

# legal equality definition economics

**legal equality definition economics** is a foundational concept in economic theory and policy analysis, shaping how societies design fair laws, regulations, and market systems. Legal equality refers to the principle that all individuals and entities are subject to the same laws and standards without discrimination, ensuring a level playing field in economic activities. Understanding the legal equality definition in economics is essential for grasping how laws impact market efficiency, individual opportunities, and overall economic growth. This article explores the core meaning of legal equality in economics, its historical evolution, its importance in contemporary markets, and the challenges faced in implementing true legal equality. We will also discuss its influence on economic development, policy-making, and social justice, using real-world examples and theoretical perspectives. Readers will gain a comprehensive overview of legal equality from both a legal and economic standpoint. Continue reading to discover how legal equality shapes economies and why it remains a critical topic in policy debates and economic research.

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## Legal Equality Definition in Economics

Legal equality in economics refers to the principle that all individuals, organizations, and entities have equal rights, responsibilities, and protections under the law within economic systems. This concept ensures that economic opportunities, access to resources, and participation in markets are not hindered by arbitrary legal distinctions such as race, gender, social class, or nationality. In economic theory, legal equality is seen as a prerequisite for fair competition and optimal resource allocation, minimizing market distortions caused by discriminatory laws or regulations. Legal equality supports the rule of law, transparency, and predictability in economic transactions, fostering trust and stability in markets.

Legal equality is closely related to concepts such as equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and impartiality. In practice, it means that laws governing property rights, contracts, labor, taxation, and business operations apply uniformly to all participants. By eliminating legal barriers and biases, legal equality enables merit-based advancement and innovation, contributing to higher productivity and economic growth.

## **Historical Evolution of Legal Equality**

### **Early Foundations and Philosophical Origins**

The idea of legal equality has roots in ancient legal systems and philosophical traditions. Early societies often had laws favoring elites or specific groups, but philosophers such as Aristotle and Enlightenment thinkers advocated for universal legal rights and equality before the law. The principle gained prominence in the 18th and 19th centuries with movements for civil rights, the abolition of slavery, and the establishment of democratic institutions.

### **Legal Equality in Modern Economic Thought**

In the modern era, legal equality became integral to economic theory and policy. Classical economists, including Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill, emphasized the importance of equal legal treatment for market efficiency and individual freedom. The expansion of legal equality in the 20th century saw the introduction of anti-discrimination laws, universal suffrage, and international human rights standards, further embedding the concept in economic governance.

## **Importance of Legal Equality in Economic Systems**

### **Promoting Fair Competition**

Legal equality ensures that all market participants are subject to the same rules, reducing unfair advantages or obstacles. This facilitates fair competition, encouraging businesses to innovate and improve efficiency rather than relying on legal privileges or protectionism.

### **Enhancing Social Mobility**

Equal treatment under the law allows individuals from diverse backgrounds to access education, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities. This enhances social mobility and helps reduce income inequality over time.

- Supports merit-based hiring and promotion

- Removes barriers to investment and business creation
- Facilitates access to financial services for all groups

## **Legal Equality and Market Efficiency**

### **Reducing Market Distortions**

When laws are applied unequally, market distortions can arise. For example, discriminatory property rights or licensing requirements can exclude certain groups from participating fully in the economy, leading to inefficiencies and wasted resources.

### **Encouraging Investment and Innovation**

Legal equality encourages domestic and foreign investment by assuring investors of predictable legal outcomes. Uniform laws reduce risks associated with arbitrary enforcement or discrimination, fostering innovation and long-term growth.

## **Challenges in Achieving Legal Equality**

### **Institutional Barriers**

Despite legal frameworks promoting equality, institutional barriers such as corruption, biased law enforcement, or regulatory capture can undermine true legal equality. These challenges are more pronounced in developing economies but can affect advanced economies as well.

### **Social and Cultural Factors**

Social norms, prejudices, and historical legacies may persist even when legal equality is formally established. Discrimination based on race, gender, or ethnicity can limit access to opportunities, necessitating further reforms and enforcement.

1. Corruption in law enforcement agencies
2. Discriminatory social practices
3. Lack of access to legal representation

#### 4. Poor implementation of equality laws

## **Legal Equality in Policy and Social Justice**

### **Role in Economic Policy-Making**

Policymakers use the principle of legal equality to design inclusive laws and regulations. Examples include equal pay legislation, anti-discrimination statutes, and universal access to public services. These policies aim to level the playing field and promote economic justice.

### **Impact on Poverty Reduction**

Legal equality is linked to poverty reduction by removing legal barriers that exclude disadvantaged groups from economic participation. Inclusive policies can improve access to education, healthcare, and employment, directly impacting economic well-being.

## **Examples of Legal Equality in Practice**

### **Anti-Discrimination Laws**

Countries around the world have enacted anti-discrimination laws to protect individuals from unfair treatment in employment, housing, and financial services. These laws are crucial for enforcing legal equality and enabling equal economic participation.

### **Universal Property Rights**

Legal reforms granting universal property rights allow individuals, regardless of gender or social status, to own and transfer assets. Such reforms have led to increased investment and entrepreneurship, particularly in emerging economies.

### **Fair Taxation Systems**

Progressive taxation and the elimination of arbitrary tax exemptions contribute to legal equality by ensuring that all taxpayers are treated fairly. Transparent tax laws and consistent enforcement are essential for a fair economic system.

# Summary of Key Insights

Legal equality definition economics is a cornerstone of efficient, fair, and inclusive economic systems. Its evolution has shaped modern markets, policy-making, and social justice, making it vital for sustainable growth and poverty reduction. While significant progress has been made, ongoing challenges in implementation highlight the need for vigilant reform and enforcement. Understanding legal equality in economics enables policymakers, businesses, and individuals to advocate for systems that create opportunities for all and foster long-term prosperity.

