



Booms and Busts: An Encyclopedia of Economic History from the First Stock Market Crash of 1792 to the Current Global Economic Crisis

By Mehmet Odekon

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This timely and authoritative set explores three centuries of good times and hard times in major economies throughout the world. More than 400 signed articles cover events from Tulipmania during the 1630s to the U.S. federal stimulus package of 2009, and introduce readers to underlying concepts, recurring themes, major institutions, and notable figures. Written in a clear, accessible style, "Booms and Busts" provides vital insight and perspective for students, teachers, librarians, and the general public - anyone interested in understanding the historical precedents, causes, and effects of the global economic crisis. Special features include a chronology of major booms and busts through history, a glossary of economic terms, a guide to further research, an appendix of primary documents, a topic finder, and a comprehensive index. It features 1,050 pages; three volumes; 8-1/2" X 11"; topic finder; photos; chronology; glossary; primary documents; bibliography; and, index.

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Editorial Review

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With more than 360 entries, this set covers the extremes of economic cycles, with emphasis placed on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Although geographic coverage is international, U.S.-related articles make up a large portion of entries. A "Topic Finder" in volume 1 organizes entries under 16 headings. Three headings with the largest number of articles are "Economists, Financiers, Policy Makers" (83 entries); "Economic Terms and Concepts" (50); and "Nations, Regions, Economic Blocs" (45 entries). Other categories include "Booms and Busts, Historical" (Asian financial crisis 1997); "Financial Instruments, Investments" (Collateralized debt obligations); "Government Institutions, U.S." (Federal Reserve System); and "Theories, Models, Schools of Thought" (Keynesian business model). Entries are arranged alphabetically and range between 2 and 10 pages. Each entry is signed and includes see also headings and a further-reading list. Undergraduate students and general readers should find most articles easy to understand. For example, in the article Credit default swaps, terms such as collateralized mortgage obligations, collateralized debt obligations, and tranches are all defined. Numerous black-and-white illustrations, charts, and tables are provided. Besides a cumulative index, volume 3 includes a 9-page chronology, a 10-page glossary, and a 17-page selected bibliography organized into books and websites. The set opens with three introductory essays that review notable booms and busts as well as causes and consequences. There are more than 90 international academic contributors. In addition, editor Ciment (editor of numerous encyclopedias, including Encyclopedia of the Great Depression and New Deal, 2001) contributes more than 40 articles. Business Cycles and Depressions: An Encyclopedia (Garland, 1997) covers similar topics in 327 entries, is for more advanced users, but is not as up-to-date. Booms and Busts should prove useful in academic and public libraries. Also available on Sharpe Online Reference. --Stephen Fadel

About the Author

MEHMET ODEKUN is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Skidmore College.

Users Review

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