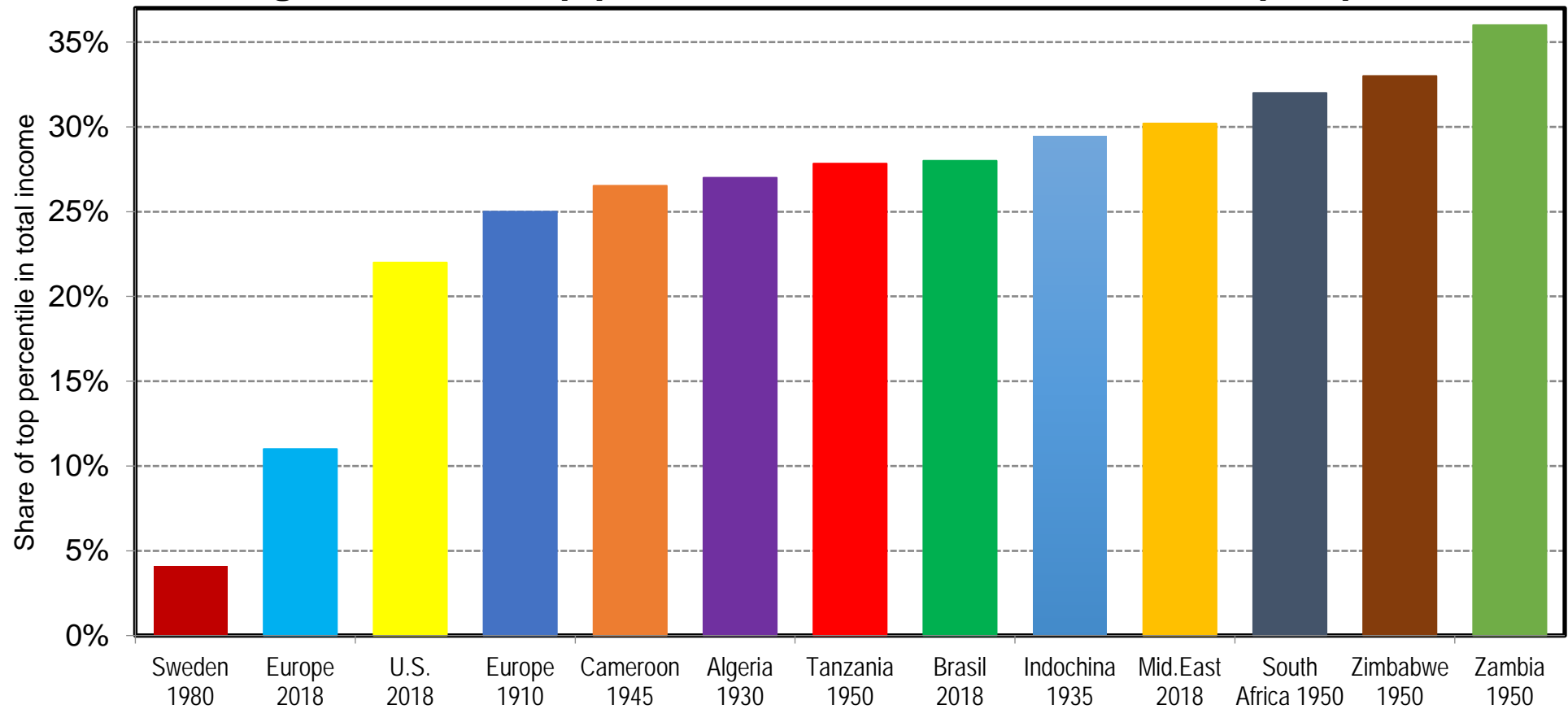


Figure 7.4. The top percentile in historical and colonial perspective



Interpretation. Over the set of all observed societies (with the exception of slave societies), the share of the top percentile (the top 1% highest incomes) in total income varies from 4% in Sweden in 1980 to 36% in Zambia in 1950. Colonial societies are among the most inegalitarian societies observed in history. Sources and series: see piketty.pse.ens.fr/ideology.