## **Q: What does legal equality mean in economics?**

A: Legal equality in economics means that all individuals and entities have the same rights and responsibilities under the law, ensuring fair access to economic opportunities and market participation without discrimination.

## **Q: Why is legal equality important for economic growth?**

A: Legal equality promotes fair competition, increases social mobility, encourages investment, and reduces market distortions, all of which contribute to sustainable economic growth.

## **Q: What are some examples of legal equality in economic policy?**

A: Examples include anti-discrimination laws, universal property rights, fair taxation systems, and equal pay legislation, all designed to provide equal opportunities in economic activities.

## **Q: How does legal equality affect market efficiency?**

A: Legal equality reduces barriers and biases in market transactions, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently and that competition is based on merit rather than privilege.

## **Q: What challenges hinder the implementation of legal equality?**

A: Challenges include institutional barriers like corruption, biased law enforcement, discriminatory social practices, and inadequate access to legal representation.

## **Q: How does legal equality contribute to poverty reduction?**

A: By removing legal barriers to economic participation, legal equality enables disadvantaged groups to access education, employment, and services, directly impacting poverty reduction.

## **Q: What is the relationship between legal equality and social justice?**

A: Legal equality is a key component of social justice, as it ensures that all individuals are treated fairly under the law, supporting inclusive and equitable economic systems.

## **Q: Can legal equality exist without social equality?**

A: While legal equality relates to equal treatment under the law, social equality addresses broader issues like wealth and opportunity distribution. Legal equality is necessary but not sufficient alone for full social equality.

## **Q: How do international organizations promote legal equality in economics?**

A: International organizations advocate for legal reforms, monitor human rights compliance, and support countries in establishing laws that promote equal economic participation.

## **Q: What role do property rights play in legal equality?**

A: Universal property rights ensure all individuals have the legal ability to own, transfer, and benefit from assets, which is essential for equal economic participation and growth.

## **[Legal Equality Definition Economics](#)**

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## **Legal Equality Definition Economics: A Fair Playing Field?**

Introduction:

The phrase "legal equality" sounds simple enough: everyone is treated the same under the law. But when we delve into the realm of economics, the reality becomes far more nuanced. This post will dissect the definition of legal equality within an economic context, exploring its implications for market efficiency, social welfare, and broader societal equity. We'll uncover how seemingly equal

legal frameworks can perpetuate economic inequality and examine strategies for creating a truly level playing field. Get ready to unravel the complexities of legal equality and its profound impact on economic outcomes.

### What is Legal Equality? A Definition in the Economic Context:

Legal equality, in its purest form, signifies that all individuals and entities are subject to the same laws and legal processes, regardless of their background, social status, or economic standing. This implies equal access to justice, equal protection under the law, and equal opportunity to pursue economic activities. However, the economic reality often deviates significantly from this ideal. The definition needs to be broadened to include the impact of the law, not simply its textual form. A law might be ostensibly equal but its practical application might disproportionately affect certain groups, leading to unequal economic outcomes. This requires a critical examination of legal frameworks through an economic lens.

### H2: The Economic Implications of Legal Inequality:

Legal inequality, or the unequal application of the law, can have devastating economic consequences. Consider these points:

#### H3: Market Inefficiency:

When specific groups face systematic barriers to market participation due to discriminatory laws or their unequal enforcement, market efficiency suffers. For example, laws that historically restricted women or minorities from certain professions or property ownership created significant market distortions, hindering innovation and economic growth.

#### H3: Reduced Social Welfare:

Inequality fostered by biased legal systems directly impacts social welfare. When certain segments of the population are denied economic opportunities due to legal discrimination, they are more prone to poverty, reduced healthcare access, and lower educational attainment. This not only hurts those directly affected but also reduces overall societal well-being.

#### H3: Erosion of Trust and Social Capital:

A legal system perceived as unfair and biased erodes trust in institutions and undermines social capital. This can lead to increased social unrest, decreased investment, and slower economic development. A just and equitable legal system is a cornerstone of a thriving economy.

### H2: Beyond Formal Equality: The Importance of Substantive Equality:

Formal legal equality—the idea that everyone is subject to the same laws—is insufficient to achieve genuine economic equity. Substantive equality addresses the actual outcomes and recognizes that historical and systemic disadvantages require affirmative action to level the playing field. This might involve:

#### H3: Affirmative Action Policies:

These policies aim to counteract past and present discrimination by actively promoting equal opportunities for historically disadvantaged groups. Examples include quotas for underrepresented

groups in education or employment.

### H3: Redressing Historical Injustices:

Addressing past injustices, like reparations for slavery or forced labor, can help to rectify economic imbalances caused by discriminatory practices. This involves not only financial compensation but also addressing the ongoing social and economic consequences.

### H3: Targeted Legislation:

Laws specifically designed to address economic disparities based on gender, race, or other factors can help create a more equitable environment. Examples include pay equity legislation or policies aimed at increasing access to credit for underprivileged communities.

## H2: Measuring Legal Equality in Economics:

Measuring legal equality and its economic impacts is challenging. Economists use various tools:

### H3: Discriminatory Wage Gaps:

Analyzing wage gaps between different demographic groups helps highlight the impact of legal and social discrimination.

### H3: Access to Capital and Credit:

Studying disparities in access to loans and investment capital reveals inequalities stemming from discriminatory lending practices or legal frameworks.

### H3: Economic Mobility:

Examining intergenerational economic mobility shows whether legal frameworks facilitate upward mobility or perpetuate cycles of poverty.

## Conclusion:

Legal equality is not merely a legal concept; it's a cornerstone of a just and economically thriving society. While formal legal equality is crucial, a focus on substantive equality—addressing unequal outcomes and historical injustices—is essential to achieve a truly equitable economic system. Measuring these disparities and implementing corrective policies is paramount to building a society where everyone has a fair chance to succeed. The journey toward legal equality in economics is ongoing and requires continuous vigilance and proactive action.

## FAQs:

1. What's the difference between formal and substantive equality? Formal equality means everyone is subject to the same laws, while substantive equality focuses on ensuring equal outcomes, acknowledging historical disadvantages.



2. How can economic inequality perpetuate legal inequality? Economic disparities can influence access to legal representation and influence the application of laws, creating further inequality.
3. Can legal equality exist without economic equality? While legal equality is a necessary condition, it is not sufficient for achieving economic equality. Systemic biases and historical disadvantages require additional interventions.
4. What role do international human rights laws play in promoting legal equality? International human rights laws provide a framework for ensuring legal equality across nations, holding governments accountable for discrimination.
5. How can we measure the effectiveness of policies aimed at achieving legal equality? The effectiveness can be measured by analyzing changes in income inequality, access to resources, and representation in various sectors.

**legal equality definition economics: Against Equality of Opportunity** Matt Cavanagh, 2002-02-14 *Against Equality of Opportunity* deals with the ways in which opportunities - education, jobs and other things which affect how people get on in life - are distributed. Take jobs: should the best person always get the job? Or should everyone be given an equal 'life chance'? Or can we somehow combine these two ideas, saying that the best person should always get the job, but that everyone should have an equal chance to become the best? These seem to be the standard views, but this book argues that they are all flawed. We need to understand meritocracy for what it is - a technical rather than a moral ideal; and we need to accept that equality just isn't something we should be striving for at all in this area. We also need to rethink our approach to the related issue of discrimination. We tend to assume discrimination is wrong because it violates either meritocracy or equality, when in fact it is wrong for quite different reasons. In all these areas, then, Cavanagh aims to loosen the grip of established ways of thinking, in order that other ideas might find room to breathe. This is particularly important in the case of meritocracy, which after the recent conversion of the centre-left now dominates the debate more than ever. This book will be of interest to students and teachers of political philosophy, but ultimately it is aimed at anyone who cares about the fundamental values that lie behind the way society is organized. Though the argument is rigorous, it does not require a professional philosophical training to follow it.

**legal equality definition economics: Democracy, Liberty, and Equality** Robert A. Dahl, 1986 Here, esteemed political scientist Robert A. Dahl presents his unique contribution to an ongoing debate: What is the relationship between democracy, liberty, and equality? In the process, he proposes various alternative ways to attain these ideals in political life. His collection of essays reflects the continuing confrontation of three different theoretical visions--capitalism, socialism, and democracy--and assesses the relative merits of each as a means to achieving liberty and equality. Considering complex issues of democratic theory, Dahl ranges over such topics as the theory of democratic socialism, Marxism and free parties, democracy in the workplace, federalism in the democratic process, polyarchy, and pluralism.

**legal equality definition economics: The Economics of Discrimination** Gary S. Becker, 2010-08-15 This second edition of Gary S. Becker's *The Economics of Discrimination* has been expanded to include three further discussions of the problem and an entirely new introduction which considers the contributions made by others in recent years and some of the more important problems remaining. Mr. Becker's work confronts the economic effects of discrimination in the market place because of race, religion, sex, color, social class, personality, or other non-pecuniary considerations. He demonstrates that discrimination in the market place by any group reduces their own real incomes as well as those of the minority. The original edition of *The Economics of Discrimination* was warmly received by economists, sociologists, and psychologists alike for focusing

the discerning eye of economic analysis upon a vital social problem—discrimination in the market place. This is an unusual book; not only is it filled with ingenious theorizing but the implications of the theory are boldly confronted with facts. . . . The intimate relation of the theory and observation has resulted in a book of great vitality on a subject whose interest and importance are obvious.—M.W. Reder, *American Economic Review* The author's solution to the problem of measuring the motive behind actual discrimination is something of a tour de force. . . . Sociologists in the field of race relations will wish to read this book.—Karl Schuessler, *American Sociological Review*

**legal equality definition economics: A Theory of Justice** John RAWLS, 2009-06-30 Though the revised edition of *A Theory of Justice*, published in 1999, is the definitive statement of Rawls's view, so much of the extensive literature on Rawls's theory refers to the first edition. This reissue makes the first edition once again available for scholars and serious students of Rawls's work.

**legal equality definition economics: After Legal Equality** Robert Leckey, 2014-07-11 Groups seeking legal equality often take a victory as the end of the line. Once judgment is granted or a law is passed, coalitions disband and life goes on in a new state of equality. Policy makers too may assume that a troublesome file is now closed. This collection arises from the urgent sense that law reforms driven by equality call for fresh lines of inquiry. In unintended ways, reforms may harm their intended beneficiaries. They may also worsen the disadvantage of other groups. Committed to tackling these important issues beyond the boundaries that often confine legal scholarship, this book pursues an interdisciplinary consideration of efforts to advance equality, as it explores the developments, challenges, and consequences that arise from law reforms aiming to deliver equality in the areas of sexuality, kinship, and family relations. With an international array of contributors, *After Legal Equality: Family, Sex, Kinship* will be an invaluable resource for those with interests in this area.

