

Financial Services Policies (in the US and UK)

- 1/ Introduction and What is Money?
- 2/ From monetarism to unconventional monetary policy
- 3/ The return of inflation, the end of cash?, and cryptos
- 4/ A Brief History of Financial Innovation, Deregulation and Crises: 1960 to 2000
- 5/ GFC – Covid-19 – war in Ukraine – inflation and the new marcoeconomic challenges
- 6/ G20/Basel III – Dodd-Frank and beyond
- 7/ The Vickers Review (and EU re-regulation)
- 8/ Brexit and UK-EU divergence
- 9/ Latest developments and conclusion

Introduction

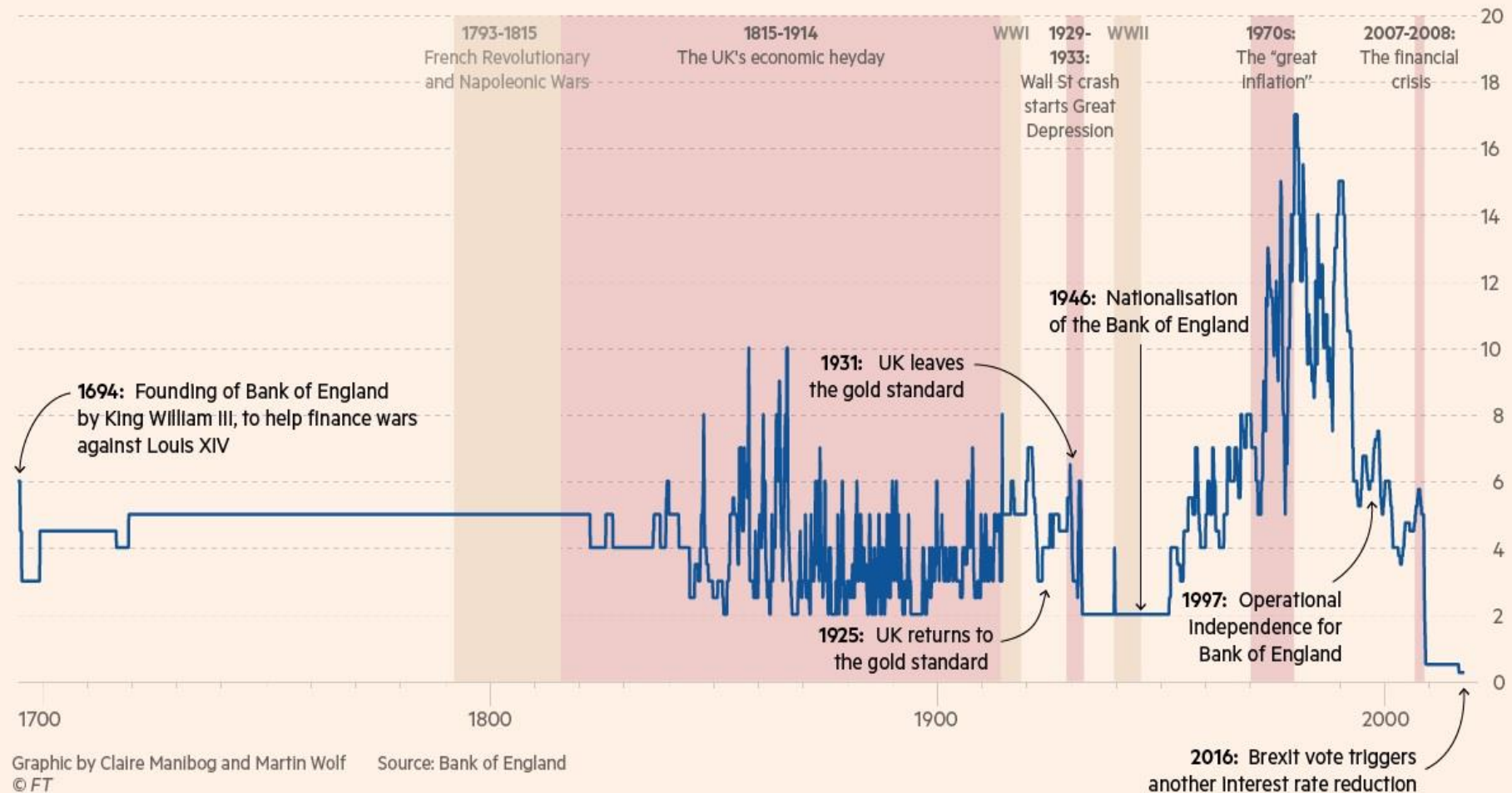
- 1/ Today's changing monetary policy regime – the implications for finance
- 2/ What is money?
- 3/ Money growth and credit are vital to economic growth

