

# How The U.S. Dollar Rebuilt The World

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Individual Exhibit

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Over time I have had numerous conversations with my uncle who is an economist. He would talk about global financial economics and the different institutions that manipulate the global economy, I was always fascinated. For that reason, when searching for a topic I turned to my uncle, who suggested the Bretton Woods Agreement which explored ways to stabilize the global monetary system.

I began my research by going to the Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University, where I found numerous books, including *The Origins of International Economic Disorder: A Study of United States International Monetary Policy from World War II to the Present* by Fred L. Block. I visited the World Bank in Washington D.C. There, I interviewed Ketleen Florestal, advisor to the Executive Director for Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Panama, the Philippines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. She explained the World Bank's impact on the global economy today compared to when it was created. The next person I interviewed was Michelle Durham-Kissoon, advisor to the Executive Director. She explained some of the projects that the World Bank and IMF have contributed to, such as the bullet train in Japan. Next I spoke with Jaime Alvarez, Senior Advisor to the Executive Director. He told me how the World Bank and IMF work together today. The last person I spoke with was Professor Pierre Richard Agenor, Director of the Macroeconomics and Policy Assessment Skills Program for the World Bank, who summed up the Bretton Woods System and its impact on the world's economy. I also read newspaper and journal articles, visited websites, and viewed videos.

I wanted my exhibit to show the importance and strength the U.S. dollar had on the global economy after World War II, so I designed the logo that is seen throughout my project. I

hooked an iPad up to the exhibit base that displays two videos to help viewers understand how the conference was presented to the world. The first video is a newsreel from 1944 explaining the Bretton Woods Conference. The second video describes the Bretton Woods Agreement and how the system works.

Contributing causes to World War II were the near collapse of many of the world economies and the economic barriers to trade that made matters worse. Near the end of World War II, delegates from the 44 Allied Nations met in New Hampshire at the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference to **explore** ways to stabilize the global monetary system. During the **encounter** between leading economists, they **exchanged** ideas that led to the Bretton Woods System. This created the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and made the U.S. dollar the de facto global currency.