

The Bush administration should have been watching- and adding new regulations many months ago.

If you continue concentrating wealth in too few hands you will get another Great Depression. Steal from the masses and give to the rich- you get bad karma that will bite you big time. Get smart Republicans you are just beginning to reap what you sow.

A lot of these questions should have provided "Not yet" as an answer. Such as "It hasn't impacted our plans YET but could if this turmoil continues for 6 months or a year."

After tightening the bankruptcy rules for normal people- now we are bailing out huge- mega-financial organizations. This is hypocrisy!

AIG's CEO destroys AIG yet he is leaving with \$8 million dollar golden parachute. Isn't this an oxymoron?

all of this mess came as a result of assholes out bidding each other on homes they truly could not afford. the institutions just need to pull the homes and sell them at a loss as long as they are making money on the sales stop being so greedy

Americans- esp the right wing- claim to worship on the altar of "free market"- that the Gov is the problem- yet when they feel financially threaten- they look to the Gov for help. Some "free market believers"!

Any government assistance must be accompanied by two things 1. significant governmental oversight in the future 2. increasing taxation on those who made the largest amounts of money gaming a risky system--the wealthiest Americans

As a philosophical libertarian I think that the government should stay away from messing with the market except for establishing and enforcing basic regulations such as the SEC's anti-trust regs.

As long as Congress is for sale the pimps with the money will have whores on retainer to make laws that make it easier for them to make money than those who can't purchase congressional votes.

Bush and Greedy CO. has not just caused death but dispare- turmoil and distruction that I hope America can climb out of. His policies of look the other way- lie and steal from us is criminal.

Continued selling off the United States to China!

Current Republican leaders are crooks. They (Bush & his PNAC cronies) belong in Abu Ghraib.

Every Corporate Executive in each of these companies should NOT receive their pay- bonuses- pharachuts and other incentives for screwing up their company and the markets. They should pay for this mess- not us. This was their responsibility. Idiots!!

Every person responsible should be fired and indicted for their inattention and criminal behavior- lack of oversight- and inattention to rules and regulations. Golden parachutes and other rewards must cease.

Every top official of all financial institutions which wrote risky mortgages or invested in risky securities based on such mortgages should be fired without compensation and banned from the financial industry for life.

Everyone knew this was coming with the loans they were making and investing in. All had vested interest in keeping it going to make the big bucks. No down side when the Government is going to bail you out. Same thing happened in the past with the S&L's.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are one thing... they had implicit government backing. Bear Stearns- AIG and others are another thing. Private companies making bad investments. Let 'em fail!

Fear (run at the bank) can cause solid businesses to go under. A lot of bad judgement led to certain companies' failure- exacerbated by fear and neglected by oversight. If everyone panics- we're toast. Confidence is restored by action and calm

Greed and corruption are the root causes of the current crises and the Republican administrations since Reagan have encouraged those practices. Shame on the GOP! And shame on the Democrats for not resisting.

Greed drives these markets. If individuals took some personal responsibility- e. g. don't buy that huge house unless you can honestly afford it- we would not be staring this in the face.

greed must be limited by gov't regulation bonuses- golden parachutes- high compensation should be tied to performance 10 years subsequent

Greed of individuals- corporate officers greed- and the war have caused this chaos. Government should NOT bail out investors because they chose to play the stock market!

How can the Federal Government give out money when there is a deficit? With all the money going out: FEMA- Iraq- where does the money come from? Will this mean foreign countries will "own" more of our country? As the USA economy goes- so goes the world!

Humans think positively- so confidence in the economy will return- but not soon. US business practices were The King's New Clothes- looked good to the king (those involved) until the outsiders gave him a wake up call. Even the experts were deluded.

i am concerned about bailing huge companies out from bad investments- when there are people who suffered at the hands of said companies- and those people have lost their homes. but no one was willing to bail them out of these horrendous loans- and rates!

I am concerned about probable deficit and tax increases as a result of assuming illiquid mortgages and wonder how the Fed will recoup the

investment in them. Will they be refinanced so that they can yield some return?

