not all is well in Spain	
Basic income and living wages	
The political labels of old	
How to ensure that taxes are paid	
Redistribution and reparation	
What we dream of	
Harmony	
List of Figures, Tables and Illustrations	270
Index	272