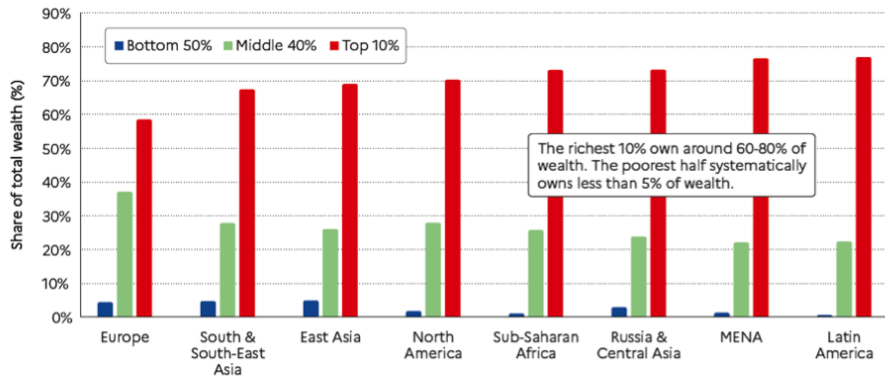


NEOLIBERALISM

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/apr/15/neoliberalism-ideology-problem-george-monbiot>

Figure 4 The extreme concentration of capital: wealth inequality across the world, 2021



Interpretation: The Top 10% in Latin America captures 77% of total household wealth, versus 22% for the Middle 40% and 1% for the Bottom 50%. In Europe, the Top 10% owns 58% of total wealth, versus 38% for the Middle 40% and 4% for the Bottom 50%. **Sources and series:** wir2022.wid.world/methodology.

1. How would you define neoliberalism as understood in this article?
2. How has the neoliberal ideology evolved over the years?
3. Tricky question: From this article's standpoint, if neoliberalism does not increase people's freedom, what kind of policy would? Why?
4. Who do the free trade agreements serve best according to the article? Why?

5. **What relationship is there between neoliberalism and bureaucracy?**

6. **Can the investment on privatised public services be regarded as a reward for merit? Why?**

7. **How has the hierarchy within the ranks of the rich evolved? Why?... Also, at the end of the article it is argued such hierarchy is a reversed version of what was the norm a hundred years ago. Can you explain it?**

8. **Name two reasons why our possibilities to influence collectively the course of our lives are shrinking according to the article.**

9. **What relationship is there between authoritarianism and public services?**

Bonus: If, according to the article, “the left” should be the force to offer an alternative, it follows that “the right” is behind neoliberalism. However, the advocates of neoliberalism tend to argue they are not on either side of the political spectrum and that, for instance, “the market” can provide us with better social services. Can you find a way out of this maze?