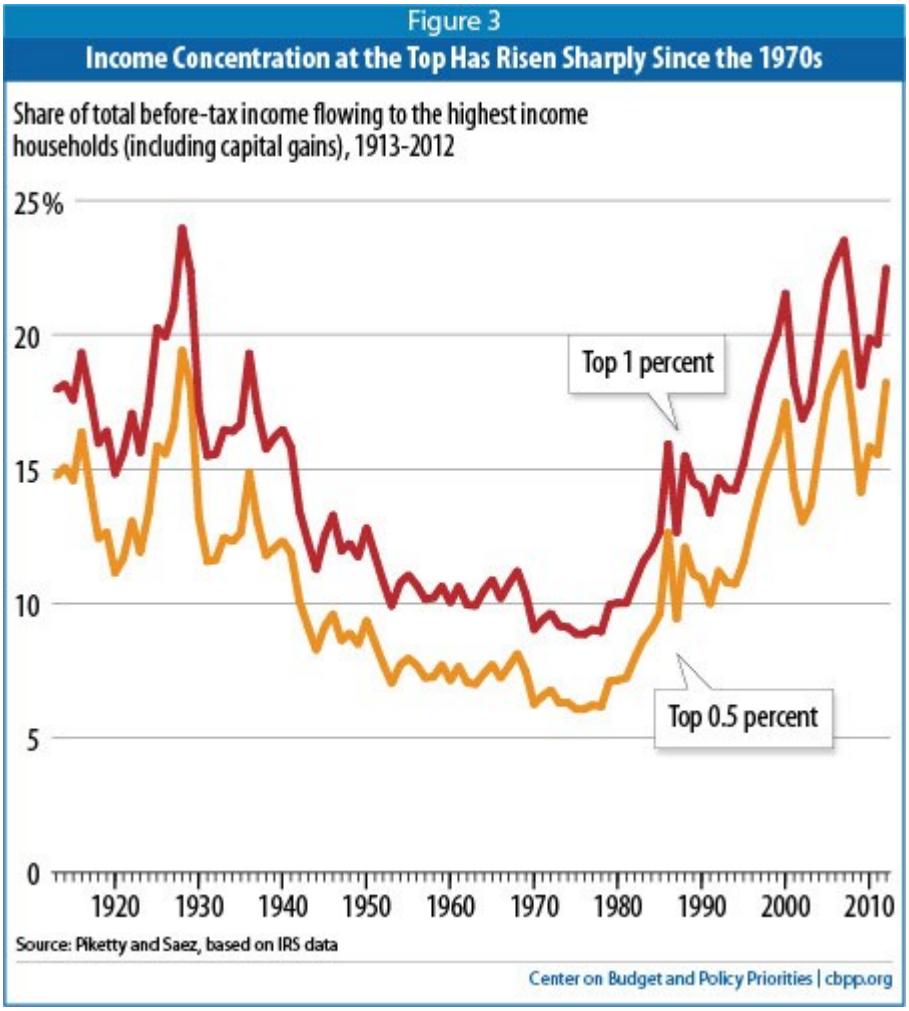

The most recent data confirm that these trends are continuing unabated. "Median household income, which was $50,054 in 2011, is about 9 percent lower than it was in 1999, after accounting for inflation."[30] Recall the meaning of "median": the family exactly in the middle, with half of families earning higher incomes and half earning lower incomes.

Why has the increased income from productivity gains gone increasingly to owners of capital rather than to labor? Most studies theorize that this trend—which is significantly more pronounced in America than in other countries—is mainly attributable to three factors: cheaper labor abroad (trade), the increased use of automation (technology), and trends that weaken labor's bargaining strength (changes in labor law and privatization). Please click and read the following article:

www.nytimes.com/2013/01/13/sunday-review/americas-productivity-climbs-but-wages-

[30] Annie Lowrey, *Incomes Flat in Recovery, But Not For the 1%*, at http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/16/business/economy/income-gains-after-recession-went-mostly-to-top-1.html. *See also* Annie Lowrey, *The Rich Get Richer Through the Recovery*, at http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/10/the-rich-get-richer-through-the-recovery (noting that the top 10% took home more than 50% of total U.S. income in 2012, which is "the highest level recorded since the government began collecting the relevant data a century ago" and that the top 1% took home more than 20% of total income, "one of the highest levels on record since 1913, when the government instituted an income tax").