
Winner-Take-All Politics

How Washington Made the Rich Richer—
And Turned Its Back on the Middle Class

Jacob S. Hacker
and Paul Pierson

SIMON & SCHUSTER
New York London Toronto Sydney

C

Contents

Introduction: The Thirty-Year War 1

Part I: The Puzzling Politics of Winner-Take-All

- 1 The Winner-Take-All Economy 11
- 2 How the Winner-Take-All Economy Was Made 41
- 3 A Brief History of Democratic Capitalism 73

Part II: The Rise of Winner-Take-All Politics

- 4 The Unseen Revolution of the 1970s 95
- 5 The Politics of Organized Combat 116
- 6 The Middle Goes Missing 137

Part III: Winner-Take-All Politics

- 7 A Tale of Two Parties 163
- 8 Building a Bridge to the Nineteenth Century 194
- 9 Democrats Climb Aboard 223
- 10 Battle Royale 253

Conclusion: Beating Winner-Take-All 289

Acknowledgments 307

Notes 311

Index 341

About the Authors 359