

MONETARY WAR AND PEACE

The international monetary system imploded during the Great Depression. As the conventional narrative goes, the collapse of the gold standard and the rise of competitive devaluation sparked a monetary war that sundered the system, darkened the decade, and still serves as a warning to policymakers today. But this familiar tale is only half the story. With the Tripartite Agreement of 1936, Britain, America, and France united to end their monetary war and make peace. This agreement articulated a new vision, one in which the democracies promised to consult on exchange rate policy and uphold a liberal international system – at the very time fascist forces sought to destroy it. Max Harris explores this little-known but pathbreaking and successful effort to revolutionize monetary relations, tracing the evolution of the monetary system in the twilight years before the Second World War and demonstrating that this history is not one solely of despair.

Max Harris received his doctorate in economics from Harvard University.

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Monetary War and Peace

*London, Washington, Paris, and the Tripartite Agreement
of 1936*

MAX HARRIS



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Abbreviations

BdF	Banque de France
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
BoE	Bank of England
ECB	European Central Bank
EEA	Exchange Equalisation Account
ESF	Exchange Stabilization Fund
FRBNY	Federal Reserve Bank of New York
IMF	International Monetary Fund

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