

# THREE CRISES OF CAPITALISM

## 1. THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND “EMBEDDED LIBERALISM”

MARTIN DAUNTON



**GRESHAM**  
COLLEGE

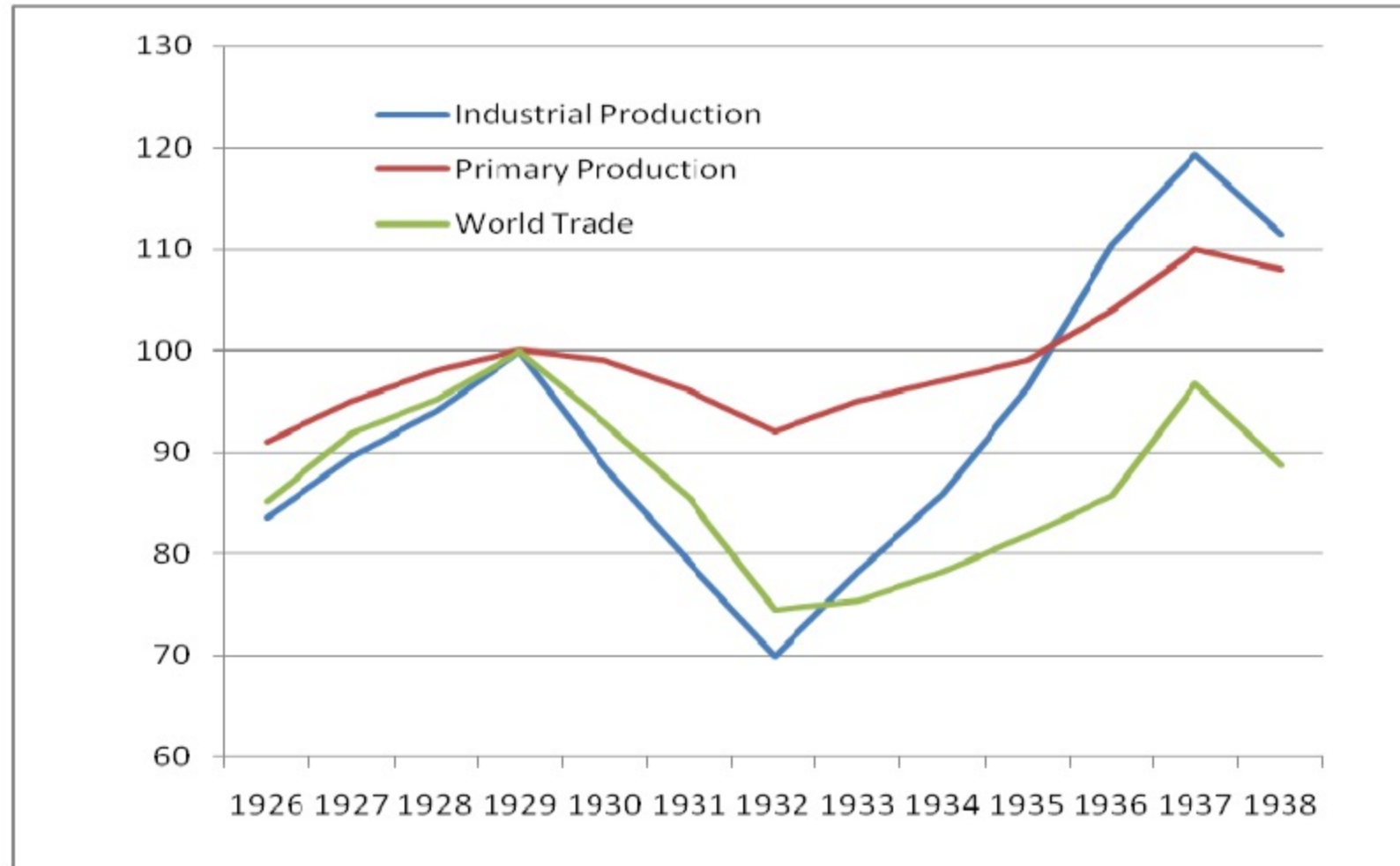
## World Monetary and Economic Conference, London, 1933



Source: League of Nations  
archive

**Figure 1: World Trade and Production, 1926-1938 (1929 = 100)**

Source: League of Nations (1939c), Appendix III.

