


Country Historic Profile: UNITED KINGDOM

World Bank Group Archives

Profile completed: October 26, 2020

In its early years of operation, the World Bank had country members that controlled or occupied other territories as colonies or protectorates, etc. The World Bank worked with these members in the development of the controlled or occupied territories. Selected information and resources related to these activities have been included in this profile and identified with this icon: 

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: January 18, 1967

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 Kingdom](#)

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 of the United Kingdom Attend

July 1-22, 1944

IBRD Articles of Agreement Signed by the United Kingdom

December 27, 1945



End of Negotiations between Bank and UK Colonial Development Corporation

January 1, 1950

IFC Articles of Agreement Signed by United Kingdom

July 20, 1956

International Development Association (IDA) Established; United Kingdom among First to Sign

September 24, 1960

United Kingdom Joins ICSID

January 18, 1967

United Kingdom becomes the 24th member of ICSID.

Announcement that International Convention Establishing the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) becomes Effective when Ratified by the United Kingdom

April 12, 1988

Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) Has Multiple Sponsors, Including United Kingdom

October 5, 1998

World Bank Launched New Anti-Corruption Program with Support of Countries Including United Kingdom

December 3, 2008

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

[Eleven European countries sign IBRD Articles of Agreement](#)

December 27, 1945

[London, England hosts Second Annual Board of Governors Meetings](#)

September 11, 1947

[The Prospects of European Recovery released](#)

April 8, 1948

[Balance of Payments of the United Kingdom released](#)

July 23, 1948



[World Bank and U.K. Colonial Development Corporation \(CDC\) halt negotiations](#)

January 1, 1950

[The World Bank Group signs Suez Canal compensation agreement](#)


July 14, 1958

[IDA15 replenishment features six first-time donors including China](#)

November 6, 2008

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.

Balance of payments of the United Kingdom	July 23, 1948
 Preliminary economic report on the U.K. colonial development corporation's loan proposal	January 8, 1949
 Survey of British colonial development policy	November 9, 1949
Summary review of the external debt of the United Kingdom (revised)	November 16, 1949
The international accounts of the United Kingdom in 1951	November 22, 1950
United Kingdom - International economic and financial position	February 28, 1953
United Kingdom - Current economic and financial position	November 30, 1954
United Kingdom - Current economic and financial position	June 30, 1956
United Kingdom - Economic position and prospects	February 28, 1961

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. 4, Iss. 3	February 1, 1950	"The Bank's Trainees"
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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.

Lester Nurick	November 10, December 5, 2003; February 20, April 7, 2004; February 22, 2005
James D. Wolfensohn	June 5 and September 14, and December 3, 2006

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.

[Second Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the WBG and the IMF, London, September 1947 \(English\)](#)

October 2007

[John McCloy's Congratulations on the British Royal Birth in 1948](#)

July 22, 2013

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.

BRAND, Robert Henry (United Kingdom)	April 30, 1946	May 29, 1946
GRIGG, Sir James, (United Kingdom)	May 30, 1946	May 18, 1947
MUNRO, Sir Gordon (United Kingdom)	May 19, 1947	October 31, 1949
ROWE-DUTTON, Sir Ernest (United Kingdom)	November 21, 1949	November 30, 1951
HALL-PATCH, Sir Edmund (United Kingdom)	October 21, 1952	May 5, 1954
RICKETT, D. H. F. (United Kingdom)	July 1, 1954	September 30, 1954
HARCOURT, Viscount (United Kingdom)	October 1, 1954	January 31, 1957
THOROLD, Guy F. (United Kingdom)	February 1, 1957	January 30, 1959
CROMER, Earl of (United Kingdom)	February 2, 1959	January 18, 1961
PITBLADO, David B. (United Kingdom)	January 19, 1961	September 17, 1963
ROLL, Sir Eric (United Kingdom)	September 18, 1963	January 14, 1965
STEVENS, J. M. (United Kingdom)	January 15, 1965	August 8, 1967
MAUDE, Evan Walter (United Kingdom)	August 9, 1967	October 21, 1969
MITCHELL, Derek J. (United Kingdom)	November 7, 1969	December 12, 1972
RAWLINSON, A. K., (United Kingdom)	December 18, 1972	October 3, 1975

RYRIE, William S. (United Kingdom)	October 17, 1975	January 2, 1980
ANSON, John (United Kingdom)	January 3, 1980	May 1, 1983
WICKS, Nigel L. (United Kingdom)	May 2, 1983	August 31, 1985
LANKESTER, Timothy P. (United Kingdom)	September 1, 1985	January 24, 1988
CASELL, Frank, (United Kingdom)	January 25, 1988	July 22, 1990
PERETZ, David (United Kingdom)	July 23, 1990	February 18, 1994
EVANS, Huw, (United Kingdom)	February 19, 1994	March 14, 1997
O'DONNELL, Augustine (Gus) T. (United Kingdom)	March 17, 1997	July 31, 1998
PICKFORD, Stephen John (United Kingdom)	August 1, 1998	December 16, 2001
SCHOLAR, Tom, (United Kingdom)	December 17, 2001	June 26, 2007, Des. from December 13, 2001
GIBBS, Alex, (United Kingdom)	June 27, 2007	September 1, 2008 PD to September 9, 2008
MOOREHEAD, Susanna (United Kingdom)	September 2, 2008	September 7, 2012
HINES, Gwendolen Lucy (also: Gwen Hines), (United Kingdom)	September 8, 2012	August 5, 2015, Des. from September 3, 2012
ROBINSON, Melanie Angela (United Kingdom)	August 17, 2015	October 31, 2018
MONTGOMERY, Richard Hugh (United Kingdom)	November 1, 2018	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.