1/ The changing monetary policy regime – the implications for finance

Martin Wolf: “Nothing like this has happened in 323 years”, *The Financial Times*, August 16, 2017

This time really is different

Bank of England official lending rate (%), 1694-2017

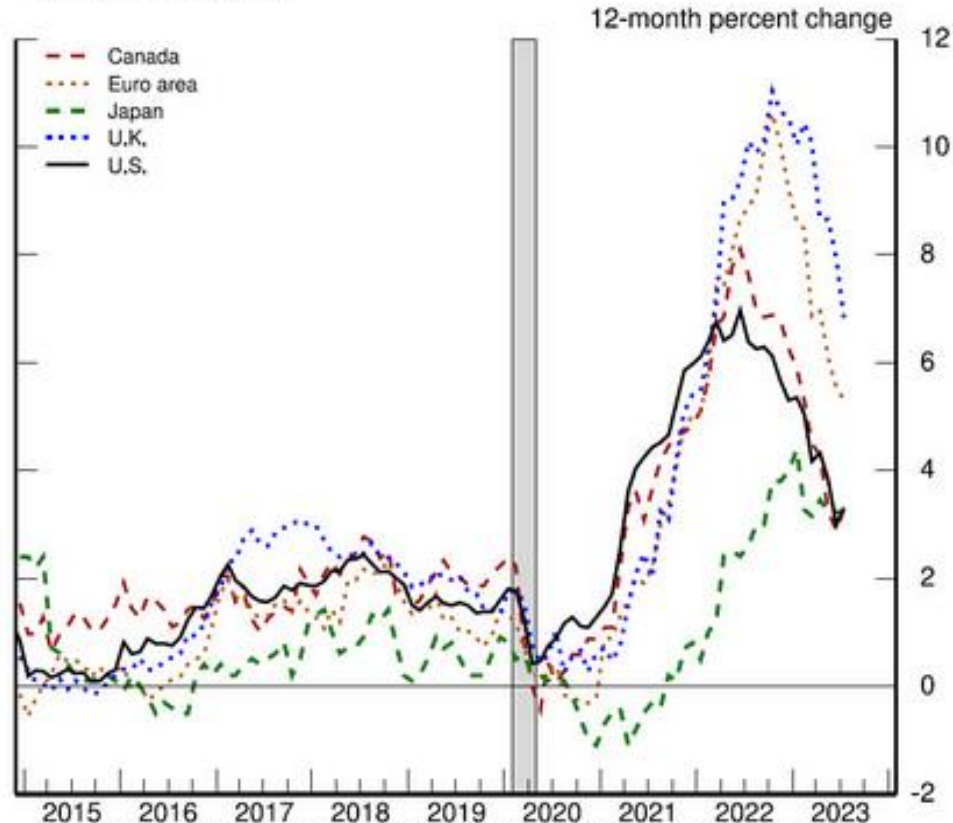


Graphic by Claire Manibog and Martin Wolf Source: Bank of England © FT

But now inflation is back

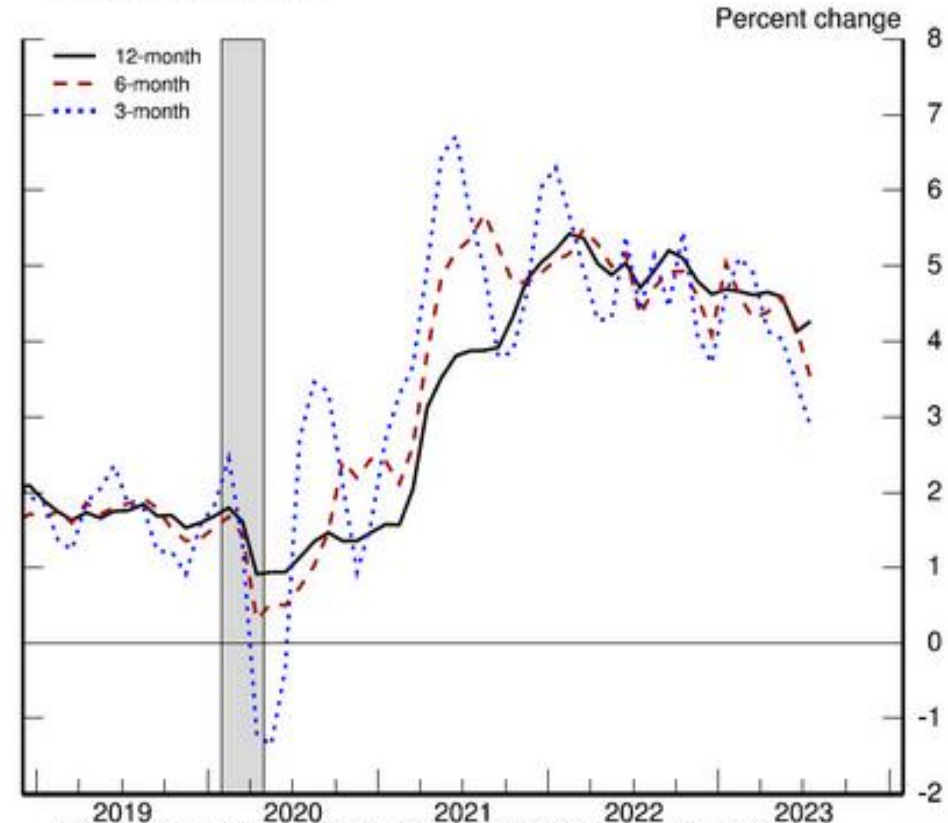
Figure 1

A. Headline Inflation



Note: The data are monthly and extend through July 2023. U.S. data are total PCE inflation and the data point for July 2023 is an estimate based on consumer price index and producer price index data. The shaded bar indicates a period of business recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research: February 2020-April 2020. PCE is personal consumption expenditures.
Source: Haver Analytics; Bureau of Economic Analysis, PCE, via Haver Analytics.

