Socio-economic mobility

There has been a relentless decline in absolute mobility from one generation to the next: from over 90 percent when Biden was born [in 1942] to around 50 percent for those who were born in the 1980s. In other words, if you were born in 1985, you are as likely to be less well off than your parents as you are to be richer. Just as the rise in mobility for Biden's generation was virtually unique, this subsequent fall is also greater than in almost any other country.

Fintan O'Toole, New York Review of Books, January 18, 2024