I am mostly worried about the cost of living increasing greater/faster than the cost of living increases I get on my retirement pension. I can barely afford to continue to stay in the home I have had for 20 years even with two low fixed rate mortgages.

I am ok with the government helping these companies out with the stipulation that NONE of the Executive walks away with any money.

I am really glad that a significant portion of my retirement income is from annuities.

I am very concerned about our economy generally. But know nothing about how to repair it. We have been years on patch-up measures and it is catching up with us. We live like pigs- used to wealth nobody else can afford. A miracle would help!!

I believe that the reason for the collapse was overleveraged purchase of really bad investments. I resent that we tax payers are bailing them out- again- but I don't see any CEO's giving back their millions in bonus \$.

I believe that this is a problem that should have been addressed at least 30 yrs ago. It seems to me that everyone except the government has seen this coming for years! Business owners need to see that it is not imperative to be rich to live well!

I blame crooked politicians who took large sums of money from these financial companies and did not act to regulate them. The largest recipients of money from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were Chris Dodd and Barack Obama. They are blaming Bush - it was them

I don't think the govt should bail out bankers and leave the small home owners to fail. It's the bankers' greed that caused the mortgage "crisis" in the first place.

I don't want the federal government to get too involved. It will cost taxpayers too much to buy out every bank that made bad loans. I also don't want to see the whole basis of our economy to fail.

I fear that when the rest of the world figures out the U.S. is broke and merely surviving on credit we will become the colonies of other nations who own us. We have let big business and our politicians destroy our civilization.

I feel it's hard to know if the government is doing the right thing but find it interesting the way some agencies are being assisted while others are left to fail. I don't believe I have ever seen such difficult economic conditions.

I heard someone say on the radio today that a lot of the problems we are having is because we have no manufacturing in the U.S. anymore and I agree. I also think the biggest mistake made was all the deregulation.

I only approve of these steps because I believe it would have been a blood bath without the steps. I am not so confident about the future as I am hopeful.

I only feel that the Fed's intervene is because the major reason we're in this mess is a costly and WRONG war in Iraq.

I pulled all my stocks and put them into CD's when the market hit 13K- that was my target on the down side. Why don't you check with Obama's financial advisors to find out what happened to Freddy and Fanny- they got hundreds of millions out of them.

I remember the Great Depression & I can't help feeling that I'll see the beginnings of this one. The beginning of the first- I did not see. I think Bush caused a lot of stuff that could have been avoided. Bush needs to leave. Please type your response here

I think everyone has to stop panicking and the media drawing so much attention to it. I don't think the government should raise taxes and bail them out.

I think everyone involved- those that were greedy and stupid- should be prosecuted.

I think it's reprehensible that the people that made bad loans- and are now losing their homes will not be saved- but the big financial institutions will be. Once again- it's big business that will come out ahead- and the little people that will lose.

I think the action taken by the federal government fuels the "sky is falling" mentality and actually makes the financial situation worse and deepens people's fears about the economy.

I think the de-regulation was a mistake. I also think the President AND Congress were not on top of "this disaster"! I- as a lowly Realtor for 37 years saw this coming two or three years ago- where was our government!!!

I think the financial policies of the Republican party- especially through the Republican administrations for the past 30 years have led to the instability of the current market and the economy in general.

I think the problem is deeper than we've yet seen. I don't like the government bail outs but I don't know what alternatives there are. Lack of regulation and oversight is one major cause- greed and lack of integrity is another. The CEOs and other top adm

I think this was an example of people ignoring risk because the market had been doing so well. Additionally- the heads of Fanny/Freddy pressured Congress for no oversight- while using the race card (if you regulate us- low income blacks will suffer)

I think we need to direct our economic think tanks to find a capitalistic way to distribute wealth

I trade 5-M a year in stocks. The federal government had to pull out its small arsenal to get the upper hand in this financial fiasco. If need be it will do whatever it takes to quell the uneasiness of the financial community and instill confidence in us.

I would feel better if someone was going to go to jail and lose their big checks. Seems like those who caused this will still get their financial rewards. What a stupid system. Screw everyone and get rewarded for it.

