

# Subprime Mortgage Crisis Harvard Case Solution & Analysis

Subprime Mortgage Crisis Diagram 1 of 2

## Housing Bubble Formation

### Lending Decisions by Institutions

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Tax Cuts        | Outdated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

High Risk Tolerance & Leverage (Borrowing to Invest)

Outdated Financial Regulatory Regime

Management Bonuses / Short-Term Profit Incentives

### **Borrowing Decisions by Individuals**

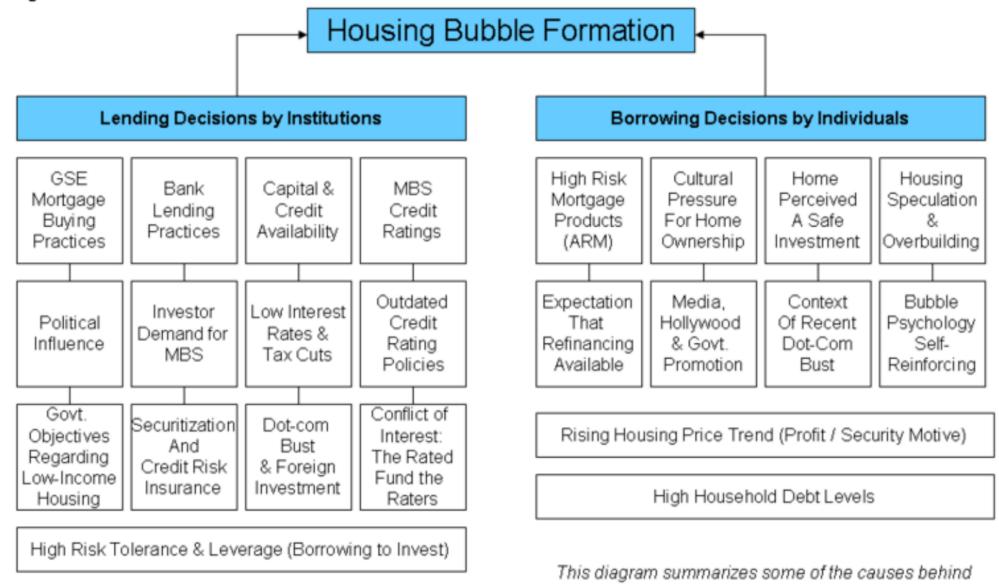
| High Risk   | Cultural  | Home       | Housing      |
|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| Mortgage    | Pressure  | Perceived  | Speculation  |
| Products    | For Home  | A Safe     | &            |
| (ARM)       | Ownership | Investment | Overbuilding |
| Expectation | Media,    | 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.

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Outdated Financial Regulatory Regime

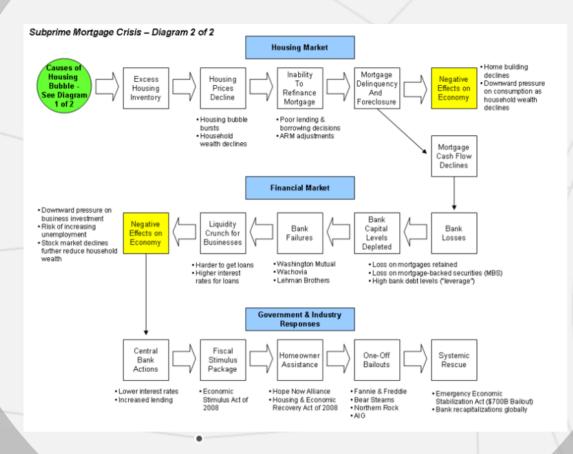
Outdated Financial Regulatory Regime

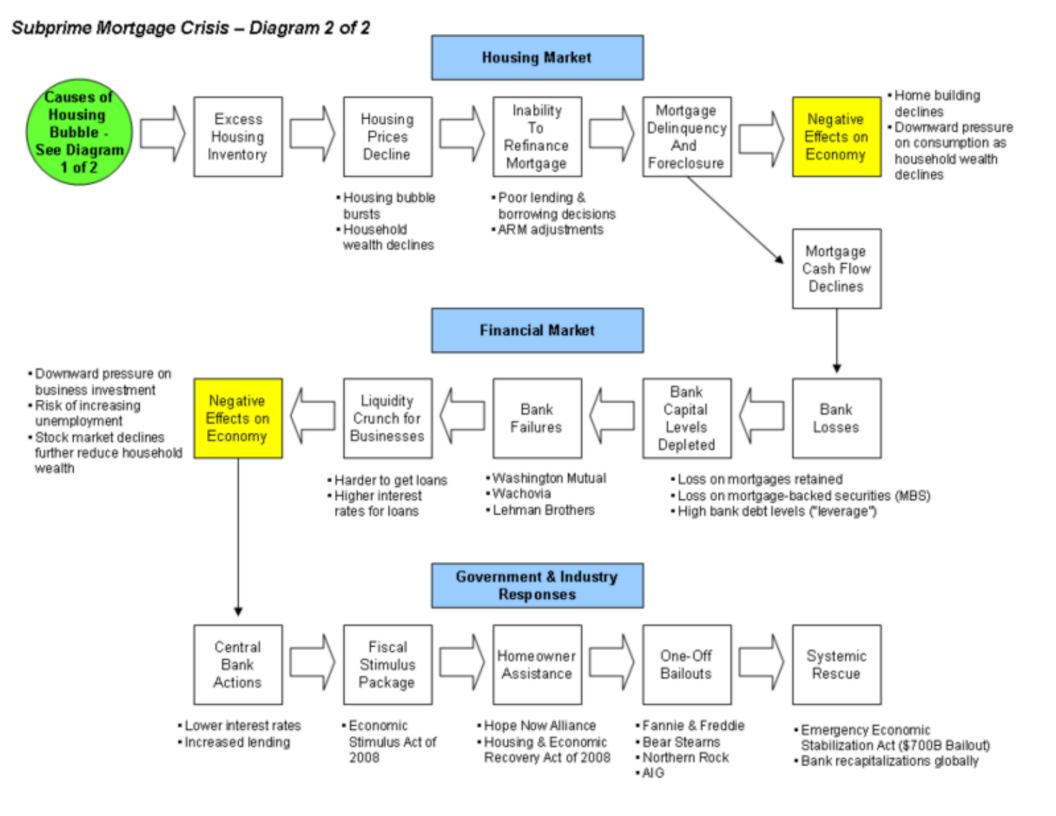
Management Bonuses / Short-Term Profit Incentives

the housing bubble that peaked in 2006. The housing bubble set the stage for the subprime mortgage crisis.

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# Background & Timeline





## **Housing Market**

- 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

## **Housing Market**

- 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

## **Housing Market**

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

