

Country Historic Profile: UNITED STATES

World Bank Group Archives
Profile completed: November 9, 2020

Basic Historical Information

Membership days for each affiliate

Information is taken from the [World Bank Group membership page](#).

- IBRD: December 27, 1945
- IDA: September 24, 1960
- IFC: July 20, 1956
- MIGA: April 12, 1988
- ICSID: October 14, 1966

First loan(s)

Information is taken from the [Projects & Operations website](#).

- Has not received a World Bank loan

Resident Mission establishment

Information is taken from internal World Bank Group Archives resource.

- Has not hosted a resident mission

Photo Resources related to country

Hyperlink links to photos in the World Bank Group Archives' [Photo Catalog](#) for a given country. Digitization and description of archival photos are ongoing, and photos are added to the catalog regularly. In instances where the catalog contains no photos for a given country, check back frequently for additions, or contact the Archives for consultation by emailing archives@worldbank.org.

- [Historical photos related to the United States](#)

Project profiles related to country

Link is to a list in the [Projects & Operations website](#) of all projects approved, dropped, or in the pipeline for a given country. Each project links to a project profile that includes description, financial details, and lists of reports, archival record folders, and photos, when available. This can be helpful to study the evolution of the Bank's work in the country over time, and to identify notable projects that represent important shifts or moments in the country's history. Projects are also excellent examples of case studies of how the Bank made an impact in a particular sector. The WBG Archives have original records and other information related to these projects. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

- None.

Description of operational records in Archives Holdings

Archival records relating to Bank operations are described according to the ISAD(g) standard and are accessible in our [Archives Holdings catalog](#). Descriptions include lengthy organizational histories of the regional vice presidency responsible for operations in that region and a description of records created and transferred to the Archives by that vice presidency. The descriptions in the catalog can be helpful to understand the organizational context of Bank work, and to understand more about the content of the records in the Archives.

- None.

Chronology events

Events have been selected from the Archivists' Chronology, an 800+ page resource compiled by Bank Group archivists over the course of the institution's history. Events chosen include important firsts, milestones and other events that evidence the country's development history and/or its relationship with the World Bank Group. The Archivists' Chronology is accessible on [this page](#). This list of events can be helpful to determine if you'd like to dig deeper into any moments in the country's history of engagement with the Bank. The WBG Archives may have original records and other information about these events. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

Bretton Woods Conference; Representatives from the United States Attend

July 1-22, 1944

IBRD Articles of Agreement Signed by the United States

December 27, 1945

Garner Addresses National Association of Mutual Savings Banks about the Need for American Capital

May 1, 1947

First Bond Issue Takes Place in United States

July 15, 1947

Procedures for Bank Correspondence with U.S. Congress Established

November 22, 1949

US Deposits Instruments of Acceptance for International Finance Corporation

December 5, 1955

IFC Articles of Agreement Signed by United States

July 27, 1956

International Development Association (IDA) Established; United States among First to Sign Articles of Agreement

September 24, 1960

The Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) Enters Into Force; United States among First to Sign Articles of Agreement

October 14, 1966

River blindness Control Project Endorsed by Affected African Governments; United States among Four Countries to Sign Agreement

January 1974

United States Participation in the Multilateral Development Banks in the 1980s Issued by US Treasury

February 18, 1982

Special Contributions for IDA Sixth Replenishment Made Due to Delay in Approval of United States Contributions

September 8, 1982

International Convention Establishing the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) becomes Effective; United States among First to Sign Articles of Agreement

April 12, 1988

World Bank Group Timeline Events

Events are selected from the [World Bank Group Timeline](#). The Timeline is an online platform created by the Archives designed to highlight the important events in the Bank Group's history and to illuminate those events through a variety of archival records, photos, video and audio clips, oral history transcripts, reports, and more.