I would like to see the mortgage banks be required to extend the term on troubled mortgages to 60 years- to keep the homeowners pymt the same- so they stay in their homes.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank John McCain and his economic advisor Phil Gramm for causing this mess. Gramm- with McCain's support wrote the law rescinding the regulation designed to prevent this very fiasco from happening. Nice job- guys.

IF the govt. had enforced ALL of the regulations already in place- had been enforced this may not have occurred. Unforgivable how the BUSH administration has destroyed our country- it may never recover from this period of MISS MANAGEMENT

I'm a Stanford Economist but not a master of the 'dismal' science. I believe the American economy needs to be re-defined en toto. Not just bandaids. The very first thing I'd address is abolishing lobbyists. They distort the decision making processes.

I'm fairly economically "illiterate." I don't really understand exactly how the actions being taken can help the "little guy."

I'm worried about my teachers pension since i have no control over the investments STRS has made. FORGET the Alamo- forget Pearl Harbor- forget 9/11; REMEMBER Lincoln Savings & Loan!

It began with developers convincing us that endless building would create "jobs" and the brokers/banks selling the products with no regard to the fiscal outcome....

It is hard for me to understand how these companies which are going bankrupt pay such large amounts to the officers which caused it to end up that way.

It is unfortunate that the financial industry made such bad judgements in their daily dealings. I agree that the gov't had to do something but I do not agree that those stupid people who received these loans should be helped.

Its called "playing the market" for a reason. There is risk associated with this activity. If one "plays"- they often will pay.

It's deja vu all over again. Once again- federal government looked the other way- let the foxes on Wall Street guard the financial henhouse due to their lax oversight- and that's why we have a big crash and a big depression on the way. 1929- anyone?

It's interesting that the Republicans are pointing at Clinton- because he signed the bill that ultimately lead to this failure in 1998. However- it was a Republican controlled Congress- following Regan economic philosophy that caused this!

It's painfully apparent to me that now- after 8 years of special interest-driven decision-making- we NEED a President who actually understands global economics and sound fiscal policy.

Its ridiculous to think that ALL of these institutions fell into this crisis. The powers that be here should be thrown under the jail. Its ENRON all over again only bigger. The rich get richer and the rest of us are screwed- again. Greed is one of seven!

It's terrible that the federal government would not help families from foreclosures- but helps the companies that foreclosed on these families. We are now seeing the ramifications of not helping individuals out. Now the shoe is on the other foot!

It's time to reevaluate how the Feds have allowed banks and other institutions to define what interest rates are. If you buy a house you are not paying a simple interest rate on what you have borrowd. You actually end up paing twice to three times as much

Just being asked these questions annoys me. All these financial institutions have raked in the money. Now that the economic cycle has turned- they are looking for a handout; and the handout comes from the very people they have profited from.

Look... we live in a capitolistic society where the rich will continue to get rich and the poor will suffer. The seperation is growing wider every day. No force on earth will be able to change it... Wonder where all the mega rich are gonna live?

Losing my house is still my biggest concern. I might have to file bankrupcy to keep it.

Loss of Confidence in America's financial institutions will likely result from all this. A question to ask too is why is the U.S. going alone in bailing out these firms? Why aren't other countries contributing since they are also involved and affected?

Mortgage lenders needed to restructure loans so that homeowners could avoid foreclosure. The lenders would still get their money. They could turn subprime loans into 40 yr loans making payments more affordable. Over time or after a sale the loans would be

No problem since we have a fiat money system and the government can print all the money needed; the money is worth what the government says it is.

Normally I wouldn't approve of the Gvmt. bailing out financial Institutions. They got themselves in trouble. But now- there are so many people that would lose ev erything- I agree with what is bveing done. I am well diversified- so I hurt less than other

Obama / Biden for President and VP!!!

Obama's co-horts are just a few that are responsible for this mess! Regulations and controls HAVE to be put in place. If the gov't doesn't bail them out now- the WORLD'S economy will falter. But the tax papers SHOULD NOT be made to pay for this mess.

