**To what extent does the coronavirus pandemic give economies the opportunity to create fairer societies?**

The French economist Thomas Piketty has recently published a new book, [Capital and Ideology](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/sep/09/thomas-pikettys-new-magnum-opus-published-on-thursday) (2019), a sweep through 1,000 years of the history of inequality. His earlier work, Capital in the Twenty First Century, was a bestseller. The new book explores the ineffectiveness of the traditional parties of left and right at coming up with solutions for redistributing wealth, and advances his own ideas for making economies fairer. You can read a very brief review of some of those ideas here: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/sep/09/thomas-pikettys-new-magnum-opus-published-on-thursday>

Piketty suggests that the global crisis gives a unique opportunity for governments to create fairer societies - here is a link to an interview with him in the Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/12/will-coronavirus-lead-to-fairer-societies-thomas-piketty-explores-the-prospect>

Currently governments worldwide are racing to protect their populations from the economic effects of lockdown, with furlough schemes and support for businesses, and spending huge sums in the process. Today the BBC website says that the UK government faces a ‘World War 2-sized bill’ for tackling the virus (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52662613> ).

As this massive spending takes place, and political ideology around government spending, debt and inequality flexes to accommodate it, is there an opportunity to bring about a fundamental change in society? The ideas of another economist, Kate Raworth, share some similarities. Her book Doughnut Economics, explores a new model, in which the goal of economic activity should be about meeting the core needs of all but within the means of the planet. Her approach is being embraced by the city of Amsterdam, whose authorities see the period of rebuilding in a post-Covid-19 world as a time to embrace this sustainable approach. ( <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/08/amsterdam-doughnut-model-mend-post-coronavirus-economy?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other> )

Using the links above and of your own research, answer the following question: **To what extent does the coronavirus pandemic give economies the opportunity to create fairer societies?**

* Your answer must include an evaluation of the sources you have used, with explanation of why you chose some and rejected others in order to form your analysis and conclusions.