

What's a Fair Start?

什么是公平的起点

What do we deserve?

我们该得到什么?

2 Principles:

- 1) wouldn't trade off our fundamental rights and liberties for any economic advantages.
- 2): unequal income & wealth, test: benefit every one, especially those at the bottom

基本权利

自由

底层人民

精英主义

Race 比赛

The Principle of Meritocracy

- starting line 起跑线 (family, education)
- natural lottery, given gift. (natural distribution)

The Difference Principle — John Rawls

Those who have been favored by nature, whoever they are, may gain from their good fortune only on terms that improve the situation of those who have lost out.

You set up a system, where everyone, including those at the bottom, benefit from exercise of the talents held by those who happen to be lucky.

Effort:

- depends on family fortune.

Birth

- first order

WHAT DO WE DESERVE

THEORIES OF DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

1. Libertarian 自由 - free market system
2. Meritocratic 绩效 - fair equality of opportunity (~ bring everyone to the same starting point)
3. Egalitarian 平均主义 - Rawls' difference principle

1) Jobs open to everyone → The result is not going to be fair.  
= Jobs for rich, well education → unfairness)

2) fastest runner win

3) racing and benefit the poor  
pay differential // is it fair??

- A justice of supreme court \$200k
- School teacher \$42k
- NBA \$30M
- Judge Judy 法官 \$25M (TV)

### OBJECTIONS TO DIFFERENCE PRINCIPLE

1. What about incentives? 激励 Tax rate
2. What about effort? isn't really effort. 傻傻努力?
3. What about self-ownership? 自我所有权 I own my talents

Life is not fair. Leveling equality is a disaster.  
same starting point

Rawls' answer:

Facts, neither just nor unjust.

What is just and unjust is the way that institutions deal with these facts.


Effort isn't everything. Contribution matters.

## Case Study.

- game of chance: lottery, not morally deserved it. (entitle) 有权
- game of skill: deserve to win (deserve) 应得

The Society put value on certain talents.

enable us to provide what society wants.

- In capitalist <sup>资本</sup> society it helps to entrepreneurial drive.
- In bureaucratic society it helps to get on easily and smoothly with your superiors. <sup>上级</sup>
- In a mass <sup>宣传</sup> democratic <sup>民主</sup> society it helps to look good on television,  and speak in short, superficial sound bites.
- In a litigious society it helps to go to law school and helps the talents to do well on SATs
- In a hunting <sup>讨论</sup> <sup>狩猎</sup> society, ...

those at the bottom on our society, might reward more on other society.

first born > work hard