**legal equality definition economics: Communities in Action** National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Health and Medicine Division, Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice, Committee on Community-Based Solutions to Promote Health Equity in the United States, 2017-04-27 In the United States, some populations suffer from far greater disparities in health than others. Those disparities are caused not only by fundamental differences in health status across segments of the population, but also because of inequities in factors that impact health status, so-called determinants of health. Only part of an individual's health status depends on his or her behavior and choice; community-wide problems like poverty, unemployment, poor education, inadequate housing, poor public transportation, interpersonal violence, and decaying neighborhoods also contribute to health inequities, as well as the historic and ongoing interplay of structures, policies, and norms that shape lives. When these factors are not optimal in a community, it does not mean they are intractable: such inequities can be mitigated by social policies that can shape health in powerful ways. *Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity* seeks to delineate the causes of and the solutions to health inequities in the United States. This report focuses on what communities can do to promote health equity, what actions are needed by the many and varied stakeholders that are part of communities or support them, as well as the root causes and structural barriers that need to be overcome.

**legal equality definition economics: Legal Secrets** Kim Lane Scheppele, 1988-11-15 Does the seller of a house have to tell the buyer that the water is turned off twelve hours a day? Does the buyer of a great quantity of tobacco have to inform the seller that the military blockade of the local port, which had depressed tobacco sales and lowered prices, is about to end? Courts say yes in the first case, no in the second. How can we understand the difference in judgments? And what does it say about whether the psychiatrist should disclose to his patient's girlfriend that the patient wants to kill her? Kim Lane Scheppele answers the question, Which secrets are legal secrets and what makes them so? She challenges the economic theory of law, which argues that judges decide cases in ways that maximize efficiency, and she shows that judges use equality as an important principle in their decisions. In the course of thinking about secrets, Scheppele also explores broader questions about

judicial reasoning—how judges find meaning in legal texts and how they infuse every fact summary with the values of their legal culture. Finally, the specific insights about secrecy are shown to be consistent with a general moral theory of law that indicates what the content of law should be if the law is to be legitimate, a theory that sees legal justification as the opportunity to attract consent. This is more than a book about secrets. It is also a book about the limits of an economic view of law. Ultimately, it is a work in constructive legal theory, one that draws on moral philosophy, sociology, economics, and political theory to develop a new view of legal interpretation and legal morality.

**legal equality definition economics:** *The Equality Trap*, Despite the feminist revolution of the past twenty years, most women in America are worse off today than at any time in the recent past. Magazines and television programs profile women bank executives, surgeons, and corporate lawyers, but the vast majority of women still work in relatively low-paying jobs. Women work more hours per week in the house and outside than ever before, and a paying job has become a necessity for women in most households. What went wrong? In this provocative book, Mary Ann Mason argues that the women's movement shares some of the blame for this situation. In an original analysis that draws on both social and legal history, she explains how the move away from women's rights toward equal rights has worsened the situation of American working women, especially working mothers. Because women are still the primary care-providers for their children, they must take flexible and relatively low-paying jobs to be available in case of a child-care problem. With nearly 50 percent of all marriages now ending in divorce, and with a growing trend-inspired by the equal rights movement-toward no-fault divorce and low- or no-alimony settlements, divorced mothers frequently find themselves economically devastated. Mary Ann Mason argues that the solution to this predicament is to draw up a new women's rights agenda that will benefit all working women, especially those with children. The equal-rights strategy was important in opening the door for the highly publicized super-achievers, but it is now time, she says, to improve the lives of the majority of America's working women. This book will be of interest to readers interested in gender studies, and particularly issues of equality and feminism. Mary Ann Mason is a professor of law and social welfare at the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to her law degree, Mason holds a Ph.D. in American social history.

**legal equality definition economics:** Economic and Social Rights in a Neoliberal World Gillian MacNaughton, Diane F. Frey, 2018-06-28 This multidisciplinary book examines the potential of economic and social rights to contest adverse impacts of neoliberalism on human wellbeing.

**legal equality definition economics:** **Empowering Women** Mary Hallward-Driemeier, Tazeen Hasan, 2012-10-04 This book provides compelling evidence from 42 Sub-Saharan African countries that gender gaps in legal capacity and property rights need to be addressed in terms of substance, enforcement, awareness, and access if economic opportunities for women in Sub-Saharan Africa are to continue to expand.

**legal equality definition economics:** Analyzing Oppression Ann E. Cudd, 2006 Analyzing Oppression presents a new, integrated theory of social oppression, which tackles the fundamental question that no theory of oppression has satisfactorily answered: if there is no natural hierarchy among humans, why are some cases of oppression so persistent? Cudd argues that the explanation lies in the coercive co-opting of the oppressed to join in their own oppression. This answer sets the stage for analysis throughout the book, as it explores the questions of how and why the oppressed join in their oppression. Cudd argues that oppression is an institutionally structured harm perpetrated on social groups by other groups using direct and indirect material, economic, and psychological force. Among the most important and insidious of the indirect forces is an economic force that operates through oppressed persons' own rational choices. This force constitutes the central feature of analysis, and the book argues that this force is especially insidious because it conceals the fact of oppression from the oppressed and from others who would be sympathetic to their plight. The oppressed come to believe that they suffer personal failings and this belief appears to absolve society from responsibility. While on Cudd's view oppression is grounded in material exploitation and physical deprivation, it cannot be long sustained without corresponding

psychological forces. Cudd examines the direct and indirect psychological forces that generate and sustain oppression. She discusses strategies that groups have used to resist oppression and argues that all persons have a moral responsibility to resist in some way. In the concluding chapter Cudd proposes a concept of freedom that would be possible for humans in a world that is actively opposing oppression, arguing that freedom for each individual is only possible when we achieve freedom for all others.