B. Core PCE Inflation

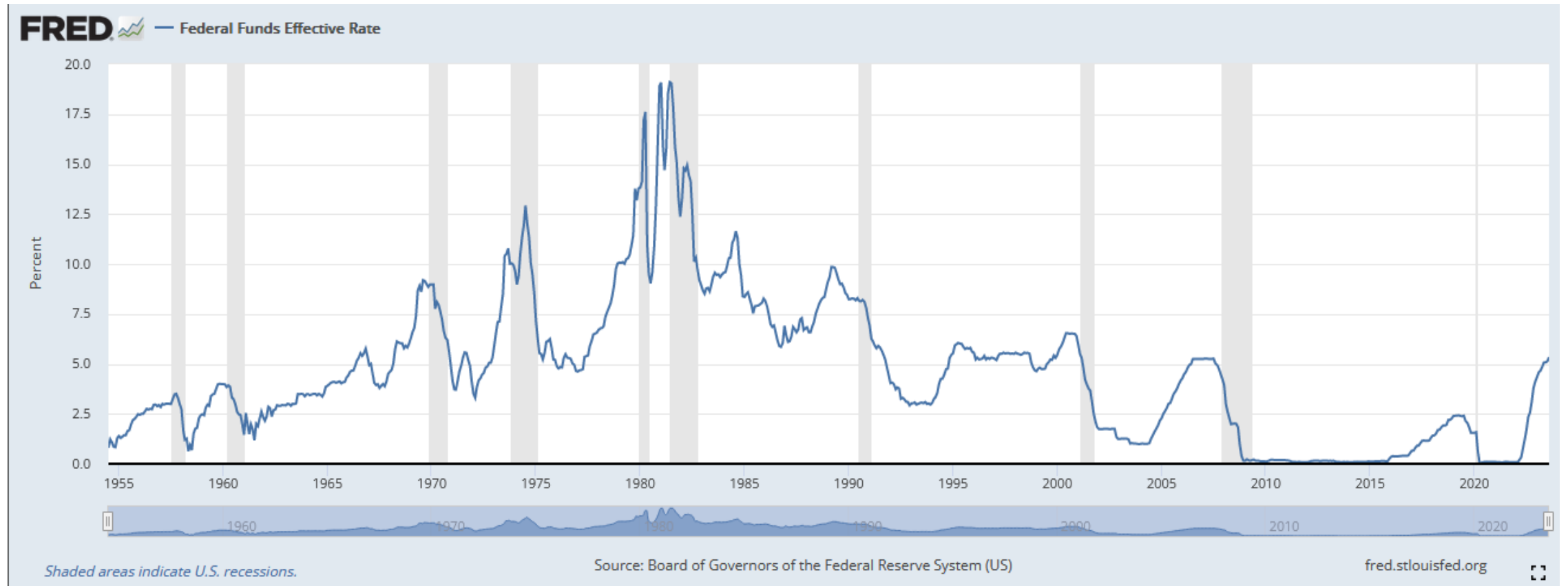


Note: The data are monthly and extend through July 2023. The data for July 2023 are estimates based on consumer price index and producer price index data. PCE is personal consumption expenditures. The shaded bar indicates a period of business recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research: February 2020-April 2020.
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, PCE, via Haver Analytics.

Headline = normal consumer price index; Core PCE = core personal consumption expenditures inflation excludes energy and food-related products. Source: Powell, Jerome, "[Inflation: Progress and the Path Ahead](#)", Speech at the *Structural Shifts in the Global Economy*, Jackson Hole Symposium, August 25, 2023

Interest rates back at “normal” levels

August 2023, Jackson Hole, J. Powell restates 2% CPI target



What does the rise in rates mean?

- Borrowing becomes more expensive. This affects:
 - Investment (by firms and households)
 - Company growth, real estate, consumer durables
- Saving may become more profitable in real terms
 - Cryptos may become less interesting
- What is the effect on banking and finance?
 - Traditional banking may become more profitable
 - But bond and stock prices are likely to fall

Risks of financial instability

What are the functions of interest rates? (GPT-4 “prompt” 13 September 2023)

- Interest rates serve several important functions in the economy:
 - 1. Signal for Savers and Investors:** Interest rates act as a signal for savers and investors. High interest rates encourage saving and discourage borrowing, while low interest rates do the opposite.
 - 2. Monetary Policy Tool:** Central banks use interest rates as a tool to control monetary policy. By raising or lowering interest rates, they can influence spending and investment in the economy, and ultimately, inflation and employment.
 - 3. Compensation for Risk and Inflation:** Interest rates compensate lenders for the risk of lending money and for the erosion of purchasing power due to inflation.
