

NINTH ANNUAL
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION LECTURE

**Fiscal Crises and Imperial Collapses:
Historical Perspectives on Current Predicaments**

DR. NIALL FERGUSON

Laurence A. Tisch Professor of History at Harvard University

MAY 13, 2010



**Peterson
Institute for
International
Economics**

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ABOUT THE STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION LECTURE SERIES



The Stavros Niarchos Foundation has generously created the annual Stavros Niarchos Foundation Lecture Series at the Institute. The program enables the Institute to present a leader of world economic policy and thinking for a major address each year on a topic of central concern to the US and international policy communities. The

initial lecture was presented by Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, on October 24, 2001.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation (www.SNF.org), founded by Stavros Niarchos, is an international philanthropic organization making grants in the areas of arts and culture, education, health and medicine, and social welfare. While prominent in its support of Greek-related initiatives, the Foundation's activities are worldwide in scope. The Foundation funds institutions and projects that exhibit strong leadership and sound management and that have the potential to achieve a broad and lasting impact. It encourages grantees to collaborate, and works closely with them to monitor their progress. In addition, the Foundation actively seeks to support projects that facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships as effective means for serving public welfare.

Since the beginning of its grantmaking efforts in 1996, the Foundation has provided total grant commitments of €861 million (\$1,165 million) through more than 1,800 grants to nonprofit organizations in 90 nations around the world. In 2006 the Foundation announced its commitment to provide full funding for the creation of *The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center* (www.SNFCC.org) in Athens, which will include new buildings for the National Library of Greece, the Greek National Opera, and a 170,000 m² (42 acres) cultural park. The project's cost approximates €550 million (\$744 million), making it one of the largest individual gifts ever made by a foundation.

PROGRAM

5:00 P.M.

WELCOME

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FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

LECTURE

DR. NIALL
FERGUSON

LAURENCE A. TISCH
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
AND WILLIAM ZIEGLER
PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION AT
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



DISCUSSION

6:30 P.M.

RECEPTION



ABOUT NIALL FERGUSON



Niall Ferguson, MA, D.Phil., is Laurence A. Tisch Professor of History at Harvard University and William Ziegler Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at Jesus College, Oxford University, and a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. Born in Glasgow in 1964, he was a Demy at Magdalen College and graduated with First Class Honours in 1985. After two years as a Hanseatic Scholar in Hamburg and Berlin, he took up a Research Fellowship at Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1989, subsequently moving to a Lectureship at Peterhouse. He returned to Oxford in 1992 to become Fellow and Tutor in Modern History at Jesus College, a post he held until 2000, when he was appointed Professor of Political and Financial History at Oxford. Two years later he left for the United States to take up the Herzog Chair in Financial History at the Stern Business School, New York University, before moving to Harvard in 2004. His first book, *Paper and Iron: Hamburg*

Business and German Politics in the Era of Inflation 1897–1927 (Cambridge University Press, 1995), was short-listed for the History Today Book of the Year award, while the collection of essays he edited, *Virtual History: Alternatives and Counterfactuals* (Macmillan, 1997), was a UK bestseller and subsequently published in the United States, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere. In 1998 he published to international critical acclaim *The Pity of War: Explaining World War One* (Basic Books) and *The World's Banker: The History of the House of Rothschild* (Penguin). The latter won the Wadsworth Prize for Business History and was also short-listed for the Jewish Quarterly/Wingate Literary Award and the American National Jewish Book Award. In 2001 he published *The Cash Nexus: Money and Power in the Modern World, 1700–2000* (Basic), following a year as Houlton-Norman Fellow at the Bank of England. He is a regular contributor to television and radio on both sides of the Atlantic. In 2003 he wrote and presented a six-part history of the British

Empire for Channel 4, the UK broadcaster. The accompanying book, *Empire: The Rise and Demise of the British World Order and the Lessons for Global Power* (Basic), was a bestseller in both Britain and the United States. The sequel, *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of the American Empire*, was published in 2004 by Penguin. Two years later he published *The War of the World: Twentieth Century Conflict and the Descent of the West*, which was also a PBS series. His most recent book is the best-selling *Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World* (Penguin, 2008). It aired on PBS in 2009. He has just completed a biography of the banker Siegmund Warburg and is now working on the life of Henry Kissinger. A prolific commentator on contemporary politics and economics, Niall Ferguson writes and reviews regularly for the British and American press. He is a contributing editor for the *Financial Times* and a regular contributor to *Newsweek*. In 2004 Time magazine named him as one of the world's one hundred most influential people.

