

## Financial Crises Causes Consequences And Policy Responses

Contents: (1) Recent Developments and Analysis; (2) The Global Financial Crisis and U.S. Interests: Policy; Four Phases of the Global Financial Crisis; (3) New Challenges and Policy in Managing Financial Risk; (4) Origins, Contagion, and Risk; (5) Effects on Emerging Markets: Latin America; Russia and the Financial Crisis; (6) Effects on Europe and The European Response: The European Framework for Action; The British Rescue Plan; Collapse of Iceland's Banking Sector; (7) Impact on Asia and the Asian Response: Asian Reserves and Their Impact; National Responses; (8) International Policy Issues: Bretton Woods II; G-20 Meetings; The International Monetary Fund; Changes in U.S. Regs. and Regulatory Structure; (9) Legislation.

This book on financial crises is written at a time when the whole world is facing another crisis, a different one this time; one that is related to our health, as well as the economy in a painful manner. The first chapter of this book focuses on the economic effects of this crisis with particular emphasis on the financial sector. The remainder of the book presents a selection of readings related to the GFC. These touch upon issues such as corporate governance; the effect of the collapse of the Lehman Brothers on the net-worth of financial and non-financial firms; securitization and why the alchemy “did not work”; and finally, a case-study on Turkey and in particular the Turkish short-term interest rates and exchange rates and their relationship to political developments.

The Financial Crisis Inquiry Report, published by the U.S. Government and the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission in early 2011, is the official government report on the United States financial collapse and the review of major financial institutions that bankrupted and failed, or would have without help from the government. The commission and the report were implemented after Congress passed an act in 2009 to review and prevent fraudulent activity. The report details, among other things, the periods before, during, and after the crisis, what led up to it, and analyses of subprime mortgage lending, credit expansion and banking policies, the collapse of companies like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and the federal bailouts of Lehman and AIG. It also discusses the aftermath of the fallout and our current state. This report should be of interest to anyone concerned about the financial situation in the U.S. and around the world. THE FINANCIAL CRISIS INQUIRY COMMISSION is an independent, bi-partisan, government-appointed panel of 10 people that was created to "examine the causes, domestic and global, of the current financial and economic crisis in the United States." It was established as part of the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009. The commission consisted of private citizens with expertise in economics and finance, banking, housing, market regulation, and consumer protection. They examined and reported on "the collapse of major financial institutions that failed or would have failed if not for exceptional assistance from the government." News Dissector DANNY SCHECHTER is a journalist, blogger and filmmaker. He has been reporting on economic crises since the 1980's when he was with ABC News. His film In Debt We Trust warned of the economic meltdown in 2006. He has since written three books on the subject including Plunder: Investigating Our Economic Calamity (Cosimo Books, 2008), and The Crime Of Our Time: Why Wall Street Is Not Too Big to Jail (Disinfo Books, 2011), a companion to his latest film Plunder The Crime Of Our Time. He can be reached online at www.newsdissector.com.

The Global Financial Crisis  
Iceland's Economic and Financial Crisis  
Causes, Consequences and Policy Options  
Financial Crisis

Financial Crises: Causes, Consequences, and Policy Responses

The Final Report of the National Commission on the Causes of the Financial and Economic Crisis in the United States Including Dissenting Views

The Great Financial Crisis

The global economy has experienced four waves of rapid debt accumulation over the past 50 years. The first three debt waves ended with financial crises in many emerging market and developing economies. During the current wave, which started in 2010, the increase in debt in these economies has already been larger, faster, and broader-based than in the previous three waves. Current low interest rates mitigate some of the risks associated with high debt. However, emerging market and developing economies are also confronted by weak growth prospects, mounting vulnerabilities, and elevated global risks. A menu of policy options is available to reduce the likelihood that the current debt wave will end in crisis and, if crises do take place, will alleviate their impact.

The recent global financial crisis is considered to be the most severe crisis which has led to a synchronised recession since the Great Depression in the 1930s. Europe is the most affected region in the world as a result of this crisis, and, as such, the sovereign debt crisis remains the most important issue in the Eurozone and threatens the future of the EU. This book provides answers, from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, to the following questions: What caused the global and European debt crises? What are the consequences of these crises? Why, despite the implementation of several policy measures, are these crises still affecting the world economy? What are the solutions to end the on-going crisis situation in the Eurozone? How can future crisis episodes in the world economy be prevented? Eleven quality papers from both academics and professionals are included in this volume, each of which provides a significant source, reference, and teaching supplement for researchers, policymakers and advanced graduate students. In addition, the papers collected here will also provide supplementary readings for advanced courses for graduate students in economics and European studies.

