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The rise and fall of kings: globalization and class mobility

We introduce a nonlocal model of wealth distribution in a society that incorporates a spatial component of individual members. The resulting wealth distribution depends critically on the interaction distance. When this distance is small, a few individuals (which we call "kings") accrue most of the society's wealth and class mobility disappears: the kings persist in time. We call this regime the "feudal state". On the other hand, when the interaction is more global, the wealth of individuals fluctuates with time, preventing any single individual from dominating over long time periods, thus increasing class mobility. We show that there is a critical interaction distance (which we compute) at which the society "bifurcates" from the feudal state to a more socially mobile society.