The Financial Crisis, the Great Recession, and Future Economic Prospects

E. Maskin Harvard University

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 - and effect of Ebola crisis in West Africa will remain for many years

- Prompts questions:
 - What caused financial crisis?

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• For rest of talk, will try to provide answers

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 - have to be adequately *regulated*

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 - lend money to good ideas

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 \$300 profit -- 200% return!

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• highly sophisticated financial system

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- but, because of leverage, system also potentially more vulnerable to collapse than more primitive systems, such as in BRIC countries.

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 - highly leveraged bank may fail if loses bet or two

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not so much to save failing banks but to prevent *others* from failing Another way that financial and potato markets differ:

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 - limit leverage (impose capital requirements)

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- if doesn't happen, severe financial crises will probably continue

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- got "stuck" in low-output low-employment equilibrium

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- monetary policy should be accommodating
 - —interest rates should be kept low
 - —central bank should create liquidity by buying securities

• \$800m stimulus in 2009-10

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 - without devaluation, individual countries have limited options

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