Explores the multiple roots of the crisis, including the build-up of global economic imbalances, the explosion in the use of novel financial instruments, the mismanagement of risk, and the specific roles played by housing and debt.

The Financial Crisis - Causes & Cures

Causes, Consequences and Implications

Financial Crises:

Global financial crisis

Structured Finance and the 2007-2008 Financial Crisis

Causes, Consequences, Cures

A Selection of Readings

The recent global financial crisis the world economy is facing is the worst economic recession in the world history since the great depression; combined with other crisis making these critical threats to global stability.

The global financial crisis has a significant impact and has spread considerably to various places worldwide. It is to elaborate the root causes of the crisis in order to address the prevailing crisis and prevent future financial meltdown. This research will critically analyze the root causes of financial crisis and its consequences. With reference to South Asia, the financial crisis strike at a time when the region had barely recovered from severe terms of trade shocks emanating from the global food and fuel price crisis. The research will analyze the consequences of the recent financial crisis in the region considering that the South Asian countries have the capability of executing number of facts for them to minimize the adverse effects of the crisis enabling them to pave the way for a resumption of rapid growth.

The impact of the Global Financial Crisis was felt in 2008 and its repercussions are still with us today. In this book, the authors set the context for examining the crisis by looking at a regional crisis that occurred a decade earlier but whose lessons about financial fragility were soon forgotten. The authors then move to the present and discuss the views of a number of economists who to various degrees predicted or forewarned of the impending crisis. In the second chapter, the elements that caused the latest and current problems in the U.S. and consequently to all economies of the world, due to the systemic risk of globalisation, are determined. The third chapter advocates the intangible and tacit knowledge in the knowledge based society of the 21st century, exacerbates the problem of moral agency in today's organisations, making the boundaries and accountability of decision-making especially vague and ambiguous. The authors apply this concept as a means to enhance the moral agency to organisations in the context of the knowledge based society, and as a key part of responsible leadership after the global financial crisis of 2008. The fourth chapter reviews aspects of the new rules that apply to investment firms and to banks, making comment on individual provisions as necessary. In the last chapter, the serious effects of a bubble and its burst in small countries in Central and Eastern Europe are looked at and discussed in detail.

This paper reviews the literature on financial crises focusing on three specific aspects. First, what are the main factors explaining financial crises? Since many theories on the sources of financial crises highlight the importance of sharp fluctuations in asset and credit markets, the paper briefly reviews theoretical and empirical studies on developments in these markets around financial crises. Second, what are the major types of financial crises? The paper focuses on the main theoretical and empirical explanations of four types of financial crises—currency crises, sudden stops, debt crises, and banking crises—and presents a survey of the literature that attempts to identify these episodes. Third, what are the real and financial sector implications of crises? The paper briefly reviews the short- and medium-run implications of crises for the real economy and financial sector. It concludes with a summary of the main lessons from the literature and future research directions.

The European Debt Crisis

The Financial Crisis Inquiry Report

Causes, Consequences and Cures

The Great Trade Collapse: Causes, Consequences and Prospects

Financial Crises—causes, Consequences and Remedies

Understanding the Global Financial Crisis

Causes, Contagion and Consequences

**In a world of increasing uncertainty it is vital that managers within the tourism industry are equipped with superior decision making skills and expertise necessary to deal with crisis conditions. Tourism Crises provides an effective synthesis of crisis management and tourism research with a solid theoretical foundation. It examines the principles and practices of crisis management within the context of tourism as a multi-sector industry. Using up to date international case studies, it tackles the following areas:**

- **Political disturbance:** the relationship between politics and tourism and political inspired tourism crises.
- **Social unrest:** host-guest relations and tourists as targets of unrest
- **Economic instability:** crises arising from fluctuating exchange rates and lack of investor confidence
- **Environmental conditions:** natural disasters and health crises
- **Technological crises;** transport accidents and crises arising from technical failure
- **Corporate crises.** Human resource issues and questions of finance

With a user-friendly learning structure, each chapter will assess the presence of and tendency towards particular types of crisis, supported by a series of examples and cases, which describe organisational situations, challenges and responses. Approaches to managing crises will be assessed and appropriate tools and techniques of crisis management are explored, enabling readers to gain an insight into this critical aspect of tourism decision making and equipping them with the skills and expertise necessary to deal with crisis conditions.

