

Evolution of the International Monetary System

Jacques de Larosiere

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Abstract

The paper attempts to give an overview of the evolution of the international monetary system over the last three decades.

It shows how the international adjustment process has been shifting from the main preoccupations of the sixties and the seventies -i.e. "fighting against inflation and reducing fiscal deficits"- to a more systemic concern -i.e. "how to avoid the excesses of indebtedness of the private sector and to improve the functioning of financial institutions?".

The paper analyzes how this "privatization and globalization" of the world financial system has lead to a number of difficult challenges concerning, in particular, the surveillance process, the role of the IMF, the treatment of debt crises, the management of exchange rates....

The lecture ends with some thoughts on the main improvements that could be introduced in the functioning of the international monetary system.