Our elected government has let us down in there quest to put money in there pockets. Both parties are at fault. Our government is not working for us. Remember that tea party long age.

Our electricity was deregulated and Enron (and other energy traders) ripped us off. The banks were deregulated and now we're in a mess. McCain wants to deregulate health insurance. I'm voting for Obama and more governmental protections.

Our family has been hit very hard by the economic downturn- unemployment- and mortgage issues. Everyday we wonder when the cards will all fall.

Our Government like Corporations are more interested in themselves and not the people who invest in them.

Our Government should be reversing all golden parachutes for the top people of all the firms they are taking over!!!! Why reward the greedy inept pigs!

Some of your questions did not include adequate choices.

Despite my dislike of the measures taken- I do consider them necessary. Unfortunately- by divorcing accountability from actions we imperil our future.

For the past 20 years we've kept our economy going by increasing debt. Lower interest rates to encourage consumer spending- increase government debt at all levels- and not requiring significant equity in collateral.

The American people shouldn't have to pay to fix problems in the financial industry.

The amount of money received by the mangers of these failed institutions is obscene. Their compensation should be based on their performance- and if the company looses money- they should loose too.

Real cause: greed & dishonesty of officials in Fin Inst - force us to greater regulation / oversight. Fed up with private profits / public losses w/ bailout in billions funded by taxpayers who can't use bankruptcy to avoid their measly \$20 or 100K debt

Reflecting back seven years- it is difficult to imagine this substantial hardship to the economy had White House leadership had been more supportive of the economy at that time. Cutting federal funding in research has been detrimental to economy & US.

Regulations are nothing more than rules to follow to make sure that no one takes unfair advantage of investors! We wouldn't want to live in a society with no laws- because people would be able to do any damn thing they wanted with impunity.

Reining in naked short sellers and short sellers of financials was long overdue. The regulation should extend for more than just the time allocated.

Republicans are doing their usual dance: PRIVATIZING profits (hedge funds- unregulated banks- loans- etc.) and SOCIALIZING LOSSES on the backs of American taxpayers! And no one mentions the elephant in the room - the Iraq war and its outgoing billions.

REPUBLICANS SUCK

Speculation in the market like in oil has been the greatest cause for the ups and downs- plus the uncertainty of individuals cause panic. There is no reason to believe we are in financial crisis- just badly managed companies that give millions to CEOs

stocks and investments are gambles you shouldn't take unless you can afford to lose. The snowball effect of bailing these companies out will be a whole new enterprise attracting even more nefarious creatures/losers.

Sure hope the stock market settles down and that fly-by-night investors stop investing on a whim. Housing lenders should have known better than to allow sub-prime rates!! Credit card companies also need to put a cap on people who can't pay their bills!

the blame for this mess is the republican greed. deregulation for more profit led by McCain's advisor Phil Gramm and McCain's lying attacks and blaming Obama is the height of hypocrisy!!

The Bush administration and the Republican Party as a whole has been pushing for years for more deregulation across the board for all sectors of the economy. We are now paying the price for their corporate greed.

The collapse in the financial companies in the past week was caused by the greed and incompetence of the management. Now the ultimate chump--the American taxpayer--has to step in and bail them out- while the executives keep their inflated pay packages.

The con men and congressmembers who perpetrated this fiasco should be put in jail. Instead of bailing out the fat cats relief should be offered to the homeowners who are getting fleeced.

The congress should be held responsible for this mess!

The current crisis is yet another reason we don't need for more years of Republican mismanagement and support for corporate greed.

The current economic distress seems to be the result of poorly monitored bank lending and Stock Market practices (e.g. Short-Selling)- unfettered greed by executives- and a Congress that is unwilling to take regulatory action-for many years

The economy is going to collapse sooner or later with the current debt of trillions of dollars. Dems want to tax and spend. GOP wants to cut taxes and spend hundreds of billions on wars. We will fail at some point. And just wait for peak oil to hit.

The failings of the market today are due to institutions believing in constant growth- which is just dumb. 1867- 1929- Japan in 1997... It is proven appropriate for the federal government to step in when markets fail.

