

The World Economy in the 19th-20th Century

Chapter 3: The Making of a Global World · Topic 2

Key Concept

The 19th century saw increased global trade and investment, as industrialised nations sought raw materials and markets, often through colonial expansion.

The Great Depression (starting in 1929) caused severe global economic hardship, with widespread unemployment, business failures, and reduced trade worldwide.

World Wars I and II significantly disrupted global trade and economies, though they also led to new economic arrangements and institutions after 1945, like the IMF and World Bank.

These events shaped modern global economic structures, highlighting the interconnectedness of national economies and the impact of major crises on global trade and development.

Quick Revision Notes

- The 19th century saw increased global trade via colonial expansion.
- Industrialised nations sought raw materials and markets.
- The Great Depression began in 1929.
- It caused global unemployment and business failures.
- World Wars I and II disrupted global trade.
- After 1945, new institutions like the IMF and World Bank formed.
- These events shaped modern global economic structures.
- They show how interconnected national economies are.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the causes of the Great Depression.
- 2 Discuss how World War I affected global trade.
- 3 Research the IMF or World Bank's role today.
- 4 Explain how colonial expansion related to economic interests.
- 5 Discuss how a global crisis can affect multiple countries.
- 6 Create a timeline of major 19th-20th century economic events.