ABOUT THE PETERSON INSTITUTE

The Peterson Institute for International Economics was created in 1981 to fill a conspicuous gap in the roster of US research centers: the absence of any such institution devoted to global economic issues. It was already becoming clear that these issues were moving rapidly toward the top of the agenda for both US economic policy and US foreign policy. Hence the Institute was created with four central purposes: to anticipate (and sometimes influence) the policy agenda for those topics; to prepare analyses of the highest quality to improve understanding of the global economy; to develop practical recommendations for future policy; and to present its findings in a manner that would be intelligible (and even appealing) to the broad policy community and thus effective in influencing the policy debate. The goal was to address medium-term issues that would be relevant for policy but beyond the immediate time horizon of most governmental attention. It is one of the very few economics think tanks that are widely regarded as “nonpartisan” by the press and “neutral” by the US Congress, its research staff is cited by the quality media more than that of any other such institution, and it was selected as Top Think Tank in the World for 2008 in the first comprehensive survey of over

5,000 such institutions. The Institute’s staff numbers about 50, including over two dozen economists working on international macroeconomic, monetary, financial, trade, investment, environmental, development, and other global issues. Its expertise covers the world with special emphasis on Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Virtually all of the senior staff have both Ph.D.



degrees in economics, with extensive research and publication records, and practical experience in national governments and/or international economic



organizations. C. Fred Bergsten has been director of the Institute throughout its existence after his earlier service at the US Treasury and State Departments, the National Security Council, and several other think tanks. The Institute has published over 330 books and monographs. It now averages two or three longer and shorter publications a month and hosts at least one luncheon or dinner meeting, conference, or seminar almost every week. The Institute's annual budget is about \$10 million. Its capital fund totals about \$50 million. Support is provided by a wide range of charitable foundations, private corporations, individuals, and from earnings on the Institute's publications and capital fund. An outstanding and devoted Board of Directors has guided the operations of the Institute throughout its history. Peter G. Peterson, cofounder and chairman emeritus of the Blackstone Group and former secretary of commerce, was founding chairman and remains in that role today. George David, former president and chief executive officer of United Technologies Corporation, is vice chairman of the Board. Reynold Levy, president of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, is chairman of the Executive Committee. The other members of the Executive Committee are Andreas C. Dracopoulos, co-president, board of directors, Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Jessica Einhorn, dean of the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and former managing director of the World Bank; Carla A. Hills, chairman and chief executive officer of Hills & Company, former secretary of housing and urban development and former United States trade representative; Caio Koch-Weser, vice chairman, Deutsche Bank Group, former deputy minister of finance for Germany and former managing director of the World Bank; James W. Owens, chairman and chief executive officer, Caterpillar, Inc.; Joseph E. Robert, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer, J. E. Robert Companies; and Richard E. Salomon, managing partner, East End Advisors, LLC.

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“I don’t think there have been many institutions outside the government, if any, that have had the same kind of impact on global economic thinking as the [Peterson] Institute for International Economics.”

LAWRENCE H. SUMMERS

Director of the National Economic Council

“...without any doubt the preeminent organization in the world operating outside government and outside universities...in analysis of international economic problems. Its publications over the years have been an invaluable reference source for all journalists working the field...”

MARTIN WOLF

Associate editor and chief economics commentator, *Financial Times*

“...the emblematic think tank of our time.”

JEAN-CLAUDE TRICHET

President, European Central Bank



“In terms of [the Peterson Institute for International Economics’] ability to shape policy discussion and influence the outcome, there isn’t an organization outside government that can touch it.”

STEVE PEARLSTEIN

Washington Post

“Fred Bergsten, together with his associates at the [Peterson] Institute for International Economics, has no equal in setting out relevant issues of economic policy in a comprehensible way.”

PAUL A. VOLCKER

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“Fred Bergsten, backed by the quality of the people at the Institute, has managed to create that fine blend of publications that are both extremely timely and policy-relevant and also of a very high policy quality.”

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“One of the things that has always astounded me about [the Institute] is they always have a book coming out about the subject that you just realized was important.”

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STUART EIZENSTAT

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“...research institutes vary widely in both quality and honesty. Among the best on both counts is the [Peterson] Institute for International Economics.”

PAUL R. KRUGMAN

Professor of economics and international
affairs, Princeton University

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OCTOBER 24, 2001

Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board



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