**legal equality definition economics: Crafting Equality** Celeste Michelle Condit, John Louis Lucaites, 2012-12-10 Philosophers and historians often treat fundamental concepts like equality as if they existed only as fixed ideas found solely in the canonical texts of civilization. In *Crafting Equality*, Celeste Michelle Condit and John Louis Lucaites argue that the meaning of at least one key word—equality—has been forged in the day-to-day pragmatics of public discourse. Drawing upon little studied speeches, newspapers, magazines, and other public discourse, Condit and Lucaites survey the shifting meaning of equality from 1760 to the present as a process of interaction and negotiation among different social groups in American politics and culture. They make a powerful case for the critical role of black Americans in actively shaping what equality has come to mean in our political conversation by chronicling the development of an African-American rhetorical community. The story they tell supports a vision of equality that embraces both heterogeneity and homogeneity as necessary for maintaining the balance between liberty and property. A compelling revision of an important aspect of America's history, *Crafting Equality* will interest anyone wanting to better understand the role public discourse plays in affecting the major social and political issues of our times. It will also interest readers concerned with the relationship between politics and culture in America's increasingly multi-cultural society.

**legal equality definition economics: Causes and Consequences of Income Inequality** Ms.Era Dabla-Norris, Ms.Kalpana Kochhar, Mrs.Nujin Suphaphiphat, Mr.Frantisek Ricka, Ms.Evridiki Tsounta, 2015-06-15 This paper analyzes the extent of income inequality from a global perspective, its drivers, and what to do about it. The drivers of inequality vary widely amongst countries, with some common drivers being the skill premium associated with technical change and globalization, weakening protection for labor, and lack of financial inclusion in developing countries. We find that increasing the income share of the poor and the middle class actually increases growth while a rising income share of the top 20 percent results in lower growth—that is, when the rich get richer, benefits do not trickle down. This suggests that policies need to be country specific but should focus on raising the income share of the poor, and ensuring there is no hollowing out of the middle class. To tackle inequality, financial inclusion is imperative in emerging and developing countries while in advanced economies, policies should focus on raising human capital and skills and making tax systems more progressive.

**legal equality definition economics: Not Enough** Samuel Moyn, 2018-04-10 “No one has written with more penetrating skepticism about the history of human rights.” —Adam Kirsch, *Wall Street Journal* “Moyn breaks new ground in examining the relationship between human rights and economic fairness.” —George Soros The age of human rights has been kindest to the rich. While state violations of political rights have garnered unprecedented attention in recent decades, a commitment to material equality has quietly disappeared. In its place, economic liberalization has emerged as the dominant force. In this provocative book, Samuel Moyn considers how and why we chose to make human rights our highest ideals while simultaneously neglecting the demands of broader social and economic justice. Moyn places the human rights movement in relation to this disturbing shift and explores why the rise of human rights has occurred alongside exploding inequality. “Moyn asks whether human-rights theorists and advocates, in the quest to make the world better for all, have actually helped to make things worse... Sure to provoke a wider discussion.” —Adam Kirsch, *Wall Street Journal* “A sharpening interrogation of the liberal order and the institutions of global governance created by, and arguably for, Pax Americana... Consistently bracing.” —Pankaj Mishra, *London Review of Books* “Moyn suggests that our current vocabularies of global justice—above all our belief in the emancipatory potential of human rights—need to be

discarded if we are work to make our vastly unequal world more equal... [A] tour de force." —Los Angeles Review of Books

**legal equality definition economics:** The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy David Estlund, 2012-07-19 This volume includes 22 new pieces by leading political philosophers, on traditional issues (such as authority and equality) and emerging issues (such as race, and money in politics). The pieces are clear and accessible will interest both students and scholars working in philosophy, political science, law, economics, and more.

**legal equality definition economics: Economic Dignity** Gene Sperling, 2020-05-05 "Timely and important . . . It should be our North Star for the recovery and beyond." —Hillary Clinton "Sperling makes a forceful case that only by speaking to matters of the spirit can liberals root their belief in economic justice in people's deepest aspirations—in their sense of purpose and self-worth." —The New York Times When Gene Sperling was in charge of coordinating economic policy in the Obama White House, he found himself surprised when serious people in Washington told him that the Obama focus on health care was a distraction because it was "not focused on the economy." How, he asked, was the fear felt by millions of Americans of being one serious illness away from financial ruin not considered an economic issue? Too often, Sperling found that we measured economic success by metrics like GDP instead of whether the economy was succeeding in lifting up the sense of meaning, purpose, fulfillment, and security of people. In *Economic Dignity*, Sperling frames the way forward in a time of wrenching change and offers a vision of an economy whose guiding light is the promotion of dignity for all Americans.

**legal equality definition economics: Philosophy of Law: A Very Short Introduction** Raymond Wacks, 2014-02-27 The concept of law lies at the heart of our social and political life. Legal philosophy, or jurisprudence, explores the notion of law and its role in society, illuminating its meaning and its relation to the universal questions of justice, rights, and morality. In this *Very Short Introduction* Raymond Wacks analyses the nature and purpose of the legal system, and the practice by courts, lawyers, and judges. Wacks reveals the intriguing and challenging nature of legal philosophy with clarity and enthusiasm, providing an enlightening guide to the central questions of legal theory. In this revised edition Wacks makes a number of updates including new material on legal realism, changes to the approach to the analysis of law and legal theory, and updates to historical and anthropological jurisprudence. ABOUT THE SERIES: The *Very Short Introductions* series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

**legal equality definition economics: Law/Society** John Sutton, 2001 A core text for the Law and Society or Sociology of Law course offered in Sociology, Criminal Justice, Political Science, and Schools of Law. \* John Sutton offers an explicitly analytical perspective to the subject - how does law change? What makes law more or less effective in solving social problems? What do lawyers do? \* Chapter 1 contrasts normative and sociological perspectives on law, and presents a brief primer on the logic of research and inference as it is applied to law related issues. \* Theories of legal change are discussed within a common conceptual framework that highlights the explanatory strengths and weaknesses of different arguments. \* Discussions of law in action are explicitly comparative, applying a consistent model to explain the variable outcomes of civil rights legislation. \* Many concrete, in-depth examples throughout the chapters.

