

State of the union

The poor state of so many Americans is in part a product of plutocratic politics: a relentless and systematic devotion to the interests of the very rich. ... a politics of low taxes, low social spending and high inequality is sustainable in a universal suffrage democracy only with a mixture of propaganda in favour of "trickle down" economics, splitting the less well off on cultural and racial lines, ruthless gerrymandering and outright voter suppression.

All this has indeed happened.

These are the politics of "pluto-populism" or of "greed and grievance".

They have been stunningly successful in making Republicans attractive to many in the white working class.

Martin Wolf, Financial Times, 2018/07/17