

Necessary Illusions and Dangerous Delusions

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Background and Timeline

Subprime Mortgage Crisis Diagram 1 of 2

Housing Bubble Formation

Lending Decisions by Institutions

GSE Mortgage Buying Practices	Bank Lending Practices	Capital & Credit Availability	MBS Credit Ratings
$\overline{}$	$\overline{}$	$\overline{}$	
Political Influence	Investor Demand for MBS	Low Interest Rates & Tax Cuts	Outdated Credit Rating Policies
Govt. Objectives Regarding Low-Income Housing	Securitization And Credit Risk Insurance	Dot-com Bust & Foreign Investment	Conflict of Interest: The Rated Fund the Raters

High Risk Tolerance & Leverage (Borrowing to Invest)

Outdated Financial Regulatory Regime

Management Bonuses / Short-Term Profit Incentives

Borrowing Decisions by Individuals

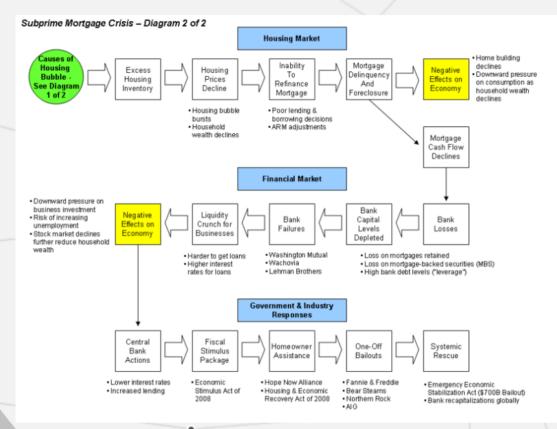
High Risk	Cultural	Home	Housing
Mortgage	Pressure	Perceived	Speculation
Products	For Home	A Safe	&
(ARM)	Ownership	Investment	Overbuilding
Expectation	Media,	Context	Bubble
That	Hollywood	Of Recent	Psychology
Refinancing	& Govt.	Dot-Com	Self-
Available	Promotion	Bust	Reinforcing

Rising Housing Price Trend (Profit / Security Motive)

High Household Debt Levels

This diagram summarizes some of the causes behind the housing bubble that peaked in 2006. The housing bubble set the stage for the subprime mortgage crisis. Many of these elements have complex interactions not shown. The ripple or domino effect through the housing and financial markets as home prices declined is described in a separate diagram.

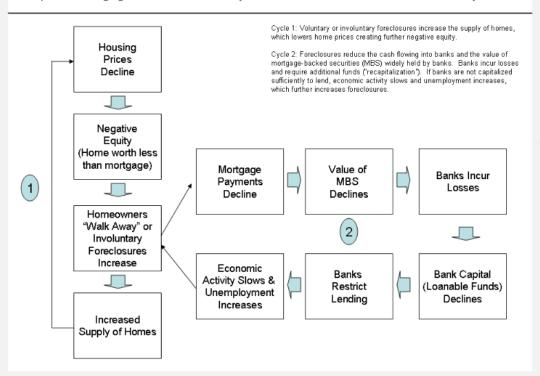
Background & Timeline



- Housing Bubble was characterized by:
 - · Higher sales of household
 - Greater household debt
 - Higher prices
 - Lower savings
- Fueled by:
 - low interest rates
 - large inflows of foreign funds
 - easy credit candidates

- Demand in households caused an increase in price
- Increasing price caused a demand in households
 - People were buying and "flipping" houses
- Subprime lending allowed individuals with low income but decent credit to buy houses well beyond their reach
 - ARM (adjustable rate mortgage)
 - SIVA replaces proof of income
- Increased demand for mortgage, investment banks reponded with:
 - MBS
 - Colateralized debt

Subprime Mortgage Crisis: "Vicious Cycles" of Foreclosure and Bank Instability



- Housing Price decline in 2006
- Negative homeowners equity
 - Increased foreclosure
 - Increased the surplus of houses in the market
 - Devaluated house pricing

Boom and Collapse of Financial and Banking Sector

Shadow Banking System

- The shadow banking system is a collection of non-banking financial intermediaries that provide similar services that traditional commercial banks provide but are loosely regulated unlike traditional banks. These include mortgage companies, money market mutual funds, investment funds banks, etc. (Meryll Lynch, Lemon Bros)
- Assets of top 5 major investment banks was \$4 trillion compared to top 5 major commercial banks was around \$6 trillion
- The Shadow Banking system began to fall in the spring of 2007 and fell to its lowest point in the fall of 2008 when more than a 3rd of the private credit markets became unavailable.
- At its peak in 2006 gave about \$2 trillion in residential and commercial loans compared to its lowest in 2009 they only awarded around \$150 billion