

Leading Articles & Commentary on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission
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Source	Link	Excerpt
<i>2 Financial Panelists Accused of Leaks</i> By Brady Dennis Washington Post July 14, 2011	http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/report-accuses-2-gop-members-on-financial-crisis-panel-of-leaking-information/2011/07/13/gIQArCtCDI_story.html?wprss=rss_business	“The finger pointing came in a 37-page report from aides to Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.), the ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, who culled from thousands of the FCIC’s e-mails, memos and other documents. It found that two Republicans appointed to the 10-member commission — Vice Chairman Bill Thomas and Peter Wallison, a former Treasury official — “leaked confidential information to outside parties on multiple occasions.”
<i>GOP Partisanship on Panel Alleged; Democrats Say Peter Wallison Tried to Help Derail the Financial Industry Overhaul</i> By Jim Puzzanghera Los Angeles Times July 14, 2011	http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-partisan-inquiry-20110714,0,2917021.story?track=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+latimes%2Fbusiness+%28L.A.+Times+-+Business%29	“A Republican member of the bipartisan commission that investigated the causes of the nation's financial crisis tried to use the panel's findings to derail the sweeping overhaul of financial industry regulations, according to internal emails released by Democrats. Democrats on the House Oversight Committee said a review of more than 400,000 documents showed that Peter Wallison urged his GOP colleagues on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission “to use their positions on the commission to help House Republicans in their efforts to repeal the Dodd-Frank Act.”

<p><i>Derivatives, As Accused by Buffett</i> By Andrew Ross Sorkin New York Times March 14, 2011</p>	<p>http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/03/14/derivatives-as-accused-by-buffett/</p>	
<p><i>The Official Verdict: America's FCIC Report is Big, Surprisingly Readable and a Disappointment</i> Economist Mar. 3, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.economist.com/node/18060818?story_id=18060818</p>	<p>“The report of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC), America’s official probe, gets things slightly the wrong way round. It is breezily written, despite its bulk. “The fault lies not in the stars, but in us” is its way of underlining that the crisis was avoidable.”</p>
<p><i>In Case You Didn't Get the Memo...The Real Causes of the So-Called Financial Crisis</i> By Michael Lewis Washington Post February 20, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/in-case-you-didnt-get-the-memo---/2011/02/19/ABMMfvH_story.html</p>	
<p><i>A Political Divide Over the Inquiry of the Financial Crisis</i> By Sewell Chan New York Times February 17, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/17/business/17crisis.html</p>	<p>“The government inquiry into the causes of the 2008 financial crisis was the focus of intense partisan bickering on Wednesday at a House hearing. Republicans called the final 545-page report a political exercise whose findings were mostly inevitable, while Democrats defended its main conclusion: that Wall Street risk-taking and regulatory negligence combined to produce an avoidable disaster.”</p>
<p><i>Social Forces, More than Bad Actors, Led to Crisis</i> By Gregory D. Squires American Banker February 11, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.americanbanker.com/bankthink/-1032740-1.html</p>	

<p><i>Inquiries Into a Financial Crisis, Then and Now, Letter to the Editor</i> By Michael Perino New York Times February 3, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/03/opinion/103fiscal.html</p>	<p>“Frank Partnoy is correct when he argues that the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission has proved to be a pale imitation of the original Depression-era Pecora hearings (“Washington’s Financial Disaster, Op-Ed, Jan. 30).”</p>
<p><i>In Postcrisis Report, a weak Light on Complex Transactions</i> By Jesse Eisinger New York Times February 2, 2011</p>	<p>http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/02/02/in-postcrisis-report-a-weak-light-on-complex-transactions/</p>	<p>“The report is full of fascinating information, rich detail and fine documentary evidence. The commission should be celebrated for putting more than 1,100 documents online for anyone to search.”</p>
<p><i>From a Crisis, a Best Seller</i> By Julie Bosman and Sewell Chan New York Times January 31, 2011</p>	<p>http://mediadecoder.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/01/30/from-financial-crisis-a-best-seller/</p>	<p>“It lacks the sex and intrigue of the Starr Report, and the bone-chilling narrative of the 9/11 Commission Report. But the Financial Crisis Inquiry Report, the conclusion of a federal inquiry by a 10-member commission, went on sale Thursday as a 576-page book and has already begun a sprint up the online best-sellers lists. The retailer Amazon.com ran out of copies by Sunday.”</p>
<p><i>A Bank Crisis Whodunit, With Laughs and Tears</i> By Gretchen Morgenson New York Times January 30, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/30/business/30gret.html</p>	<p>“Truly startling revelations were few in the voluminous report, published last Thursday by the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission on the origins of the financial panic. This is hardly a shock, given the flood-the-zone coverage and analysis of the crisis since it erupted four years ago. Yet the report still makes for compelling reading because so little has changed as a result of the debacle, in both banking and in its regulation.”</p>

