INCOME DIFFERENCES

Question: Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...
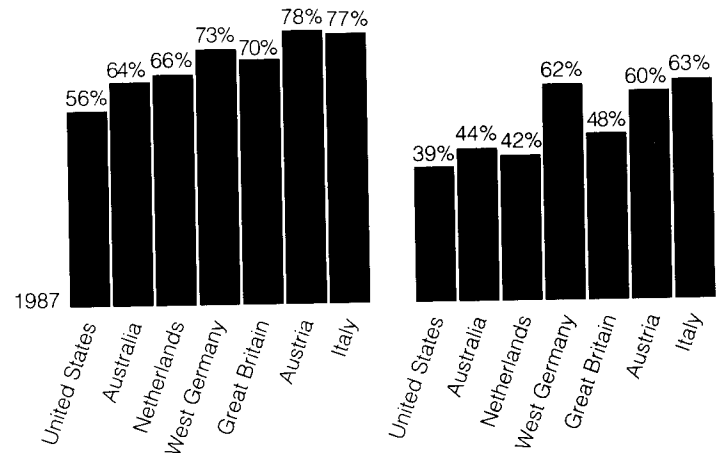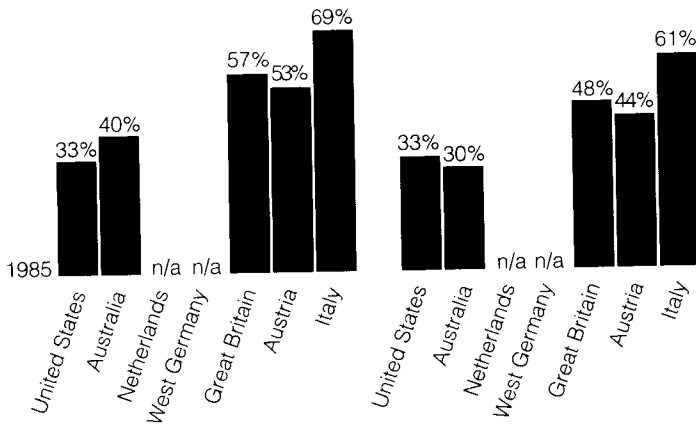
■ Low Income

Question: Do you agree or disagree with each of these statements?

■ High Income

Agree strongly/agree what you achieve in life depends largely on your family's background

1985: United States 33%, Australia 40%, Netherlands n/a, West Germany n/a, Great Britain 57%, Austria 53%, Italy 69%; United States 33%, Australia 30%, Netherlands n/a, West Germany n/a, Great Britain 48%, Austria 44%, Italy 61%

Strongly agree/agree inequality continues to exist because it benefits the rich and powerful