**\* The first student focussed textbook to coherently tackle this significant and important area**

**\* Examines the principles and practices of crisis management within the context of the tourism industry**

**\* Uses up to date international case studies involving terrorism, environmental crises, health crises and technological crises, which have had major impacts on the industry.**

**Inhaltsangabe:Introduction: The fundamental motive of this thesis is to locate the main catalysts that caused the 2007/2008 financial crisis, and the rationale of their unique interaction. The three primary avenues used to layout the analysis are the Structured Finance Instruments involved, the parties concerned and the channels that exacerbated the rapidity of the spread that ultimately increased the severity of the crunch. Chapter One lays an overview of the Structured Finance Instruments prevalent in the financial spectrum, of which the main instruments that, contributed to the triggering and propagation of the financial turmoil are demonstrated and explained. Chapter Two exemplifies the pre-cursors of the crisis which began in the sub-prime sector of the United States. The vital triggers that caused the bust of the subprime bubble are further illustrated as well. Chapter Three examines the varying involvement of the contributing instruments to the rapid propagation and displays the connecting link between the Structured Finance Instruments and the very source of the turmoil. Chapter Four illustrates in depth the involvement of the three vital players (the Rating Agencies, Banks and the Regulatory/Supervisory Institutions) and their effect on the propagation of the crisis. Chapter Five analyses the two main regulatory catalysts that contributed to the crunch through Pro-cyclicality and will also examine the role and consequences of mark-to-market Fair Value Accounting and Minimum Capital Adequacy Requirements (Basel II Accord). Chapter Six will present a post crisis status quo with recommendations and remedies for relevant counter-cyclical mechanisms. Inhaltsverzeichnis:Table of Contents: TABLE OF CONTENTS I ABBREVIATIONS III LIST OF FIGURES IV GLOSSARY VI INTRODUCTION AND CHANNELING OF THE RESEARCH 10 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF CREDIT RISK TRANSFER INSTRUMENTS 11 1.1 Securitization 13 1.1.1 Mortgage Backed Securities (MBS) 16 1.1.2 Asset Backed Commercial Papers (ABCP) 17 1.1.3 Cash Flow Collateralised Debt Obligations (CDOs) 19 1.2 Credit Derivatives and Hybrid Products 20 1.2.1 Single Name CDOs 20 1.2.2 Synthetic CDOs 23 1.3 Re-Securitization 24 1.3.1 ABS CDOs 24 1.3.2 CDO 226 2. THE PRECURSORS AND TRIGGERS OF THE CRISIS 29 2.1 Soft Macroeconomic Environment in the United States and the Vulnerability of Banks 29 2.1.1 The Soft Macroeconomic Environment 29 2.1.2 The Vulnerability of Banks 29 2.2 The Augmentation of Subprime Mortgages 30 2.3 Increased [...]**

**The trajectories of increasing household debt are studied in the contexts of the US and the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland and Norway. Household Debt and Economic Crises examines remedies to prevent and alleviate the over-indebtedness epidemic, creating a conceptual framework with which to analyse the causes and consequences of debt. Hiilamo argues that social policies are needed to tackle the current borrowing crisis that endangers and prevents the full participation in society of individuals with excessive debts.**

**The financial crisis. A critical analysis of its causes and consequences**

**Crash and Beyond**

**The Dollar Crisis**

**Editorial**

**Household Debt and Economic Crises**

**World Financial Crisis**

**Causes, Consequences and Impact on Economic Growth**

Presents the first theoretical analysis of the Asian financial crisis and draws out the general lessons of an event whose potential long term effects have been likened to those of the Crash of 1929. Part I presents a factual and analytic overview of what happened: the role of 'vulnerability'; the interconnection between currency crises and financial crises; and why crisis turned into collapse. Part II considers more detailed issues, including how the inflation of non-traded goods prices created vulnerability, welfare-reducing capital inflow owing to under-regulated financial markets, and the onset of speculative attacks. Part III assesses all aspects of contagion, in particular the role of geographic proximity. The final section addresses policy issues. Joseph Stiglitz argues that there is much that can be done to reduce the frequency of crises and to mitigate the severity of crises when they happen. The book finishes with a round-table discussion of policy issues.