<p><i>Washington's Financial Disaster</i> By Frank Partnoy New York Times January 30, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/30/opinion/30partnoy.html</p>	<p>“The long-awaited Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission report, finally published on Thursday, was supposed to be the economic equivalent of the 9/11 commission report. But instead of a lucid narrative explaining what happened when the economy imploded in 2008, why, and who was to blame, the report is a confusing and contradictory mess, part rehash, part mishmash, as impenetrable as the collateralized debt obligations at the core of the crisis.”</p>
<p><i>Commission: U.S., Wall Street Ignored Financial Crisis Warning Signs</i> By Daniel Wagner and Darcy Gordon New York Law Journal January 28, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.law.com/jsp/nylj/PubArticleNY.jsp?hubtype=practiceMore&id=1202479600885</p>	<p>“The report detailed numerous warning signs that were ignored, among them: an explosion in risky subprime mortgage lending, an unsustainable rise in housing prices, widespread reports of unscrupulous lending practices, steep increases in homeowners’ mortgage debt and a spike in Wall Street firms’ trading activities, especially in high-risk financial products.”</p>
<p><i>Inquiry is Missing Bottom Line</i> By Joe Nocera New York Times January 28, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/29/business/29nocera.html</p>	<p>“The 545-page document paints a picture of a financial system let loose by lax regulation and careening out of control.”</p>
<p><i>Report Details Wall Street Crisis</i> By Carrick Mollenkamp, Aaron Lucchetti and Serena Ng Wall Street Journal January 28, 2011</p>	<p>http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703399204576108461096848824.html</p>	<p>“The 545-page document paints a picture of a financial system let loose by lax regulation and careening out of control.”</p>

<p><i>Take Your Pick: A Divided Panel Reaches Three Competing Conclusions</i> Economist Jan. 27, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.economist.com/node/18013965?story_id=18013965</p>	
<p><i>What Caused the Financial Crisis?</i> By Bill Thomas, Keith Hennessey and Douglas Holtz-Eakin Wall Street Journal January 27, 2011</p>	<p>http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704698004576104500524998280.html</p>	<p>“Although the three of us served on the commission, we were unable to support the majority’s conclusions and have issued a dissenting statement. . . . We subscribe to a third narrative – a messier story that emphasizes both global economic forces and failures in U.S. policy and supervision.”</p>
<p><i>Financial Crisis Was Avoidable, Inquiry Finds</i> By Sewell Chan New York Times January 26, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/26/business/economy/26inquiry.html</p>	
<p><i>No ordinary Joe: A Credit-crunch Legend has his Say</i> Economist Jul. 1, 2010</p>	<p>http://www.economist.com/node/16485620?story_id=16485620</p>	

That 1930s Show: A Depression-era Crusade Against Wall Street has a 2010 Revival
Economist
Jan. 7, 2010

http://www.economist.com/node/15213315?story_id=E1_TVNTPPTV

“Though modelled on the body that investigated the attacks of September 11th 2001, the spiritual father of this venture is the Pecora Commission. This was named after Ferdinand Pecora, the chief lawyer on the Senate Banking Committee from 1933 to 1934. His cross-examinations brought forth revelations of widespread abuses on Wall Street: bankers selling stocks at preferred prices to powerful friends, or giving executives bonuses for dumping dud securities on the public. Within days of testifying, the head of National City Bank, the predecessor of Citibank, was forced to resign. The commission’s findings led to the creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the passage of the Glass-Steagall Act, which separated commercial and investment banking.”

Post-mortem: the Official Autopsy on the Financial Market Meltdown is now in the Hands of a Washington Commission. And its Work has Only Just Begun
By Louise L. Schiavone
Mortgage Banking Magazine
March 2010

<http://mortgagebankingmagazine.com/default.htm>

“As the new decade of the new millennium began, some of the most powerful bankers in the nation sat before a special commission on the financial crisis, it was a scene reminiscent of the class in Ferris Bueller's Day Off. In that movie, the economics teacher, played memorably by actor Ben Stein, drills his students: ‘In 1930, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, in an effort to alleviate the effects of the ... Anyone? Anyone? ... the Great Depression, passed the ... Anyone? Anyone?’”

