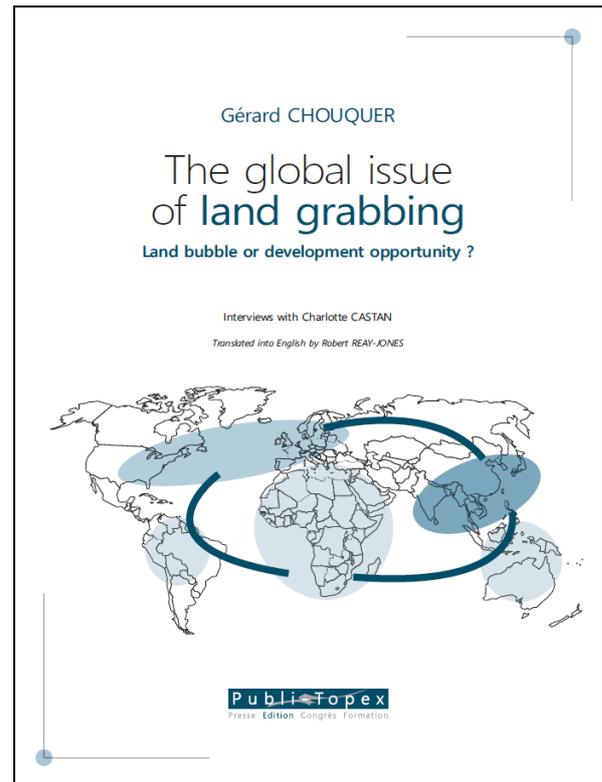


Gérard CHOUQUER
Interviews with Charlotte CASTAN

The global issue of land grabbing Land bubble or development opportunity?

Translated into English by Robert REAY-JONES

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Since the Madagascan scandal of 2008, global public opinion has become deeply aware of the increasingly significant land sales that have resulted in millions of hectares of land in developing countries passing into foreign hands. The issue has become known as land grabbing. In this book of interviews conducted by Charlotte Castan, Gérard Chouquer provides the keys to understanding the global issue of land grabbing.

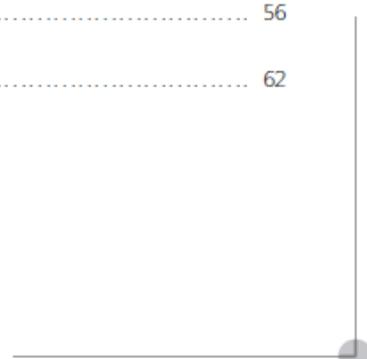
Based on a close relationship between initiating countries operating through companies and hedge funds, host countries offering up supposedly vacant lands for sale, and international institutions acting as guarantors, a 'new triangular trade' has emerged in which land has become the key object of trade. Recent land concessions have paved the way for a new geography of land ownership. This book aims to locate and to examine the dynamics of land grabbing, viewed as an opportunity or a threat.

Available in French : *Les acquisitions massives de terres. Bulle foncière ou opportunité de développement ?*

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Charlotte Castan is *agrégée* in geography and teaches in *classe préparatoire*. She has contributed to a number of publications in geography in the Publitopex series, including *2000 ans d'arpentage* (2000) with Gérard Chouquer, Pierre Portet and Mireille Touzery and *La terre écrite* (2001) with Philippe Pinchemel and Pierre Clergeot. Her more recent work has focused on sustainable development training through professional training courses and contributions to books such as *Les développements durables* (SCEREN – CNDP – 2011).

Gérard Chouquer is *agrégé* in history and a research director at the CNRS. A historian of land tenure, land ownership and land issues, Dr Chouquer is the author of *Observatoire des formes du foncier dans le monde* for FIEF and the editor-in-chief of the journal *Etudes Rurales*. He is also involved in research carried out by the *Ordre des Géomètres-Experts* through the association *France International Expertise Foncière*. He is a member of the technical committee *Foncier et Développement* at the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and at the French Agency for Development, and is a regular contributor to the work of the *Fédération Internationale des Géomètres*.
