STATISTICS from PLUTOCRACY IN AMERICA

**Income Inequality** – In the 1970s the top 1% earned about 10% of the national income. In 2007, the richest 1% took home 23.5% of all income.

**The Extreme Rich** – In 2010, the top 0.01%, 15,000 households, had an average income of $23.8 million. By 2012, the top 10% was taking home over half of all income, the highest proportion since 1913.

**The Near-Poor** - In 2012 the number of low-income families in this category grew by 200,000. There are now around 50 million people technically not in poverty but with incomes less than 50% above the poverty line.

**Outsized CEO Pay** – CEO pay was 20 to 30 times a worker’s pay in the 50s and 60s, but in the 2000s it surged to as much as 400 times a worker’s pay.

**Falling Corporate taxes** – A reduction in tax rates and an increase in legal loopholes have resulted in corporate taxes falling from 6% of US GDP in the 1950s to 1.6% in 2010, thus contributing less money to pay for U.S. infrastructure.

**Unfair Tax System** – In 2011 Warren Buffet revealed that his 17% tax rate was roughly half of the tax rate paid by his secretary.

**Predatory Loans** – There are now 2 store-front loan shops for ever 1 Starbucks location in the US. These modern loan sharks are part of a $30billion industry.

**Higher Minimum Wage** – Studies show a higher minimum wage will NOT cost jobs, but will reduce US poverty by 2%.

**Unemployment** - The government’s figure of 9 million unemployed, for an unemployment rate of 5.8%, fails to count workers who, after being without a job for roughly a year, have stopped looking. The Economic Policy Institute estimates that there are as many as 5,750,000 or more “missing workers” who should be included in that figure.
Poverty - During the 2000s the poverty rate in the United States was over 15% of the population. In 2012, roughly 47–50 million Americans were living in poverty.

Child Poverty - Among the 21 member nations in the OECD, the United States has the most children living in poverty (23.1%), almost five times as many as Iceland, with the lowest rate (4.7%).

U.S. vs The World - A 2007 OECD study found economic mobility lower in the United States than in Denmark, Australia, Norway, Finland, Canada, Sweden, Spain, and France.

Education - High-poverty U.S. high schools have a graduation rate of 68%, and only 28% of their graduates attend four-year colleges, compared with 52% of the graduates from low-poverty schools.

U.S. Education vs The World – The U.S. had a 78.2% high school graduation rate in 2010, while the European Union had an 85% rate in 2008.

For more information, visit: