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Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

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THE FEDERAL RESERVE AND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

CHAIRMAN BERNANKE'S COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES

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About

In March 2012, Chairman Ben S. Bernanke delivered a four-part lecture series about the Federal Reserve and the financial crisis that emerged in 2007. The series began with a lecture on the origins and missions of central banks, followed by a lecture that discussed the role and actions of the Federal Reserve in the period after World War II. In the final two lectures, the Chairman reviewed some of the causes of, and policy responses to, the recent financial crisis, focusing specifically on the actions of the Federal Reserve.

The lectures were offered as part of an undergraduate [course](#) at the George Washington University School of Business.

On-demand video, transcripts, and presentation slides are available for each lecture.

[Related reading list \(PDF\)](#)

Lecture 1: Origins and Mission of the Federal Reserve
March 20, 2012

Lecture 2: The Federal Reserve after World War II
March 22, 2012

Lecture 3: The Federal Reserve's Response to the Financial Crisis

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Professor Chairman

Ben Bernanke is, of course, best known as the head of the Federal Reserve and the man who helped guide the economy during the turbulent financial crisis that emerged in 2007. But before he became Fed chair in 2006, he was an economics professor for nearly a quarter of a century. In March 2012, Bernanke brought together his old and new careers by delivering four lectures about the Federal Reserve—its origins and mission, its role in the Great Depression and in the Great Recession, and its challenges in the aftermath of the financial crisis—to a group of undergraduates at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Demand was high for Bernanke's classes; unfortunately, the university could accommodate in-person attendance by only 30 students. But the Fed's Board of Governors recorded the lectures and put them on the web. Now, all those who wish they could have been at the Bernanke talks in March can do so virtually, whenever it's convenient for them. Classroom lecture videos and transcripts are available at the Fed website, along with presentation slides and a reading list:

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/lectures/about.htm>

—Joe Mahon