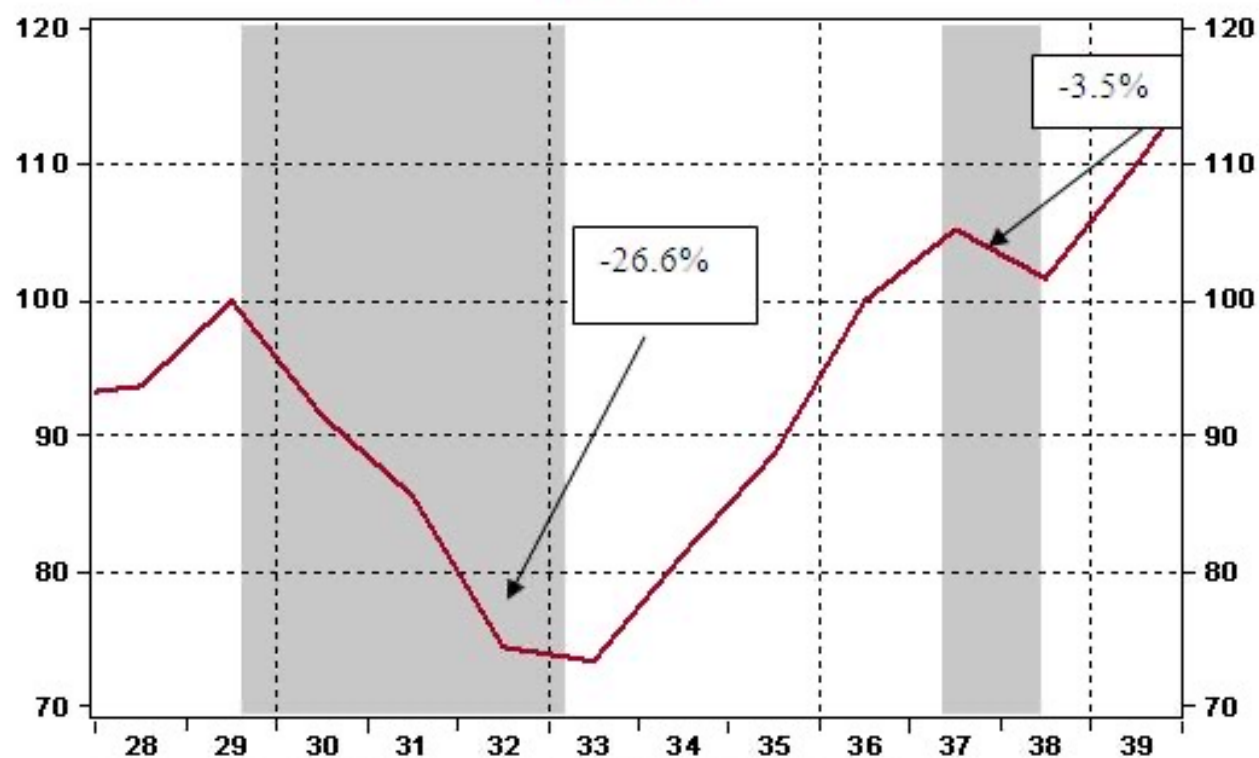


Source:  
Eichengreen and  
Uzan, '1933  
conference'