 - 4. Allocation of Resources:** Interest rates help to allocate resources in the economy by directing funds from savers to borrowers.
 - 5. Indicator of Economic Health:** Interest rates are also seen as an indicator of the economic health of a country. High interest rates can indicate that a country is at risk of inflation, while low interest rates can indicate that a country is at risk of deflation or economic stagnation.

Interest rates connect the present to the future.

They are an integral part of “maturity transformation”.

2/ What is money?

What is Money?

“In recent years, many economists have been reluctant to use the word ‘money’. If one is very clever, it is indeed possible to talk about monetary policy without using the word ‘money’.”

“... It is a striking fact that as economics has become more and more sophisticated, it has had less and less to say about money”

Mervyn King, *The End of Alchemy: Money, Banking and the Future of the Global Economy*, London, Little Brown, 2016, p 78.

Earthlings and Martians*



SMI[®]
SAN MARINO

English role play suggested by Kate Rowe

The 3 functions

Narrow and Broad Money



- M0 – cash (& reserves at central bank)
- M1 = M0 plus cheque accounts (sight accounts)
- M2 = M1 plus savings accounts
- M3 = M2 plus larger deposits, institutional money market funds, other larger liquid assets

Does Money Matter?

Mercantilists
Wealth



Smith – wealth comes from goods and services – all commodities can be money

Keynesian/heterodox economists
Money has real consequences – short to medium term

Monetarists (Lucas)
Money is neutral

Aglietta & Orléan: primary social institution

*La Monnaie entre VIOLENCE
et CONFIANCE (2002)*

Money mediates class struggle

But it is essential for exchange to occur

A key social bond (*lien social*)

The Barter Society?

Yap currency stone



STONE MONEY OF UAP, WESTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS.

(From the paper by Dr. W. H. Furness, 3rd, in Transactions, Department of Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania, Vol. I., No. 1, p. 51, Fig. 3, 1904.)

