

L'Institut d'Etudes Avancées de Nantes bénéficie du soutien de :

Nantes Métropole  
Région Pays de la Loire  
Université de Nantes  
Réseau français des IEA  
Veolia Eau  
Suez environnement  
Harmonie mutualité  
FNMI  
Ministère du Travail de l'Emploi et de la Santé  
Communauté Européenne

## Conference

# « The Occident as a Prisoner of the Neoliberal System »

**Tuesday, May 14th 2013**

At 6.00 pm

Amphitheatre Simone Weil  
5 allée Jacques Berque, Nantes

By

**Jean-Luc Gréau,**

Essay writer and economic columnist

*This conference is the following of the book  
"La grande récession (depuis 2005)" written  
by Jean-Luc Gréau, and published by Folio.*

**Jean-Luc Gréau** was born in 1943. He has an advanced degree in Economy. He has thirty-four years of experience as a Senior Executive in the inter-professional representative organizations. In 1969, he started working at the CNPF and in 2003, he left the MEDEF. It is when he started to dedicate himself to the activity of essay writer and economic columnist.

The transformations in the economical, monetary and financial fields - which happened during these last thirty years - have led him to a reflection that resulted in: various collaborations, since 1988, with the review *Le Débat*; and also to the publication of three books, all of them related to this review.

The present book is dedicated to the most recent recession that the Western economies have gone through, it constitutes the last part of his reflection, and it is in accordance with his three previous books.

These books are:

*Le capitalisme malade de sa finance.* 1998.

*L'avenir du capitalisme.* 2005.

*La trahison des économistes.* 2008.

## Topic

« First observation: the political and economic leaders, in the West, refuse the diagnostic of a great recession.

Second observation: the economic growth that was expected did not happen in the United States of America, neither in Europe – which is suffering from a monetary crisis.

Third observation: everywhere in the old developed world, the Central Banks have practice a headlong rush, which is materialized by the uncontrolled distribution of fresh and free money to their cashiers.

1°) *Titrisation* and *collatéralisation* are central aspects of the financial crisis

The *titrisation* (is the capacity of resell without limits the credits given to the money-lender) and the *collatéralisation* (is the capacity of relating the loans to guarantees such as: the mortgages; the stock-exchange actions; and the warehouses receipts) work together in order to overflow the individuals and the companies with credit. It became a real machine in many countries and it has created the economic bubbles and booms that we are aware of. So, it is the objective factors and not the subjective ones – such as: avidity and fraud – that are at the centre of the financial crisis. These factors have not been framed or limited; meaning that the West have kept the financial model that is at the origin of this crisis.

2°) The European monetary system is outdone

The second flaw reveals itself through the successive crisis of the countries from the South of Europe. The single currency - which is essential to the European economic integration - did not reach its purposes, as if it would have reduced the differences. After a misleading period of financial convergence (in which the borrowers of the South were as well treated as the borrowers of the North), the different countries have admitted their weakness. The financial convergence is followed by the divergences in the economic competitiveness. However, questioning about the viability of the Euro zone is still a taboo.

3°) The Central Banks are reduced to a politic of going forward

The fact that these Central Banks were not able to return to a “normal” monetary politic is the most notorious about them. They practice some kind of overbid: the Quantitative Easing, in the USA; the unconditional support to the Euro zone banks, in England; and the programmed explosion of liquidity, in Japan. This desperate politic shows the opposite that the political leaders want: that the crisis is still over there, even in America.

Conclusion

Then, it seems that the crisis is on its way to Asia, and it is necessary to try a broad renovation of our understanding schemes...”

Jean-Luc Gréau