**legal equality definition economics: Butterfly Politics** Catharine A. MacKinnon, 2019-04-02 "Sometimes ideas change the world. This astonishing, miraculous, shattering, inspiring book captures the origins and the arc of the movement for sex equality. It's a book whose time has come—always, but perhaps now more than ever." —Cass Sunstein, coauthor of *Nudge* Under certain conditions, small simple actions can produce large and complex "butterfly effects." *Butterfly Politics* shows how Catharine A. MacKinnon turned discrimination law into an effective tool against sexual abuse—grounding and predicting the worldwide #MeToo movement—and proposes concrete steps

that could have further butterfly effects on women's rights. Thirty years after she won the U.S. Supreme Court case establishing sexual harassment as illegal, this timely collection of her previously unpublished interventions on consent, rape, and the politics of gender equality captures in action the creative and transformative activism of an icon. "MacKinnon adapts a concept from chaos theory in which the tiny motion of a butterfly's wings can trigger a tornado half a world away. Under the right conditions, she posits, small actions can produce major social transformations." —New York Times "MacKinnon [is] radical, passionate, incorruptible and a beautiful literary stylist... Butterfly Politics is a devastating salvo fired in the gender wars... This book has a single overriding aim: to effect global change in the pursuit of equality." —The Australian "Sexual Harassment of Working Women was a revelation. It showed how this anti-discrimination law—Title VII—could be used as a tool... It was the beginning of a field that didn't exist until then." —U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**legal equality definition economics:** Economic and Social Justice David A. Shiman, 1999 On December 10, 1998, the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The U.S. Constitution possesses many of the political and civil rights articulated in the UDHR. The UDHR, however, goes further than the U.S. Constitution, including many social and economic rights as well. This book addresses the social and economic rights found in Articles 16 and 22 through 27 of the UDHR that are generally not recognized as human rights in the United States. The book begins with a brief history of economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as an essay, in question and answer format, that introduces these rights. Although cultural rights are interrelated and of equal importance as economic and social rights, the book primarily addresses justice regarding economic and social problems. After an introduction, the book is divided into the following parts: (1) Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Fundamentals; (2) Activities; and (3) Appendices. The nine activities in part 2 aim to help students further explore and learn about social and economic rights. The appendix contains human rights documents, a glossary of terms, a directory of resource organizations, and a bibliography of 80 web sites, publications and referrals to assist those eager to increase their understanding of, and/or move into action to address economic and social rights. (BT)

**legal equality definition economics:** Liberty and Equality Tibor R. Machan, 2013-09-01 This book takes an unflinching look at the difficult, often emotional issues that arise when egalitarianism collides with individual liberties, ultimately showing why the kind of egalitarianism preached by socialists and other sentimentalists is not an option in a free society.

**legal equality definition economics:** Pay Equity, Minimum Wage and Equality at Work Jill Rubery, 2003

**legal equality definition economics:** Women, Business and the Law 2021 World Bank, 2021-04-05 Women, Business and the Law 2021 is the seventh in a series of annual studies measuring the laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunity in 190 economies. The project presents eight indicators structured around women's interactions with the law as they move through their lives and careers: Mobility, Workplace, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension. This year's report updates all indicators as of October 1, 2020 and builds evidence of the links between legal gender equality and women's economic inclusion. By examining the economic decisions women make throughout their working lives, as well as the pace of reform over the past 50 years, Women, Business and the Law 2021 makes an important contribution to research and policy discussions about the state of women's economic empowerment. Prepared during a global pandemic that threatens progress toward gender equality, this edition also includes important findings on government responses to COVID-19 and pilot research related to childcare and women's access to justice.

**legal equality definition economics:** The Fourth Industrial Revolution Klaus Schwab, 2017-01-03 World-renowned economist Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, explains that we have an opportunity to shape the fourth industrial revolution, which will fundamentally alter how we live and work. Schwab argues that this revolution

is different in scale, scope and complexity from any that have come before. Characterized by a range of new technologies that are fusing the physical, digital and biological worlds, the developments are affecting all disciplines, economies, industries and governments, and even challenging ideas about what it means to be human. Artificial intelligence is already all around us, from supercomputers, drones and virtual assistants to 3D printing, DNA sequencing, smart thermostats, wearable sensors and microchips smaller than a grain of sand. But this is just the beginning: nanomaterials 200 times stronger than steel and a million times thinner than a strand of hair and the first transplant of a 3D printed liver are already in development. Imagine “smart factories” in which global systems of manufacturing are coordinated virtually, or implantable mobile phones made of biosynthetic materials. The fourth industrial revolution, says Schwab, is more significant, and its ramifications more profound, than in any prior period of human history. He outlines the key technologies driving this revolution and discusses the major impacts expected on government, business, civil society and individuals. Schwab also offers bold ideas on how to harness these changes and shape a better future—one in which technology empowers people rather than replaces them; progress serves society rather than disrupts it; and in which innovators respect moral and ethical boundaries rather than cross them. We all have the opportunity to contribute to developing new frameworks that advance progress.