[Bretton Woods Conference begins](#)

July 1, 1944

[World Bank and International Monetary Fund Boards of Governors hold inaugural meeting](#)

March 1, 1946

[World Bank staff start their first day of work](#)

June 25, 1946

[World Bank Governors hold their first meeting](#)

September 27, 1946

[The World Bank enters the bond market](#)

July 15, 1947

[President McCloy testifies before Congress on the European Recovery Program \(ERP\)](#)

January 16, 1948

[Report to U.S. President Truman proposes an International Development Authority](#)

March 1, 1951

[Senator Mike Monroney proposes the creation of an International Development Association](#)

February 24, 1958

[Bank debt to non-U.S. countries matches debt to the U.S. for the first time](#)

June 30, 1959

[Second IDA replenishment becomes effective after lengthy delays](#)

July 23, 1969

[IDA's sixth replenishment includes seven new country donors](#)

August 24, 1981

Early Country Economic Reports

Reports have been selected from the [Documents & Reports website](#), a database of publicly available World Bank Group authored reports and publications dating to the opening of the Bank in 1946. Country economic reports that are selected here are, in many cases, some of the earliest economic studies ever published on Bank member countries. Reports discussing the whole economy of a country, rather than individual sectors, are prioritized in this list.

Document Name	Document Date
U.S. foreign aid in 1959: programs and administration	March 31, 1959
U.S. foreign aid in 1958: programs and administration	February 28, 1958
Economic growth in North America and Western Europe since the war	October 31, 1955
U.S. government financing and assistance in the financing of U.S. exports	February 28, 1955
Recent developments in the American economy	April 30, 1954
American trade policies and the world economy	July 31, 1953
The end of the postwar period	April 22, 1953
United States - Private investment guaranty program	December 31, 1952
U.S. production and exports to underdeveloped countries in 1949	January 9, 1951
The foreign aid appropriations act	June 22, 1948
The United States balance of payments and the dollar shortage	August 22, 1947

Country Assistance Strategies

The list is based on a similar list compiled by the World Bank's Secretary's staff. Introduced in 1990 and replaced by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) in 2014, the CAS is an overview of each borrowing

country's current economic situation and contains a discussion of its development challenges, prospects, and project-planning.

None.

Staff Newsletters

Resources have been selected from the World Bank Group's [Documents & Reports website](#). The World Bank has produced a staff newsletter since 1947. The publication changed its name twice: from International Bank Notes to Bank Notes in 1971 and then to Bank's World in 1982. The newsletter moved online in 2000 and physical publication ceased. In addition to offering news relating to Bank operations and country development, the newsletters were intended to foster a sense of community among staff by highlighting social events, marriages and births, the arrival of new staff, recreational events, favorite cooking recipes submitted by staff, and features on different aspects of staff's home country and culture.

International Bank Notes -- Vol. 2, Iss. 22	December 1, 1948	"Christmas at Williamsburg, Virginia"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 3, Iss. 6	April 1, 1949	"Washington"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 3, Iss. 18	September 15, 1949	"Visit to the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 4, Iss. 3	February 1, 1950	"The Bank's Trainees"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 7, Iss. 2	February 1, 1953	"Development and trade"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 8, Iss. 1	January 1, 1954	"America and world resources"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 8, Iss. 8	August 1, 1954	"Vacationing through the U.S.A."
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 9, Iss. 7	July 1, 1955	"Trek to TVA"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 11, Iss. 3	March 1, 1957	"Washington memorials mark an international city"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 14, Iss. 1	January 1, 1960	"IDA, Her Past, Present and Future"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 14, Iss. 4	April 1, 1960	"Spring in Washington"
Bank Notes -- Vol. 2, Iss. 8	July 1, 1973	"Big Red: a friendless millionaire at age 3, looks to the good life at the age of 4"
Bank's World -- Vol. 10, Iss. 7	July 1, 1991	"A modern planning system for Navajo forestry development"

Oral histories

Oral histories are selected from the World Bank Group Archives' [Oral History website](#). The site contains transcripts of oral history interviews with departed staff and, in lesser number, Executive Directors and other individuals affiliated with or impacted by the World Bank Group. Interviews were conducted as

part of an ongoing effort by the Archives to collect the personal stories and reflections of Bank Group staff. A portion of the interviews was conducted as research for publications. Each transcript provides a valuable first-person account of Bank activities and decision-making from the very beginning of its operations.

