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Part 1: FRONTLINE investigates how two U.S. administrations have confronted the crisis—while dealing with sharp internal divisions and a relationship with Wall Street marked by mistrust and dependence, mutual interests, and competing goals. The investigation charts the largest government bailout in U.S. history, a series of decisions that rewrote the rules of government and fueled a debate that would alter the country's political landscape. Focusing on the Obama administration, FRONTLINE tells the story of a newly elected president with a mandate for change grappling with the multiheaded menace of economic instability, and with fundamental choices about winners and losers and the direction of his presidency.

Part 2: The investigation pivots to the inner workings of global high finance, which four years after the crisis exploded remains largely shrouded in secrecy and laden with risk. While popular anger at bankers and the effects of recklesslending and borrowing has spread across much of the globe, effective regulatory reform remains elusive. Looking to Europe as well as America, FRONTLINE interviews leading bankers and officials to probe deeply into story of the big banks, how they developed, how they crashed, and whether many of the practices that contributed to the crisis remain clear and present dangers. Is the global economy again on the brink?

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CREDITS

Producers: Michael Kirk and Martin Smith Executive Producer: David Fanning

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