1987: United States 56%, Australia 64%, Netherlands 66%, West Germany 73%, Great Britain 70%, Austria 78%, Italy 77%; United States 39%, Australia 44%, Netherlands 42%, West Germany 62%, Great Britain 48%, Austria 60%, Italy 63%
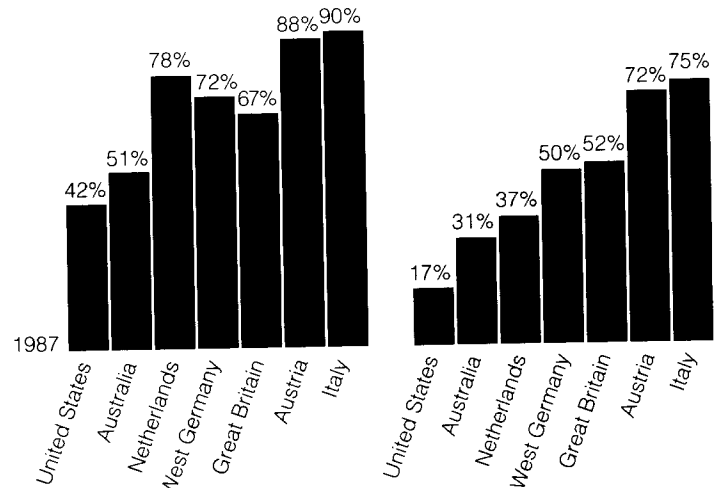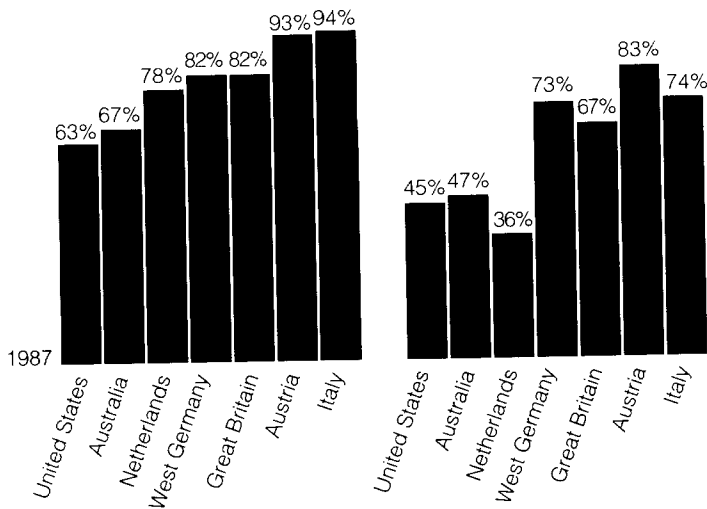
Question: Please show how much you agree or disagree with each statement...

Question: Please show how much you agree or disagree with each statement...

Agree strongly/agree differences in income are too large

1987: United States 63%, Australia 67%, Netherlands 78%, West Germany 82%, Great Britain 82%, Austria 93%, Italy 94%; United States 45%, Australia 47%, Netherlands 36%, West Germany 73%, Great Britain 67%, Austria 83%, Italy 74%

Agree strongly/agree it is the responsibilty of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes

1987: United States 42%, Australia 51%, Netherlands 78%, West Germany 72%, Great Britain 67%, Austria 88%, Italy 90%; United States 17%, Australia 31%, Netherlands 37%, West Germany 50%, Great Britain 52%, Austria 72%, Italy 75%
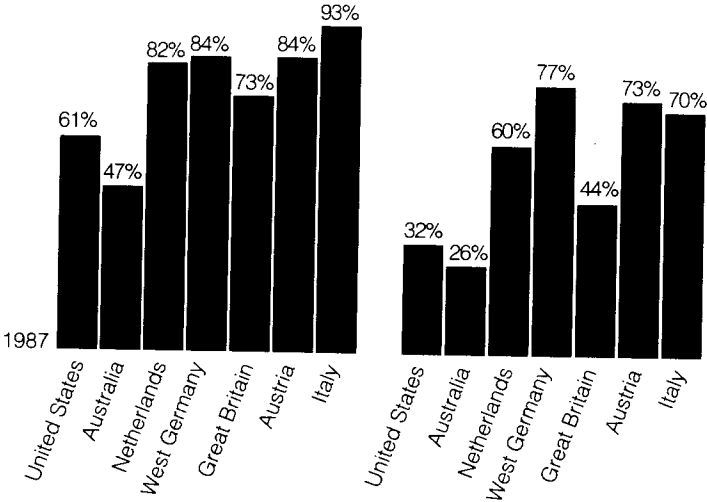
Differences by low and high incomes in this multicountry assessment go in the expected directions. Lower-income Americans stand out again as least likely to favor income redistribution.