J. Burke Knapp	July 1, 1961
Aron Broches	July 11, 1961
Martin Rosen	July 12, 1961
Robert W. Cavanaugh	July 25, 1961
Daniel Crena de longh	August 1, 1961
J. Burke Knapp	October 6 and 29, 1981
Dr. James Lee and Olive Nash	April 4, 1985
Sir Denis H. F. Rickett	August 20, 1986
Irving S. Friedman	February 15, 1986 Sixth Session
Alexander Shakow	May 9, 1991 and February 7, 1992
Syed Shahid Husain	July 5, 1991 and September 29, 1992
William Diamond	April 12, 1993
E. Patrick Coady	April 19, 1993
Donald D. Fowler	November 13, 1992
William Diamond	April 12, 1993
Ernest Stern	December 16 & 29, 1994, January 5, 1995 Fourth Session
J. Burke Knapp	October 22, 1990, June 26, 1991, September 24 and 25, 1992, and October 10, 1995
Ibrahim F. I. Shihata	May 23 and May 24, 2000
Catherine Gwin	January 20, 2010

Online exhibits

Online exhibits are authored by the World Bank Group staff and are accessible on both the Archives' [external site](#) and as a [series of older exhibits](#) in the Documents & Reports website. Exhibits focus on notable personalities and accomplishments in the Bank Group's history.

Title: [Bretton Woods Monetary Conference, July 1-22, 1944 \(English\)](#)

Originally published: July 2008

Title: [World Bank President Eugene Black Attends Washington Baseball Games with Staff \(English\)](#)

Originally published: April 2011

Title: [The Bank's headquarters building \(English\)](#)

Originally published: February 2003

Title: [Report of the Committee on Site \(English\)](#)

Originally published: October 2004

Executive Directors

The list is based on the World Bank Group [Board of Directors website](#). The country following the name of each ED indicates their nationality.

COLLADO, Emilio G. (United States)	May 7, 1946	March 13, 1947
BLACK, Eugene R., (United States)	March 14, 1947	June 30, 1949
MARTIN, William McChesney, Jr. (United States)	January 1, 1950	February 20, 1952
OVERBY, Andrew N., (United States)	February 21, 1952	February 28, 1957
COUGHRAN, Tom B., (United States)	December 13, 1957	December 15, 1958
UPTON, T. Graydon (United States)	December 17, 1958	December 18, 1960
WEITZEL, John P. (United States)	December 19, 1960	April 5, 1961
LEDDY, John M., (United States)	April 6, 1961	October 31, 1962
BULLITT, John C., (United States)	December 18, 1962	August 10, 1965
MERCHANT, Livingston T., (United States)	August 11, 1965	October 31, 1968
OLIVER, Covey T. (United States)	November 1, 1968	November 3, 1969
WIECZOROWSKI, Robert E. (United States)	November 4, 1969	March 9, 1973
SETHNESS, Charles O. (United States)	July 24, 1973	February 28, 1975
COOPER, Charles A. (United States)	June 17, 1975	November 5, 1976
FRIED, Edward R. (United States)	June 23, 1977	October 31, 1979
KING, Colbert I. (United States)	December 21, 1979	March 31, 1981
BURNHAM, James B. (United States)	July 2, 1982	July 12, 1985
KEATING, Robert (United States)	August 18, 1986	May 18, 1989
COADY, E. Patrick (United States)	June 26, 1989	June 30, 1993
PIERCY, Jan (United States)	June 20, 1994	August 19, 2001, PD to September 2, 2001
BROOKINS, Carole (United States)	August 20, 2001	January 14, 2005
HOLLAND III, Robert B., (United States)	September 27, 2005	April 26, 2006
LOWERY, Clay, (United States)	February 21, 2007	April 8, 2007
DEBEVOISE, Eli Whitney (United States)	April 9, 2007	March 12, 2010
SOLOMON, Ian Hoddy, (United States)	March 15, 2010	May 24, 2013
SHEETS, Nathan (United States)	February 11, 2015	June 20, 2015
McGUIRE, Matthew (United States)	June 22, 2015	January 19, 2017
MATHIASSEN, Karen Virginia, (United States)	January 20, 2017	November 2, 2017
TARBERT, Heath P. (United States)	November 2, 2017	April 9, 2018
NORDQUIST, DJ, (United States)	September 13, 2019	present

For More Information

If you would like information or guidance on accessing more historic sources, we invite you to contact us by emailing archives@worldbank.org.