Chart 1

**Real Gross Domestic Product**

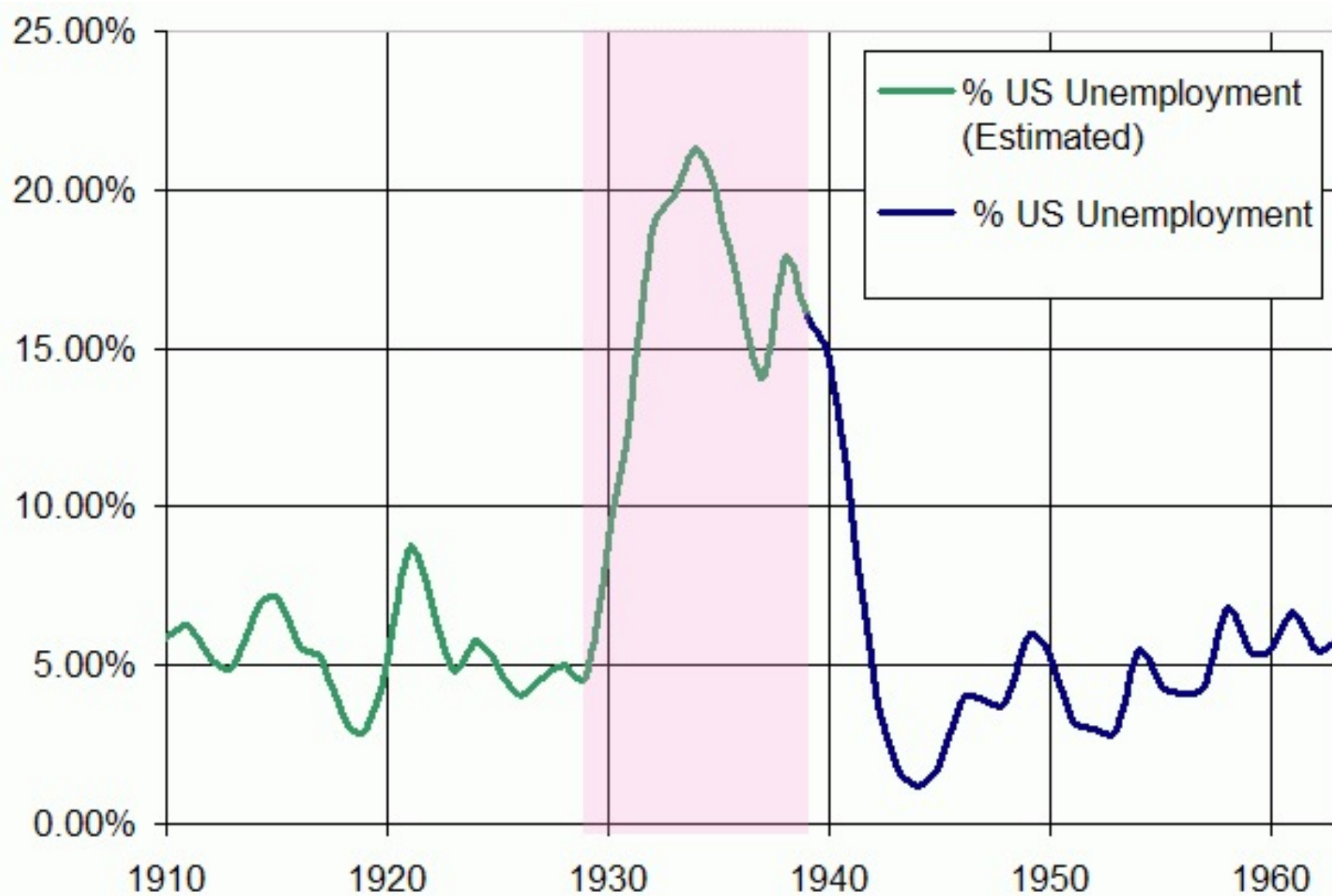
**1929=100**



Source: Historical Statistics of the United States /Haver Analytics

Note: Shaded regions denote periods of recessions in all charts.