The federal government needs to stabilize the financial situation then get out of the way. This turmoil will last for the short term- considering it took from the time Greenspan and Pres. Clinton sign the bill which started this economic slid.

The financial firms got themselves into this mess and should have to take the results of their greed and incompetence just like any other business. If they file for bankruptcy- so be it. They won't cease to exist- they'll restructure and go on.

The financial markets taking a substantial hit are the ones that engaged in sub-prime loans. They knew their customers would not be able to keep their homes- but gave them loans anyway knowing the Govmt would bail them out!

The financial problems were caused by government attempting to provide credit and home purchasing to individual who could not qualify for or maintain the established 30 year home loans. In my neighborhood every foreclosed house was purchased by illegals.

The free market is over! And- it was never free. Corporations believe in privatizing profits - but socializing the losses! Someone should go to jail! Let's start with Phil Graham. John McCain is just as guilty. We need NEW leadership!

The government should not have deregulated this industry. Greed and short term Executive Comp. contributed to this high risk behavior without any checks and balances

The government is protecting the big risk-takers at the expense of all the rest of us. "They" wanted the government to get out of their way- while they were getting rich. Now- they want the gov to bail them out. Not fair- I think.

the gov't moves had to be taken to restore confidence in the US economic system which impacts basically the whole world. Even if we don't agree with them they had to be taken at this time. Once stability returns it might be time to tweak the system some.

The govt. tried to create social engineering re. housing and low income populations- and what we are witnessing is a mass re-distribution of wealth along with a hard left turn toward socialism. Wake up America.

the inmates have running the asylum in dc for far too long. this crisis did not have to happen. if the cowboys had the interests of all americans at heart- instead of just their wealthy buddies- this would not have happened.

The investment loss referenced was on paper only. If securities had been sold there would have been an actual loss.

The lack of action by Greenspan to enforce regulations regarding loan conditions was a major reason for today's problems. Then Bernake suddenly putting the regulations into effect caused further chaos.

The only thing that cn really fix the problems is to get rid of Bush and all his BIG MONEY buddies and to not elect McCain who has been a big opponent of regulations.

The politicians in both parties created the conditions that permitted- or in some cases encouraged- lending money to people that could not afford to pay it back. So- I think those politicuians should be held accountable.

The President took to long to take action. This has been building up for some time but nothing was done to stop it.

The primary cause of the problem is the federal government's letting the sub-prime mortgage market run amok- including The lack of oversight in understanding the risk to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the marketing of mortgages (sub-prime).

The questions you failed to ask in this opinion poll is if there was unscrupulous behavior going on in mortgage lending a few years back. These loans were made to people who knew they couldn't afford the loan- and the lenders knew also.

The same thing has happened many times before. It will happen again. Everyone always panics!

The shift of risk to the taxpayer did not occur this past week but as Freddie and Fannie allowed mortgage instruments to be priced without adequate risk premiums over the past several years.

The Stock Market is a gamble. If we will not invest in a serious health-care system- we have no reason to bail-out these foolish and greedy insitutions. Wall St. is just another Las Vegas- predicated on greed. They deserve what they get.

There does not seem to be any consequences for the lack of good management of financial institutions. Putting the burdon on taxpayers is NOT fair.

There needs to be a better way to protect individuals and families without the consequences of moral hazard. Those who take un-necessary or unwise risk must pay the consequences.

these are investments people and companies have made and should have been greedy- plus pensions used in risky investments should not have been made- because the gov't and people will pay for it in the end anyhow.

these rich CEOs of the financial companies need to be held accountable. 90% of their wealth should be given back to their failed companies to help out. Why should they get rich & the rest of us have to pay for it? This is how deregulation hurts us all.

This all pretty much goes back to the insane real estate market and idiotic mortgages that were issued. Everyone involved in THAT mess should be paying for this- not the taxpayer.

this all started with the mortgage crisis which was caused by mortgage companies not requiring confirmation of income and ability to make loan payments when ARMs adjusted upward. regulations need to be enacted to insure this doesn't happen again- we're j

This bailout is a disgrace for a supposedly free market society. This is privatizing profits and socializing losses. It will cause a protracted recession like Japans. It would have been much better to let the market work it course.

