

13 BANKERS

SIMON JOHNSON
JAMES KWAK

READ BY ERIK SYNNESTVEDT

"A disturbing and painstakingly researched account of how the banks wrenched control of government and society out of our hands—and what we can do to seize it back." —BILL MOYERS

Even after the ruinous financial crisis of 2008, America is still beset by the depredations of an oligarchy that is now bigger, more profitable, and more resistant to regulation than ever. Anchored by six megabanks, which together control assets amounting to more than 60 percent of the country's gross domestic product, these financial institutions (now more emphatically "too big to fail") continue to hold the global economy hostage, threatening yet another financial meltdown with their excessive risk-taking and toxic "business as usual" practices. How did this come to be—and what is to be done? These are the central concerns of *13 Bankers*, a brilliant, historically informed account of our troubled political economy.

In *13 Bankers*, prominent economist Simon Johnson and James Kwak show why our future is imperiled by the ideology of finance and by Wall Street's political control of government policy pertaining to it. To restore health and balance to our economy, Johnson and Kwak make a radical yet feasible and focused proposal: reconfigure the megabanks to be "small enough to fail."

Simon Johnson is the Ronald A. Kurtz Professor of Entrepreneurship at MIT's Sloan School of Management and a senior fellow of the Peterson Institute for International Economics. **James Kwak** has served as a consultant for McKinsey & Company and as a software entrepreneur. Simon and James coauthor *The Baseline Scenario*, a leading economic blog.

Actor **Erik Synnestvedt** has recorded nearly two hundred audiobooks, including *Profits Aren't Everything, They're the Only Thing* by George Cloutier and Samantha Marshall, *The Long Way Home* by David Laskin, and *From Eternity to Here* by Sean Carroll.



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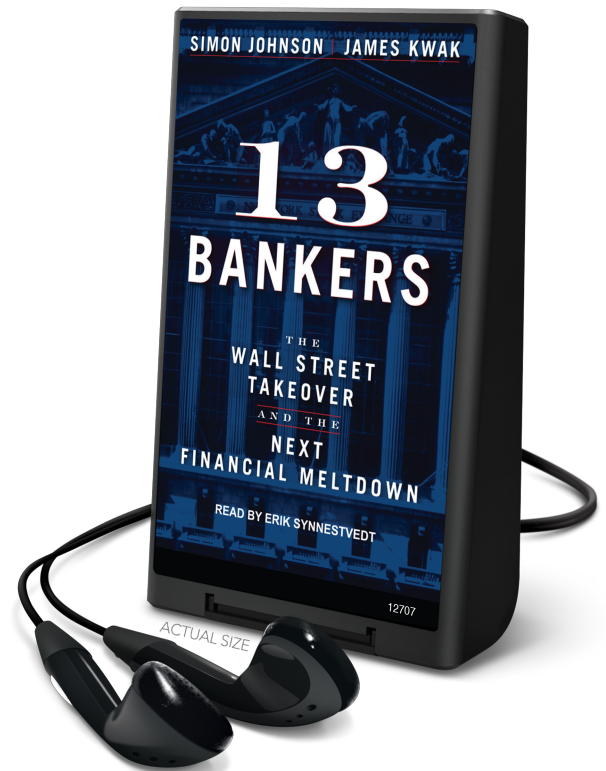
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