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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	6
<i>Note on References</i>	6
<i>Editor's Preface</i>	7
1 Introduction	9
2 The 1920s: Sources of Instability	13
(i) The Economic Impact of the First World War	13
(ii) International Capital Flows and Indebtedness	16
(iii) Gold, Stability and Bankers	21
(iv) Foodstuffs and Raw-Material Producers	25
3 Economic Expansion 1925–9	28
4 The Depression	31
(i) The Depression in the United States	31
(ii) The Depression Spreads	39
5 The Financial Crisis of 1931 and the Demise of the Gold Standard	45
6 The Crisis in Primary Products	49
7 Government Policy and Recovery	53
8 Conclusion	58
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	60
<i>Index</i>	67

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Note on References

References in the text within square brackets relate to the entries in the Select Bibliography.

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Editor's Preface

SINCE 1968, when the Economic History Society and Macmillan published the first of the 'Studies in Economic and Social History', the series has established itself as a major teaching tool in universities, colleges and schools, and as a familiar landmark in serious bookshops throughout the country. A great deal of the credit for this must go to the wise leadership of its first editor, Professor M. W. Flinn, who retired at the end of 1977. The books tend to be bigger now than they were originally, and inevitably more expensive; but they have continued to provide information in modest compass at a reasonable price by the standards of modern academic publication.

There is no intention of departing from the principles of the first decade. Each book aims to survey findings and discussion in an important field of economic or social history that has been the subject of recent lively debate. It is meant as an introduction for readers who are not themselves professional researchers but who want to know what the discussion is all about – students, teachers and others generally interested in the subject. The authors, rather than either taking a strongly partisan line or suppressing their own critical faculties, set out the arguments and the problems as fairly as they can, and attempt a critical summary and explanation of them from their own judgement. The discipline now embraces so wide a field in the study of the human past that it would be inappropriate for each book to follow an identical plan, but all volumes will normally contain an extensive descriptive bibliography.

The series is not meant to provide all the answers but to help readers to see the problems clearly enough to form their own conclusions. We shall never agree in history, but the discipline will be well served if we know what we are disagreeing about, and why.

T. C. SMOUT

University of Edinburgh

Editor