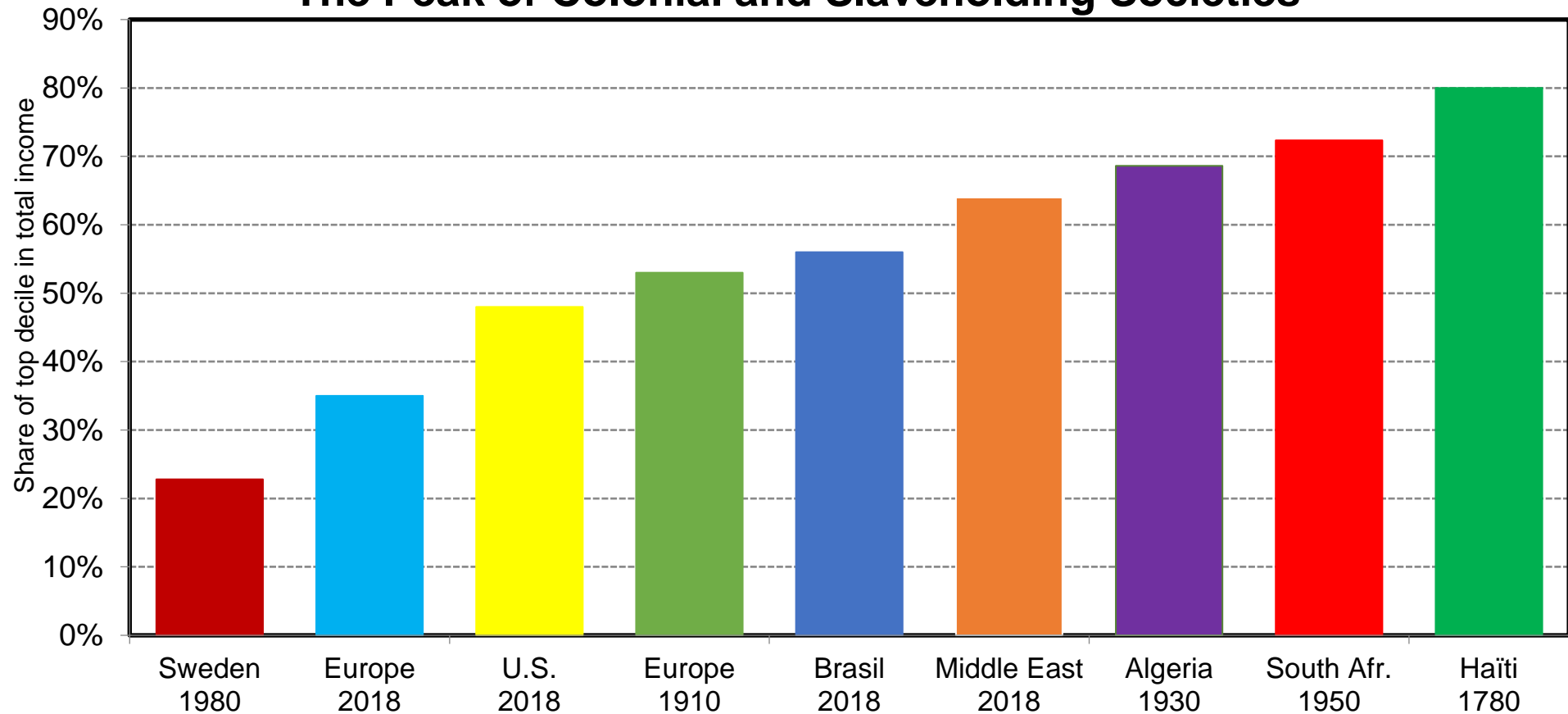


## Extreme Income Inequality in Historical Perspective: The Peak of Colonial and Slaveholding Societies



**Interpretation.** Over all observed societies, the share of total income received by the top 10% highest incomes varied from 23% in Sweden in 1980 to 81% in Saint-Domingue (Haïti) in 1780 (which included 90% of slaves). Colonial societies such as Algeria and South Africa have in 1930-1950 among the highest inequality levels ever observed in history, with about 70% of total income received by the top decile, which includes approximately the European population. Sources and series: voir [piketty.pse.ens.fr/equality](http://piketty.pse.ens.fr/equality) (figure 12)