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(Resolution adopted October 25, 1926 and revised February 6, 1933 and February 24, 1941)



Preface

War conditions and problems stimulated interest in analyzing the national economy of the United States and also in the national incomes of foreign countries involved in the war. Many members of the Conference have been dealing with national and international problems which require the use of the best estimates of income and its distribution, and in many cases need has prompted more penetrating analysis of data or the construction of new estimates from the best available data. The papers presented at the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth in April 1944 were solicited in large part as a contribution that might be made to dealing with war problems and some of the problems of postwar readjustments. One paper, *Measuring National Income in Colonial Territories*, was requested as a valuable additional contribution in developing income estimates of peoples under diverse conditions.

While the first paper, *Taxes, Government Expenditures, and National Income*, devotes considerable attention to concepts of national income and national product, it deals also with some problems in analyzing national income under war conditions and making international comparisons. Most of the papers are concerned primarily with estimating national incomes in foreign countries and the making of international comparisons. The paper on *Measuring National Consumption* calls attention to the need for developing special measures of national consumption supplementary to national income estimates for international and intranational analysis. One paper,

National Income as a Determinant of International Policy, indicates uses of national income estimates in dealing with international policies and programs. Another, International Industrialization and Per Capita Income, calls attention to the correlation of the degree of industrialization with the level of per capita incomes and suggests an approach to raising the level of incomes and improving living conditions in industrially backward areas.

Income distribution also received some attention at the Conference. One paper deals with family income and the tax base, while others report the results of surveys and of attempts to estimate the distribution of money income for use in dealing with consumer problems under war conditions.

The program of the 1944 Conference was organized and carried through by the Executive Committee, Morris A. Copeland, Chairman. Milton Gilbert, Chairman, Dorothy Brady, and Simon Kuznets served as a committee to supervise the editing of this volume. The final touches were given by Martha Anderson, Editor of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

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