Seminar paper from the year 2015 in the subject Economics - Finance, grade: 1,7, University of Applied Sciences Essen, language: English, abstract: In 2007 the biggest financial crisis after the ‘Great Depression’ of 1939 took place. One theoretical framework explaining financial crises of that kind was envisioned by Hyman P. Minsky (1919-1996) in the latter half of the 20th century and was not considered in this context for a long time. The most prominent part of the theoretical framework, the financial instability hypothesis (FIH), emphasises that “modern capitalist system is prone to bouts of relative instability and financial collapse. When the storm in 2007 broke it was discovered again and the world began to talk about a ‘Minsky moment’.

Prominent economics called the theory a required reading and championed it as visionary. Therefore it is no surprise that the book about his FIH was traded at prices over 2000 US\$ right after the financial crisis. Until the year 2007 the economic world followed another school of thought. The so-called neoclassic described a world in which financial crises would only occur if ex-ogenous shocks would disturb the self-regulating power of the markets. In detail this is called the efficient market hypothesis (EMH). In addition means this that financial crises caused by systemically reason are not part of the theoretical model. On the contrary, Minsky described a cyclical model which tries to implement loan relationships, financial institutions, financial innovations and uncertainty in the analysis of the modern capitalism. An emphasis lays on the financing structure of different economic players and the role of financial institutions regarding their influence on the real economy. Minsky's theory is based on the whole economic cycle and really tries to explain how financial crises are actually caused. Additionally other authors see the thoughts of Minsky as an acknowledged theory regarding financial crises in the past. Although all these factors make the theory interesting for the recent crisis and different economics had called the financial crisis a Minsky moment a huge discussion if the theory is really applicable came up. Further if the theory is really applicable the next question would be which consequences have been drawn in order to prevent another crisis.

The lingering effects of the economic crisis are still visible—this shows a clear need to improve our understanding of financial crises. This book surveys a wide range of crises, including banking, balance of payments, and sovereign debt crises. It begins with an overview of the various types of crises and introduces a comprehensive database of crises. Broad lessons on crisis prevention and management, as well as the short-term economic effects of crises, recessions, and recoveries, are discussed.

causes, consequences and impacts on South Asian countries and policy recommendations

Causes, Consequences, Measures and Remedies

Financial Globalisation

Global Waves of Debt

Types, Causes and Consequences

Understanding Financial Crises

Causes, Consequences, and Lessons of the Financial Crisis

Economic and financial crises have become perennial features of today's global economy. Macroeconomic theories of crisis, including the global crisis that unfolded in 2008, emphasize the role of financial deregulation; capital flow imbalances; and growing debt, fueled by income and wealth inequality. These approaches tend to be divorced from feminist thinking which analyzes broader distributional dynamics transmitted through structural channels and government policy responses, with an emphasis on gender, race, class and ethnicity. This volume brings together innovative thinking from heterodox macroeconomists and feminist economists to explore the causes, consequences, and ramifications of economic crises. By doing so, it highlights aspects of the economy that are frequently overlooked or ignored, such as the impact of crises on the vast amount of unpaid work which women perform relative to men. The collection of international studies assembled here takes an innovative approach to analyzing a range of issues, from the subprime mortgage crisis to the gendered effects of austerity to the role of the International Monetary Fund in governing an unstable global economy. In so doing, it looks beyond causes and consequences and points to new directions for macroeconomic and financial policy. This book was originally published as a special issue of Feminist Economics.

Financial Crises: Causes, Consequences, and Policy Responses provides a comprehensive overview of research into financial crises and policy lessons learned. The book covers a wide range of crises, including banking, balance of payments, and sovereign debt crises. It begins with an overview of the various types of crises and introduces a comprehensive database of crises. Broad lessons on crisis prevention and management, as well as the short-term economic effects of crises, recessions, and recoveries are discussed. The medium-term effects of financial crises on economic growth, as well as policy measures to prevent booms, mitigate busts, and avoid crises are analyzed. Finally, policy measures for mitigating the adverse impact of crises and ways to restructure banks, households, and sovereigns are presented. The collection of research in this book provides an excellent overview of critical policy areas, with valuable lessons on how countries can better monitor their economies and financial systems.

