35% 30% Share of top percentile in total income 25% 20% 15% 10% 5% 0% Sweden Europe U.S. Cameroon Tanzania Mid.East South Zimbabwe Zambia Europe Algeria Brasil Indochina 1980 2018 2018 1910 1945 1930 1950 2018 1935 2018 Africa 1950 1950 1950

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.