Question: Please show how much you agree or disagree with each statement...
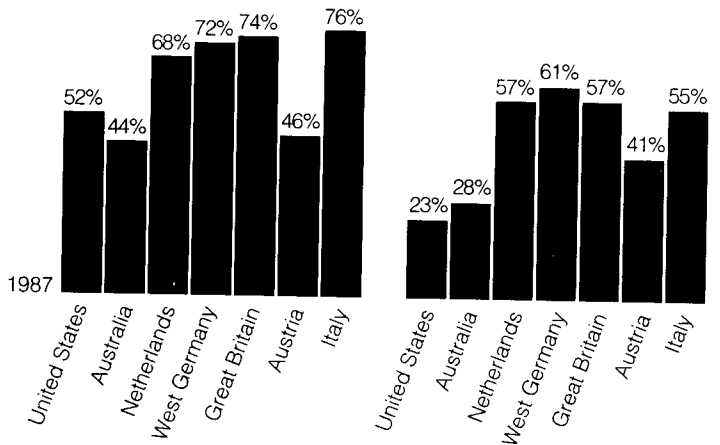
■ Low Income   ■ High Income

Agree strongly/agree the government should provide a job for everyone who wants one

1987

United States 61%, Australia 47%, Netherlands 82%, West Germany 84%, Great Britain 73%, Austria 84%, Italy 93%
United States 32%, Australia 26%, Netherlands 60%, West Germany 77%, Great Britain 44%, Austria 73%, Italy 70%

Agree strongly/agree the government should provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed

1987

United States 52%, Australia 44%, Netherlands 68%, West Germany 72%, Great Britain 74%, Austria 46%, Italy 76%
United States 23%, Australia 28%, Netherlands 57%, West Germany 61%, Great Britain 57%, Austria 41%, Italy 55%
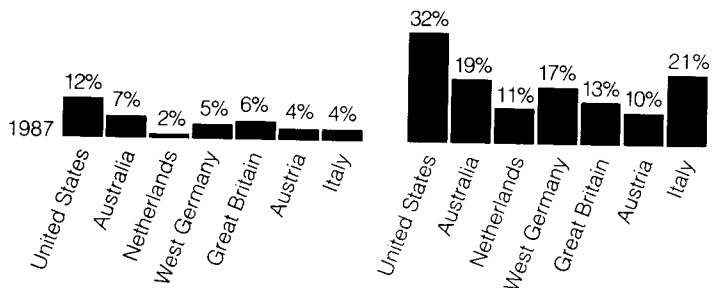
Question: Please show how much you agree or disagree with each statement...

Agree strongly/agree the government should provide everyone with a guaranteed basic income

1987

United States 33%, Australia 47%, Netherlands 58%, West Germany 66%, Great Britain 71%, Austria 68%, Italy 80%
United States 12%, Australia 28%, Netherlands 39%, West Germany 45%, Great Britain 47%, Austria 53%, Italy 53%
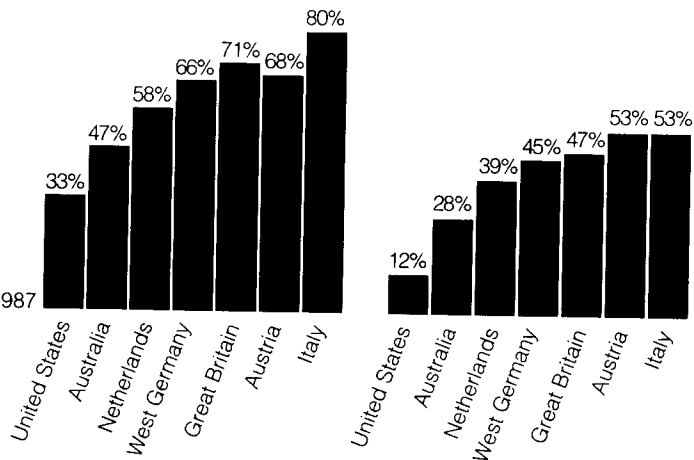
Question: In our society there are groups which tend to be toward the top and groups which tend to be toward the bottom. Below is a scale that runs from top to bottom. Where would you put yourself in this scale?

Percent putting themselves in one of the top three groups in society

1987

United States 12%, Australia 7%, Netherlands 2%, West Germany 5%, Great Britain 6%, Austria 4%, Italy 4%
United States 32%, Australia 19%, Netherlands 11%, West Germany 17%, Great Britain 13%, Austria 10%, Italy 21%

Low-income people in every country want more from government than do those with high incomes. But low-income Americans typically want much less than their counterparts elsewhere.