<p><i>Memo to Investigators: Dig Deep.</i> <i>If Congress Hopes to Enact Lasting</i> <i>Financial Reform, it Must First</i> <i>Identify the Roots of the Crisis</i> By William Greider The Nation Oct. 26, 2009</p>	<p>http://www.thenation.com/article/memo-investigators-dig-deep</p>	
<p><i>FCIC's Holtz-Eakin</i> By Robert Stowe England Mortgage Banking Mar. 2011</p>	<p>http://mortgagebankingmagazine.com/default.htm</p>	
<p><i>Dissension in the Ranks</i> By Robert Stowe England Mortgage Banking Mar. 2011</p>	<p>http://mortgagebankingmagazine.com/default.htm</p>	
<p><i>When 'Sorry' Isn't Enough</i> By Louise L Schiavone Mortgage Banking Sept. 2010</p>	<p>http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_hb5246/is_12_70/ai_n56581850/?tag=content;col1</p>	<p>“Appointed by Congress one year ago, the FCIC is expected to report back by the middle of December 2010. The commission is led by a Democrat, Phil Angelides, former California State Treasurer; and co-chaired by a Republican, Bill Thomas, a former member of the House of Representatives, also from California, and former chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. The remaining eight commissioners are private citizens, well known in the worlds of government and finance.”</p>

<p><i>The Spectacle of the Market Collapse Inquiries</i> By Hank Boerner Corporate Finance Review Sept./Oct. 2009</p>	<p>http://www.hankboerner.com/library/Corporate%20Finance%20Review/The%20Spectacle%20of%20the%20Market%20Collapse%20Inquiries%2009&10-2009.pdf</p>	<p>“And an official inquiry is born: Congress has created a ten-member Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC) that will begin hearings this fall. The commission head is Phil Angelides, formerly California state treasurer, whose state is now in very serious financial condition with billions of dollars of debt; the California treasury is just about bare and as we write this, there are 300,000 IOUs outstanding representing billions in unpaid monies owed to individuals and businesses.”</p>
<p><i>Partisan Rancor Undercuts Probe</i> By John D. McKinnon The Wall Street Journal Jan. 28, 2011</p>	<p>http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703399204576108363741632534.html</p>	<p>“The 10-member Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission completed its work Thursday, releasing a 545-page book that assigns blame for the crisis far and wide, from federal banking regulators to Wall Street "captains of finance" and beyond. But to a greater degree than several other recent blue-ribbon panels, the FCIC's work was marred by delays and drama, and its conclusions contained few revelations. As a result, its legacy for policy-making is likely to be minor, though its findings could aid some litigation against big banks.”</p>
<p><i>Culprits from Beltway Casting</i> Editorial Wall Street Journal Jan. 28, 2011</p>	<p>http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703893104576108453784516500.html</p>	
<p><i>The Diviner of System Risk</i> Editorial Wall Street Journal Sept. 4, 2010</p>	<p>http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704206804575467872819971324.html</p>	

<p><i>We Were 'Prudent': AIG Man At Center Of Crisis</i> By Serena Ng and Thomas Catan Wall Street Journal July 1, 2010</p>	<p>http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703426004575338640175139822.html</p>	<p>“In one of the most defiant statements by any Wall Street executive in the thick of the financial crisis, Mr. Cassano told a Congressional panel that he didn't misjudge the risks of subprime mortgage deals his unit entered into when he was its CEO, from 2002 until early 2008.”</p>
<p><i>Goldman's Cohn Is Next on Hot Seat</i> By Susanne Craig Wall Street Journal June 30, 2010</p>	<p>http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703374104575337180461840038.html</p>	
<p><i>In Financial Crisis, Autopsy Auditors Nowhere to be Found</i> By Francine McKenna Forbes.com Jan. 31, 2011</p>	<p>http://blogs.forbes.com/francinemckenna/2011/01/31/in-financial-crisis-autopsy-auditors-nowhere-to-be-found/</p>	
<p><i>Circus May Be Needed for Financial Reform</i> By Liz Moyer Forbes.com Jan. 12, 2010</p>	<p>http://www.forbes.com/2010/01/12/pecora-banks-reform-business-wall-street-commission.html</p>	<p>“The blue-ribbon commission established by Congress last year to investigate the 2008 financial crisis will finally hold its first public hearing on Wednesday. With the clamor for financial reform fading given the passage of time and the upturn in the economy and the Dow, whether the panel will have any impact is anything but certain. The hearing, featuring four mega-bank chiefs, is the first of several public Q&A sessions to be held by the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. By mid-December, the 10-member, bipartisan panel will publish a report on its findings as to the root causes of the crisis.”</p>

<p><i>Infighting, Investigations Overshadow FCIC Report</i> By Robert Schmidt and Phil Mattingly Businessweek Jan. 27, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-01-27/infighting-investigations-overshadow-fcic-report.html</p>	<p>“With the ink barely dry on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission’s assessment of the 2008 market meltdown, the group is turning to other pursuits: infighting and preparing for congressional investigations.”</p>
<p><i>Buffett Tells FCIC It Can’t Stop ‘Too Big to Fail’</i> By Andrew Frye Businessweek Feb. 11, 2011</p>	<p>http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-02-11/buffett-tells-fcic-it-can-t-stop-too-big-to-fail-.html</p>	<p>“Warren Buffett, the billionaire chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., told the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission that taxpayers will always be on the hook for collapses at the biggest U.S. companies.”</p>