

JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

b. June 5, 1883 – d. April 21, 1946

*“A study of the history of opinion
is a necessary preliminary to the
emancipation of the mind.”*

John Maynard Keynes founded an entire school of modern thought known as Keynesian Economics. He helped establish the Bretton Woods system of international monetary management in 1944. Keynes's ideas form a large and important part of modern macroeconomics.

Keynes attended King's College in Cambridge, England, where he studied mathematics and philosophy, and later pursued economics. After receiving his degree in 1906, Keynes moved to London and worked for the government treasury. After World War I, he attended the Paris Peace Conference. In response to the Treaty of Versailles, Keynes published “The Economic Consequences of Peace” to highlight Germany's heavy burden and the probable consequences the terms would have on Germany and the rest of the world. The book provided a brilliant analysis, and Keynes subsequently influenced the Marshall Plan, instituted by the U.S. to rebuild Europe following World War II.

Keynes is best known for two publications, “The Treatise on Probability” (1921) and “The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money” (1936), which he published in response to the Depression. Ideas in the latter publication form the foundation of the economies of modern nations.

**John Maynard
Keynes is one of
the most influential
economic theorists
of the 20th century.**

In 1908, Keynes fell in love with Scottish painter Duncan Grant. Their relationship lasted only a few years, but they remained close friends for the rest of their lives. Previous to Keynes's marriage to Lydia Lopokova in 1921, his relationships and sexual encounters were exclusively with men. After his marriage, Keynes remained friends with many of his previous homosexual friends and partners.

The stress Keynes experienced during WWII caused his health to decline considerably. On April 21, 1946, Keynes died of a heart attack.



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