This paper investigates empirically the drivers of financial imbalances ahead of the global financial crisis. Three factors may have contributed to the build-up of financial imbalances: (i) rising global imbalances (capital flows), (ii) monetary policy that might have been too loose, (iii) inadequate supervision and regulation. Panel data regressions are performed for OECD countries from 1999 to 2007, so as to shed light on the relative importance of these factors, as well as the extent to which these factors might have interacted in fuelling the build-up. We find that the build-up of financial imbalances was driven by capital inflows and an associated compression of the spread between long and short rates. The effect of capital inflows on the build-up is amplified where the supervisory and regulatory environment was relatively weak. We find that, by contrast, differences in monetary policy cannot account for differences across countries in the build-up of financial imbalances ahead of the crisis.

Causes, Consequences and Lessons Learned

Lessons from the Financial Crisis

Malfunctioning Money Systems (First Edition)  
Triggers, Responses and Aftermath  
Global Financial Crisis

Causes, Consequences, Ways of Overcoming

**Financial Crises: Causes, Consequences, and Policy Responses**International Monetary Fund

*The world's best financial minds help us understand today's financial crisis With so much information saturating the market for the everyday investor, trying to understand why the economic crisis happened and what needs to be done to fix it can be daunting. There is a real need, and demand, from both investors and the financial community to obtain answers as to what really happened and why. Lessons from the Financial Crisis brings together the leading minds in the worlds of finance and academia to dissect the crisis. Divided into three comprehensive sections-The Subprime Crisis; The Global Financial Crisis; and Law, Regulation, the Financial Crisis, and The Future-this book puts the events that have transpired in perspective, and offers valuable insights into what we must do to avoid future missteps. Each section is comprised of chapters written by experienced contributors, each with his or her own point of view, research, and conclusions Examines the market collapse in detail and explores safeguards to stop future crises Encompasses the most up-to-date analysis from today's leading financial minds We currently face a serious economic crisis, but in understanding it, we can overcome the challenges it presents. This well-rounded resource offers the best chance to get through the current situation and learn from our mistakes.*

*Financial Crisis, penned by Adrian Buckley, offers a fascinating close-up analysis of the causes of the 2007/8 financial crisis and its consequences placing the world of finance under the microscope, bringing together evidence of the involvement of banks, governments and regulators. It questions some of its most dangerous and dubious practices, witnessed while searching for the answer to the question: What really caused the financial crisis?*

Causes, Context and Consequences

A Financial Crisis Manual

Critical and Feminist Perspectives on Financial and Economic Crises

Financial Crises

Causes, Consequences, and Our Economic Future

Financial Crises Explanations, Types, and Implications

Causes and Consequences of the Global Financial Crisis

An Overview of Financial Crises around the World provides students with a sample of articles that analyze different episodes of financial crisis both in the United States and in other countries and regions of the world. Students learn the principal causes, consequences, and policy responses that emerge as a result of financial crises and build an understanding of the similarities of occurrences across nations. The articles within this volume are organized into four parts. In Part I, students are provided with an overview of financial crises theory. Part II explores two great crises, the Great Depression in the United States and the Asian financial crisis of the 1990s. In the third part, students examine country-specific crises, including Bolivia and its experiences with inflation, Iceland's banking crisis, Mexico's trade issues and fiscal reform, and crises that befell Thailand and Argentina. The text closes with a section dedicated to explaining the causes and consequences of the 2007 - 2009 financial crisis in the United States. Emphasizing the commonalities in financial crises on a global scale, An Overview of Financial Crises around the World is an ideal textbook for undergraduate courses in economics and finance.

Examines the rise of financialisation globally, charting drawbacks and prescribing suggestions for a definitive overhaul of the structure.

"The financial crisis has exposed several flaws in the institutional structures, incentive systems, regulations and supervisory structures of financial markets. The European Trade Union Institute, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Bertelsmann Stiftung have teamed up with Re-Define to publish this well-timed book which cuts through the technical jargon of financial reform underway in the EU and US, using easily understood metaphors and explains the working of the financial system, the causes of the crisis and the concepts and justifications for financial reform." -- Publisher.