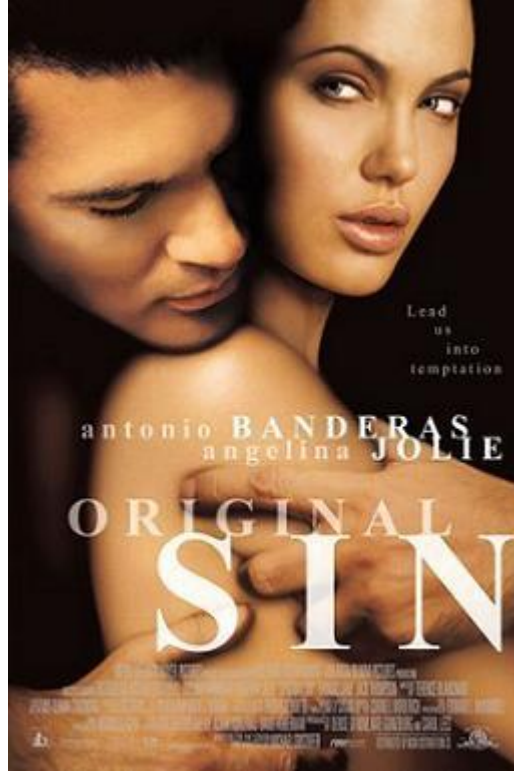
Tally sticks



Felix Martin - money needs:

- A notion of value
- A system of accounting
- A legal framework

Are you an original sinner?



Not all money is good money! Gresham's law "legally overvalued currency will tend to drive out undervalued currency" OR good money drives out bad money"

\$ € £ ¥ SFR

What about?



Felix Martin

- Money vital to social stability
- Freedom
- Can allow social mobility



"the best way to destroy the capitalist system [is] to debauch the currency."

Characteristics of “good money”

- Stability
 - Ease of use
 - Help growth
-
- What are the objectives of the Federal Reserve?

Trust: How is the value of money guaranteed?

- Legal tender – how is it established and guaranteed
- Government use (taxes and payments)
- No counterfeiting 😞
- Bank regulation – regulation of deposit-taking institutions

But... everyone wants easy money

- Debasing gold – since the Romans 😊



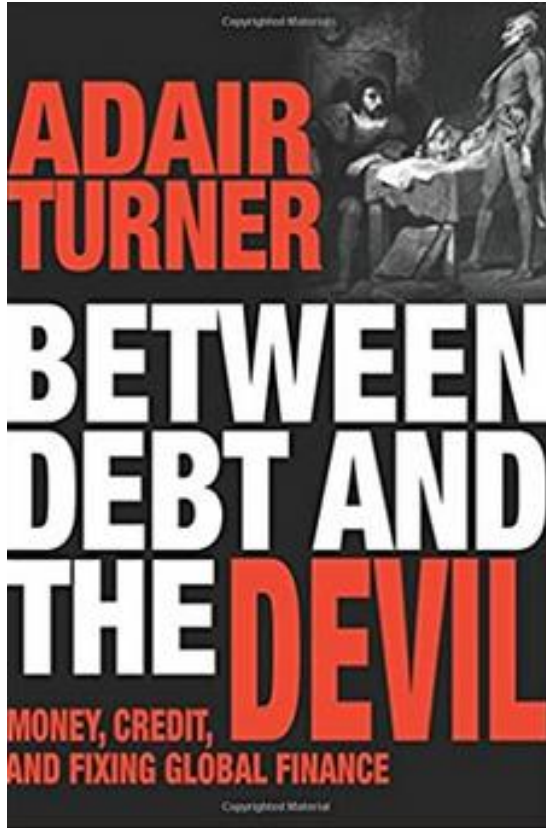
Financial speculation



Money growth and credit are vital to economic growth

Housing and consumer credit are new – but have been essential to present-day society.

Adair Turner, *Between Debt and the Devil*, 2015



“There are no perfect markets, and there can be no perfect planner...”

“... irrational equity markets can still produce socially useful by-products: the NASDAQ boom and bust left us with the companies of the Internet.”

Policy should seek to limit divergence of markets from social optimality

Margin Call: “Bits of paper” & “Fat cats and starving dogs”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtFyP0qy9XU>

Yuval Harari: Money is the best story ever told



Money is the best story ever told | Yuval Noah Harari and Lex
Fridman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9v7d6_lg2c