This entire melt down has it's roots in the fact that the Fed. enabled and encouraged home loans to people that didn't have the ability to make their payments. The people taking out the loans displayed total financial ignorance and irresponsibility.

This is all Bush's doing in the long run...he has dug a a BIG hole we will never get out of!

This is another crisis caused by the Bush administration's inability or unwillingness to control weathy corporations

This is typical of how the Republicans operate. Let's hope we can get the Democrats in the White House.

This results mainly from congressional inaction re: Fannie and Freddie- in exchange for huge sums given to Democrat senators and congressmen such as Dodd and Frank.

Though I support the government's action. We should severly restrict bonus payouts to those big banks/firms' senior executive officers if their firms have/had DUMPED the "BAD" loans to the government. to much money is being sent to states for projects that could wait until the country is in better shape.

Top level management at firms that have loses- should not be compensated for loses!

Unbridled greed started in mid 80's with Reagan & trickle-down economics. Middle class is being raped-due to Corporate Greed & inequity in CEO salaries-corporate malfeasance- obscene CEO salaries & golden parachutes.

Until today- we were on the verge of total collapse of our financial markets. If the federal government had not acted- it could have been 1929 all over again. Our capitalistic system depends on confidence--without that there would be no money to lend.

Vote Obama!!!

Wall Street has been left unchecked for way too long. Corp heads are not held responsible for the companies they manage.

We are a country without industry- unemployment is high and no end in sight. We have a corrupt group of politicians leading us and there is no end in sight. Why aren't the CEO's held accountable for their faulty practices?

We are living in scary times.

We are massively increasing our already massive debt. I agree with the bail out of FM- FM and AIG- but that's it. CEOs should NOT receive golden parachutes; the employees should be protected.

We definitely need a change in leadership in Washington - and regulations restored that don't put the person on the street at risk while CEOs turn profits and walk away with millions as their financial institutions fail as a result of bad management...

We demonize communist countries because everything is State run. Yet this is exactly what is happening right here in the freest communist country in the world. We give tax breaks to criminal corporations and then screw the working man.

We live in a Corporate Run Government and a Corporate Run Economy. Greed is the order of the day.....what can I get out of it. We are doomed.....unless we turn it around. Only Obama can help us now and I am not positive that that would do it.

We need proper regulation of greedy lenders.

We spend too much time affixing blame. The bottom line is that the House of Representatives- not the President- is Constitutionally responsible for the budget- but they point fingers at everyone else. They need to do their job and take responsibility for

We will all be effected by what's happening. Regardless of who's to blame- we're all in for a bumpy decade.

We wouldn't be in this financial mess if the financial institutions had been better regulated. Regulation is a very necessary part of the federal

govt. We need to move back to more limits on financial institution "creativity" in pursuit of profits.

We'll just have to wait and see if these moves prove to have a positive or negative impact. We may not know for sure for a few years.

What every happened to the free market economy? Free market implies some people take losses. This should not be the U.S. Government (i.e.- me).

When will they start holding the CEOs- CFOs- and upper executives collecting enormous \$\$\$\$ responsible for all this? What's it going to take?

Where is all this money when there is need for social programs? Infrastructure repair and OH SO MUCH MORE?????

Where were all the government committies in congress when all this got started? It seems they were more interisted in getting big donations that looking out for the little fellow.

Who was watching the store? Actually everyone bears some responsibility since everyone wants something for nothing. Americans need to get their priorities straight.

Why bail out the big investment companies. What about the folks that were "cheated" by the bankers and brokers who started the subprime loans in the first place to make big profits. Especially the CEO who are getting rich on the backs of taxpayers!

WHY was Lehman Brothers hung out to dry when now every other "in trouble" institution is getting the help it needs ?

Yes- drown all the StupidCrats (Dumb o Crats) that caused this situation in the first place by there taking from the rich and giving the poor who are to stupid & lazy to earn it for thenselves.