Source:  
Wikimedia  
Commons







## Cordell Hull and free trade

‘unhampered trade dovetailed with peace; high tariffs, trade barriers, and unfair economic competition, with war.... if we could get a freer flow of trade – freer in the sense of fewer discriminations and obstructions – so that one country would not be deadly jealous of another and the living standards of all countries might rise, thereby eliminating the economic dissatisfaction that breeds war, we might have a reasonable chance for lasting peace’

# William Jennings Bryan and the cross of gold



Source:  
Wikimedia  
Commons

# Father Coughlin: *Driving out the Money Changers*

'Banks and Gold', February 1933:

“the Morgans, the Kuhn-Loebs, the Rothschilds, the Dillon-Reads, the Federal Reserve banksters ... and the rest of that undeserving group who, without either the blood of patriotism or of Christianity flowing in their veins, have shackled the lives of men and of nations with the ponderous links of their golden chain”.



Source: Holocaust Museum, Washington



# Roosevelt's "bombshell"



FDR on the *Amberjack*  
Source: Wikimedia Commons

"I would regard it as a catastrophe amounting to a world tragedy if the great Conference of Nations, called to bring about a more real and permanent financial stability and a greater prosperity to the masses of all Nations, should, in advance of any serious effort to consider these broader problems, allow itself to be diverted by the proposal of a purely artificial and temporary experiment affecting the monetary exchange of a few Nations only. Such action, such diversion, shows a singular lack of proportion and a failure to remember the larger purposes for which the Economic Conference originally was called together."

It was time to reject the 'old fetishes of so-called international bankers', for 'the sound internal economic system of a Nation is a greater factor in its well-being than the price of its currency'.

# THE EMPIRE CHRISTMAS PUDDING

according to the recipe supplied by the King's Chef  
Mr. CEDARD with Their Majesties' Gracious Consent

1 lb Currants	////	Australia
1 lb Sultanas	////	Australia or South Africa
1 lb Stoned Raisins	—	Australia or South Africa
5 ozs Minced Apple	—	United Kingdom or Canada
1 lb Bread Crumbs	—	United Kingdom
1 lb Beef Suet	////	United Kingdom
6 ozs Cut Candied Peel	—	South Africa
8 ozs Flour	////	United Kingdom
8 ozs Demerara Sugar	—	British West Indies or British Guiana
5 Eggs	////	United Kingdom or Irish Free State
½ oz Ground Cinnamon	—	India or Ceylon
½ oz Ground Cloves	—	Zanzibar
½ oz Ground Nutmegs	—	British West Indies
½ teaspoon Pudding Spice	—	India or British West Indies
½ gill Brandy	////	Australia · S. Africa Cyprus or Palestine
½ gill Rum	////	Jamaica or British Guiana
1 pint Beer	////	England · Wales · Scotland or Ireland

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ON EMPIRE CHRISTMAS FAIR GIVING THIS AND OTHER RECIPES.



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Source: The National Archives



# Will Rogers and the perils of international involvement



'If things don't pick up in their own countries, they'll think up something else to blame America for, and have another conference'.



Alfred Hugenberg



Hjalmar Schacht



- WOMEN DO 85% OF THE BUYING
- BUYING ability is POWER



An Individual Shopper's  
Action as a Consumer  
Passes UNNOTICED!

BUT...



MANY  
SHOPPERS

ORGANIZED ...  
BRING RESULTS

USE YOUR BUYING POWER FOR JUSTICE  
For Yourself — Your Community — Your Country

LEAGUE OF WOMEN SHOPPERS

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WE DO OUR PART



FIGURE I.1. Income inequality in the United States, 1910–2010

Source: Piketty and Saez, 'Income inequality in the United States'







John Maynard Keynes and Harry  
Dexter White at Bretton Woods

Source: Wikimedia Commons





# Walther Funk



Source: Wikimedia  
Commons

Henry Morgenthau jr



Source: Wikimedia Commons



William Clayton signs  
the Charter of the  
International Trade  
Organization, Havana,  
24 March 1948

Source: UN