Causes, Consequences and Cures of the Subprime Financial Crisis

Causes, Consequences, and Policy Responses

What Caused the Global Financial Crisis

The Asian Financial Crisis

Tourism Crises

Evidenceon the Drivers of Financial Imbalances 1999: 2007

Analysis and Policy Implications

*"A sobering, timely wake-up call to the looming dangers of a massive - critically necessary - correction in the U.S. Richard Duncan writes with immense clarity and experience, weaving historical material into a rich tapestry of disturbing patterns, warning that the world cannot afford to ignore the lessons of Asian and Latin American financial crises - and Japan's malaise - as an even greater economic threat looms. A must read, with economic seat belt buckled." - David H. Satterwhite, Managing Director, The Economist Conferences Corporate Network-Japan "Richard Duncan has written a fascinating study of history in the making. He is right to propose that we need joint efforts by different stakeholders to overcome a coming monetary crisis." - Frank J. Richter, Director, Asia, World Economic Forum "Hard on the heels of the collapse of the "new economy" is that of the "new finance". Richard Duncan crisply explains why payback time for years of US's credit excesses, payments imbalances and securitized sub-par lending is imminent. Mr Greenspan, your time is up. The wisdom of Ludwig von Mises will prevail." - Philip Bowring, Columnist, International Herald Tribune "Make no mistake - much of the discontent with the global financial system is rooted in the dollar standard. The risk of a dolar crisis is real and the author deserves much praise for clearly exposing a force that many seek to deny. A must read for anyone with a savings deposit." - Jesper Koll, Chief Economist, Merrill Lynch Japan "This is a welcome attempt at exploring the symptoms of what may become a major financial storm. Is the world wise to expect the problem to find its own solution? Richard Duncan's suggestions for a cure imply a degree of worldwide slump that may prove difficult to foster, but his arguments are worth listening to." - Philippe Delhaise, President, Capital Information Services Ltd*

*This book offers commentary and analysis on the catastrophic events which have recently confronted the international economy in the modern era and contrasts the current situation with other financial crises. It includes case studies on Lehman Brothers in the US, Babcock & Brown in Australia, and Northern Rock in the UK. Asking many pertinent questions about the causes of the crisis and its effects, the book explores fundamental themes such as: asset bubbles and speculation in the financial and non-financial markets, systemic risks and the role of regulation, and regulators. It also reviews the response of international institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank, the US Federal Reserve, the EU Central Bank and the G20. The book assesses the triggers of the crisis and evaluates rescue packages and policy responses as well as suggesting reform of regulatory and supervisory frameworks to maintain banking and modern financial systems in the future.*

*While the world is witnessing a new wave of financial slowdown and great recession due to the coronavirus pandemic, the understanding of financial crises has not been complete. The contributors of this book look into financial crises from economic, legal, political science, social science lens with the aim of understanding the types, causes, consequences and impacts of financial crises in a comprehensive way. More importantly, the authors investigate regulatory responses, regulatory effectiveness, regulatory responses by applying a variety of approaches and methodologies through the study of financial, corporate, business, healthcare, capital market, banking sectors. This is a timely contribution to our understanding of financial crises and preparation for the next financial recession on the horizon.*

**Financial Crises: Types, Causes and Consequences**

Causes, Consequences and Management

Causes and Consequences

Special Issue: Financial Crises

Causes, Real Consequences and Lessons for Viet Nam

*In the fall of 2008, the United States was plunged into a financial crisis more severe than any since the Great Depression. As banks collapsed and the state scrambled to organize one of the largest transfers of wealth in history, many—including economists and financial experts—were shocked by the speed at which events unfolded. In this new book, John Bellamy Foster and Fred Magdoff offer a bold analysis of the financial meltdown, how it developed, and the implications for the future. They examine the specifics of the housing bubble and the credit crunch as well as situate current events within a broader crisis of monopoly-finance capitalism—one that has been gestating for several decades. It is the "real" productive economy's tendency toward stagnation, they argue, that creates a need for capital to find ways to profitably invest its surplus. But rather than invest in socially useful projects that would benefit the vast majority, capital has constructed a financialized "casino" economy that neglects social needs and, as has become increasingly clear, is fatally unstable. Written over a two-year period immediately prior to the onset of the crisis, this timely and illuminating book is necessary reading for all those who wish to understand the current situation, how we got here, and where we are heading.*