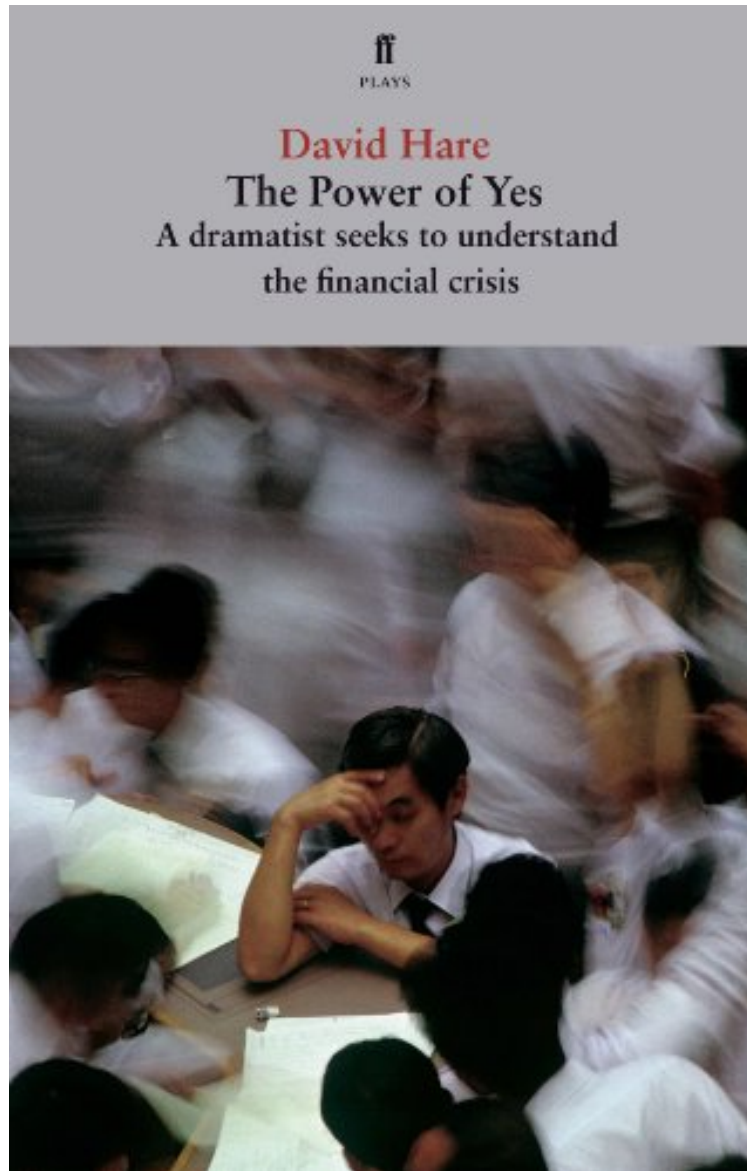


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# The Power of Yes: A Dramatist Seeks to Understand the Financial Crisis

*David Hare*

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**David Hare : The Power of Yes: A Dramatist Seeks to Understand the Financial Crisis** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Power of Yes: A Dramatist Seeks to Understand the Financial Crisis:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "THE POWER OF YES" IS THE POWER OF ACCURACY AND TRUTHBy Joseph B. Hudson Jr.TuesdayNovember 30, 2010Sirs:After 32 years of the practice of law, thebulk of

which was in the areas of large-scale syndicated loan facilities, State and Local and Municipal public finance (both tax-exempt and taxable), large-scale project infrastructure finance, and structured financial products, I can only say that the playwright David Hare has somehow - and almost miraculously, for a layman - "hit the nail squarely on the head" with regard to the origins of the current "Great Meltdown." On a par with the great Ms. Gillian Tett's recent work, "Fool's Gold," (Ms. Tett is currently the Financial Affairs editor of The Financial Times of London), this book is - or should be - mandatory reading for anyone who wishes to see exactly what happened to "the 'genius' of 'laissez-faire' economics" when it was allowed to run amok in an ideologically based 'perfect storm' of deregulation. We are back, as it were, in late 1933 - having not remembered history, and having been condemned to repeat it. Three cheers for David Hare! He richly deserved his KBE honors. J. B. Hudson, Jr., Esq. Fallbrook, California United States of America

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another Hit for Hare By E Pluribus Unum 100 My experience of David Hare plays is that they are often hit and miss: for every "Plenty" or "Amy's View" you get a "My Zinc Bed" or "Breath of Life" -- and the writing in the plays is not significantly better or worse, just some of the plays "work" better than others. Mr. Hare's most recent play before this one, "Gethsemane," I found VERY disappointing, but this new one, "The Power of Yes," seems a return to form. If you liked "The Permanent Way" and "Stuff Happens" then don't hesitate to pick this one up. Again Hare constructs his narrative from public records and interviews he recently conducted -- this time adding himself as a character on stage to tie the material together. The result is informative, entertaining and compelling. For the non-British reader a little research will help your appreciation of the "drama" immeasurably -- e.g. finding out about Fred Goodwin -- former head of Royal Bank of Scotland who many in Britain believe was almost single-handedly responsible for the financial melt-down there. But even without such knowledge the play is enjoyable. The image of Hare interviewing the billionaire who met with Alan Greenspan both before and after the crisis will stay with you: Soros: When we met... it was before the crisis, and... he said, 'Markets are imperfect but they bring such benefits that you have to live with the fact that from time to time they collapse, so you just pick up the bits.' But then I saw him again recently -- after the crisis... He said 'What I said in June no longer applies.' Yes, but even at the first lunch, ... when he said, 'The benefits of the market are so great that you have to live with the price,' even then I had an answer... I said, 'Yes, but Alan, the people who end up paying the price are never the people who get the benefits.' 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clarity, understanding, wisdom By L. J. Thomas You can, like me, read book after book on the causes of the Great Recession. Read them, discuss them, try to learn from them, and end up mired in a quagmire of details that dishearten and diminish. Not this play by David Hare. Read this play; let the ideas settle in your mind. The gritty detail is embedded in a lucid intelligence that communicates with such clarity it is like a pearl. The final words of the Power of Yes are filled with the kind of wisdom we need to speak truth to the beneficiaries of the financial disarray that continues to mire us all.

On 15 September 2008, capitalism came to a grinding halt. As sub-prime mortgages and toxic securities continued to dominate the headlines well into 2009, this spring the National Theatre asked David Hare to write an urgent and immediate work to be staged this autumn that sought to find out what had happened, and why. Capitalism works when greed and fear are in the correct balance. This time they got out of balance. Too much greed, not enough fear. Meeting with many of the key players from the financial world, David Hare, author of *The Permanent Way* and *Stuff Happens*, has created *The Power of Yes*: a compelling narrative, as enlightening as it is entertaining. It's like a ship which you're being told is in apple-pie order, the decks are cleaned, the metal is burnished, the only thing nobody mentions, it's being driven at full speed towards an iceberg. Not so much a play as a jaw-dropping account of how, as the banks went bust, capitalism was replaced by a socialism that bailed out the rich alone. *The Power of Yes* opened at the National Theatre, London, in September 2009.