



BR

We use cookies to ensure the functionality of our website, to personalize content, to provide social media features, and to analyze our traffic. You can decide for yourself which categories you want to deny or allow. Please note that based on your settings not all functionalities of the site are available. Further information can be found in our privacy policy. [Privacy Statement](#)

[Cookies Settings](#)

[Accept All Cookies](#)



Crisis and

In: [Historical Materialism](#)

Author: [Costas Lapavitsas](#)

[View More](#) +

Online Publication Date: 01 Jan 2009

[Download Citation](#)

[Get Permissions](#)

▼ [Get Access](#)

## Abstract

The current crisis is one outcome of the financialisation of contemporary capitalism. It arose in the USA because of the enormous expansion of mortgage-lending, including to the poorest layers of the working class. It became general because of the trading of debt by financial institutions. These phenomena are integral to financialisation. During the last three decades, large enterprises have turned to open markets to obtain finance, forcing banks to seek alternative sources of profit. One avenue has been provision of financial services to individual workers. This trend has been facilitated by the retreat of public provision from housing, pensions, education, and so on. A further avenue has been to adopt investment-banking practices in open financial markets. The extraction of financial profits directly out of personal income constitutes financial expropriation. Combined with investment-banking, it has catalysed the current gigantic crisis. More broadly, financialisation has sustained the emergence of new layers of rentiers, defined primarily through their relation to the financial system rather than ownership of loanable capital. Finally, financialisation has posed important questions regarding finance-capital and imperialism.



## Product Information

Books

Journals

Specialty Products

Metadata: Title Lists, MARC & KBART Files

Catalogs, Flyers & Price Lists

Accessing Brill Products

## Authors

Becoming a Brill Author

Publishing Ethics

Publishing Guides

## Contact & Info

Sales Contacts

Ordering

Editorial Contacts

Press & Reviews

Contact Form

## Stay Updated

Blog

News

Newsletters

Social Media Overview

Investors

## Resources Center

General Resources

For Authors

For Librarians

Rights & Permissions

FAQ



Terms and Conditions

Privacy Statement