**legal equality definition economics: Understanding the Well-Being of LGBTQI+ Populations** National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Committee on Population, Committee on Understanding the Well-Being of Sexual and Gender Diverse Populations, 2021-01-23 The increase in prevalence and visibility of sexually gender diverse (SGD) populations illuminates the need for greater understanding of the ways in which current laws, systems, and programs affect their well-being. Individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, transgender, non-binary, queer, or intersex, as well as those who express same-sex or -gender attractions or behaviors, will have experiences across their life course that differ from those of cisgender and heterosexual individuals. Characteristics such as age, race and ethnicity, and geographic location intersect to play a distinct role in the challenges and opportunities SGD people face. Understanding the Well-Being of LGBTQI+ Populations reviews the available evidence and identifies future research needs related to the well-being of SDG populations across the life course. This report focuses on eight domains of well-being; the effects of various laws and the legal system on SGD populations; the effects of various public policies and structural stigma; community and civic engagement; families and social relationships; education, including school climate and level of attainment; economic experiences (e.g., employment, compensation, and housing); physical and mental health; and health care access and gender-affirming interventions. The recommendations of Understanding the Well-Being of LGBTQI+ Populations aim to identify opportunities to advance understanding of how individuals experience sexuality and gender and how sexual orientation, gender identity, and intersex status affect SGD people over the life course.

**legal equality definition economics: The Crisis of the Middle-Class Constitution** Ganesh Sitaraman, 2017-03-14 In this original, provocative contribution to the debate over economic inequality, Ganesh Sitaraman argues that a strong and sizable middle class is a prerequisite for America’s constitutional system. A New York Times Notable Book of 2017 For most of Western history, Sitaraman argues, constitutional thinkers assumed economic inequality was inevitable and inescapable—and they designed governments to prevent class divisions from spilling over into class warfare. The American Constitution is different. Compared to Europe and the ancient world, America was a society of almost unprecedented economic equality, and the founding generation saw this equality as essential for the preservation of America’s republic. Over the next two centuries, generations of Americans fought to sustain the economic preconditions for our constitutional system. But today, with economic and political inequality on the rise, Sitaraman says Americans face a choice: Will we accept rising economic inequality and risk oligarchy or will we rebuild the middle class and reclaim our republic? The Crisis of the Middle-Class Constitution is a tour de force of

history, philosophy, law, and politics. It makes a compelling case that inequality is more than just a moral or economic problem; it threatens the very core of our constitutional system.

**legal equality definition economics: Marx and Social Justice** George E. McCarthy, 2017-11-01 In *Marx and Social Justice*, George E. McCarthy presents a detailed and comprehensive overview of the ethical, political, and economic foundations of Marx's theory of social justice in his early and later writings. What is distinctive about Marx's theory is that he rejects the views of justice in liberalism and reform socialism based on legal rights and fair distribution by balancing ancient Greek philosophy with nineteenth-century political economy. Relying on Aristotle's definition of social justice grounded in ethics and politics, virtue and democracy, Marx applies it to a broader range of issues, including workers' control and creativity, producer associations, human rights and human needs, fairness and reciprocity in exchange, wealth distribution, political emancipation, economic and ecological crises, and economic democracy. Each chapter in the book represents a different aspect of social justice. Unlike Locke and Hegel, Marx is able to integrate natural law and natural rights, as he constructs a classical vision of self-government 'of the people, by the people'.

**legal equality definition economics: The Age of Surveillance Capitalism** Shoshana Zuboff, 2019-01-15 The challenges to humanity posed by the digital future, the first detailed examination of the unprecedented form of power called surveillance capitalism, and the quest by powerful corporations to predict and control our behavior. In this masterwork of original thinking and research, Shoshana Zuboff provides startling insights into the phenomenon that she has named surveillance capitalism. The stakes could not be higher: a global architecture of behavior modification threatens human nature in the twenty-first century just as industrial capitalism disfigured the natural world in the twentieth. Zuboff vividly brings to life the consequences as surveillance capitalism advances from Silicon Valley into every economic sector. Vast wealth and power are accumulated in ominous new behavioral futures markets, where predictions about our behavior are bought and sold, and the production of goods and services is subordinated to a new means of behavioral modification. The threat has shifted from a totalitarian Big Brother state to a ubiquitous digital architecture: a Big Other operating in the interests of surveillance capital. Here is the crucible of an unprecedented form of power marked by extreme concentrations of knowledge and free from democratic oversight. Zuboff's comprehensive and moving analysis lays bare the threats to twenty-first century society: a controlled hive of total connection that seduces with promises of total certainty for maximum profit -- at the expense of democracy, freedom, and our human future. With little resistance from law or society, surveillance capitalism is on the verge of dominating the social order and shaping the digital future -- if we let it.

**legal equality definition economics: Citizenship and Social Class, and Other Essays** T H (Thomas Humphrey) Marshall, 2021-09-09 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. To ensure a quality reading experience, this work has been proofread and republished using a format that seamlessly blends the original graphical elements with text in an easy-to-read typeface. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

**legal equality definition economics: Social Justice in an Open World** , 2006 The International Forum for Social Development was a 3 year project undertaken by the United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs between 2001 and 2004 to promote international cooperation for social development and supporting developing countries and social groups not benefiting from the globalization process. This publication provides an overview and interpretation of the discussions and debates that occurred at the four meetings of the Forum for Social Development held at the United Nations headquarters in New York, within the framework of the implementation of the



outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.

