

# UNEMPLOYMENT

## *AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM*

A Report by a  
Study Group of Members of the  
Royal Institute of International  
Affairs

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## FOREWORD

THIS Report has been prepared by a Group of Members of Chatham House who, in the summer of 1933, were invited by the Council of the Institute to make a survey of unemployment considered as an international problem.

The Report attempts to assemble the essential facts on the unemployment situation throughout the world; to describe some of the conditions under which the dislocation of labour in recent years has occurred, and the practical measures taken by governments and by industrialists to meet the situation. Only the more salient features of the problem are discussed in this book, which is largely based on the exhaustive information contained in the publications of the International Labour Office, the League of Nations, and the Ministry of Labour. Its purpose is to provide the non-expert on the subject with the material which will enable him, in the light of the experience gained by other countries, to form an opinion on any national policy proposed to counteract unemployment and on the repercussions of that policy in international affairs.

The Group of Members of the Institute to whom the Council is indebted for the preparation of the Report is:

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Miss Margaret Bryant (*Group  
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The Council is also indebted to a group of other authorities in Great Britain and abroad to whom, following the usual practice adopted in connexion with Group Studies, the first draft of the Report was sent with an invitation to comment upon and criticize it from their various points of view. These correspondents responded generously to this request for collaboration, and much valuable commentary was received, particularly from the following:

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Dr. Moritz J. Bonn

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 Mr. D. Christie Tait  
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 Miss D. Warriner  
 Professor F. Zeuthen

The Council of the Institute desires to express its gratitude to these authorities for placing their knowledge and experience at the disposal of the Group, and at the same time to make it clear that they have not, by giving their views, incurred responsibility for the contents of the book. The Council is grateful to the Ministry of Labour and other Government Departments for generous assistance; and also wishes to thank the High Commissioner for the Irish Free State in London, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, the Joint Committee of Cotton Trade Organizations, Manchester, and the International Migration Service, Geneva, for help in obtaining information; and the Economic Intelligence Service of the League of Nations, the International Labour Office, the Ministry of Labour, the Institut für Konjunkturforschung, Berlin, and the National Bureau of Economic Research Inc., New York, for permission to reproduce diagrams.

In the drafting of the Report the Group Secretary was assisted by Miss Heather Harvey and valuable help was also received from Mrs. H. C. Harwood, a member of the Institute, who has devoted much time to the preparation of material. Finally the Council wishes to express high appreciation of Miss Bryant's work as Group Secretary.

In reading this Report it should be borne in mind that, as is customary in the Study Group work of Chatham House, the members of the Group invited by the Council to investigate and report on a specific subject do so on the understanding that, though they collectively accept responsibility for the work as a whole as being a useful contribution to the literature of the subject, they do not necessarily subscribe individually to every statement in the book.

NEILL MALCOLM  
*Chairman of the Council*

CHATHAM HOUSE  
 ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, S.W. 1  
 July 26th, 1935

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