**legal equality definition economics:** *The Changing Structure of International Economic Laws* Pieter VerLoren van Themaat, 1981-08-31 Study on changing structure of international law and economic legislation - discusses definition, historical background, institutional framework, role of international organizations, comparative law and legal theory contributing to the debate on a new international economic order; includes a literature survey and the text of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (General Assembly Resolution No. 3281).

**legal equality definition economics: Feminist Legal Theory (Second Edition)** Nancy Levit, Robert R.M. Verchick, 2016-01-15 In the completely updated second edition of this outstanding primer, Nancy Levit and Robert R.M. Verchick introduce the diverse strands of feminist legal theory and discuss an array of substantive legal topics, pulling in recent court decisions, new laws, and important shifts in culture and technology. The book centers on feminist legal theories, including equal treatment theory, cultural feminism, dominance theory, critical race feminism, lesbian feminism, postmodern feminism, and ecofeminism. Readers will find new material on women in politics, gender and globalization, and the promise and danger of expanding social media. Updated statistics and empirical analysis appear throughout. At its core, *Feminist Legal Theory* shows the importance of the roles of law and feminist legal theory in shaping contemporary gender issues--Unedited summary from book cover.

**legal equality definition economics: Trade and Gender** Anh-Nga Tran-Nguyen, Americo Beviglia Zampetti, 2004 Equal rights between men and women are enshrined as a fundamental human right in the UN Charter, and reflected in various internationally agreed instruments, such as the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Although there has been notable progress in some areas, in most nations women are still at a disadvantage in terms of their role and position in the economic and political arenas. This publication examines the gender dimension of trade and seeks to identify policy challenges and responses to promote gender equality in light of increasing globalisation. Issues discussed include: economics of gender equality, international trade and development; multilateral negotiations on agriculture in developing countries; gender-related issues in the textiles and clothing sectors; international trade in services; gender and the TRIPS Agreement; the impact of WTO rules on gender equality; human rights aspects; fair trade initiatives; the role of IT in promoting gender equality, the Gender Trade Impact Assessment and trade reform.

**legal equality definition economics: Equal Justice** Frederick Wilmot-Smith, 2019-10-08 A philosophical and legal argument for equal access to good lawyers and other legal resources. Should your risk of wrongful conviction depend on your wealth? We wouldn't dream of passing a law to that effect, but our legal system, which permits the rich to buy the best lawyers, enables wealth to affect legal outcomes. Clearly justice depends not only on the substance of laws but also on the system that administers them. In *Equal Justice*, Frederick Wilmot-Smith offers an account of a topic neglected in theory and undermined in practice: justice in legal institutions. He argues that the benefits and burdens of legal systems should be shared equally and that divergences from equality must issue from a fair procedure. He also considers how the ideal of equal justice might be made a reality. Least controversially, legal resources must sometimes be granted to those who cannot afford them. More radically, we may need to rethink the centrality of the market to legal systems. Markets in legal resources entrench pre-existing inequalities, allocate injustice to those without means, and enable the rich to escape the law's demands. None of this can be justified. Many people think that markets in health care are unjust; it may be time to think of legal services in the same way.

**legal equality definition economics: The Relevant Market in International Economic Law** Christian A. Melischek, 2013 An in-depth analysis of 'product likeness' in GATT law - the key concept for the application of the non-discrimination principle.

**legal equality definition economics: Economy, Society and Public Policy** The Core Team, 2019 *Economy, Society, and Public Policy* is a new way to learn economics. It is designed specifically for students studying social sciences, public policy, business studies, engineering and other

disciplines who want to understand how the economy works and how it can be made to work better. Topical policy problems are used to motivate learning of key concepts and methods of economics. It engages, challenges and empowers students, and will provide them with the tools to articulate reasoned views on pressing policy problems. This project is the result of a worldwide collaboration between researchers, educators, and students who are committed to bringing the socially relevant insights of economics to a broader audience.

**KEY FEATURES** ESPP does not teach microeconomics as a body of knowledge separate from macroeconomics. Students begin their study of economics by understanding that the economy is situated within society and the biosphere. Students study problems of identifying causation, not just correlation, through the use of natural experiments, lab experiments, and other quantitative methods. Social interactions, modelled using simple game theory, and incomplete information, modelled using a series of principal-agent problems, are introduced from the beginning. As a result, phenomena studied by the other social sciences such as social norms and the exercise of power play a role. The insights of diverse schools of thought, from Marx and the classical economists to Hayek and Schumpeter, play an integral part in the book. The way economists think about public policy is central to ESPP. This is introduced in Units 2 and 3, rather than later in the course.

**legal equality definition economics:** *The International Economic Law Revolution and the Right to Regulate* Joel P. Trachtman, 2006 A collection of 13 previously published articles.

**legal equality definition economics: Natural Resource Economics** S. V. Ciriacy-Wantrup, 2019-04-09 This volume was assembled by two of Dr. Wantrup's students as a complement to his textbook, *Resource Conservation: Economics and Policies*. Wantrup's ideas on conservation economics continued to evolve in ways that were never fully reflected in that text, and although for the student of natural resource economics it is still essential reading, to st

**legal equality definition economics: Brownlie's Principles of Public International Law** James Crawford, Ian Brownlie, 2019 Serving as a single volume introduction to the field as a whole, this ninth edition of Brownlie's *Principles of International Law* seeks to present international law as a system that is based on, and helps structure, relations among states and other entities at the international level.

**legal equality definition economics:** *Why Does Inequality Matter?* Thomas Scanlon, 2018 Inequality is widely regarded as morally objectionable: T. M. Scanlon investigates why it matters to us. He considers the nature and importance of equality of opportunity, whether the pursuit of greater equality involves objectionable interference with individual liberty, and whether the rich can be said to deserve their greater rewards.

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