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 [World Bank Group membership page](#).

- IBRD: December 27, 1945
- IDA: December 30, 1960
- IFC: July 20, 1956
- MIGA: December 28, 1989
- ICSID: September 20, 1967

**First loan(s)**
Information taken from [Projects & Operations website](#).

- May 9, 1947: [Reconstruction Project](#)

**Resident Mission establishment**
Information taken from internal World Bank Group Archives resource.

- August 1947

**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](mailto:archives@worldbank.org).

- [Historical photos related to France](#)

**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.

- France project profiles in Projects & Operations

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.

- Records of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Vice Presidency

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.

IBRD Articles of Agreement Signed by France
December 27, 1945

First Loan Application from France
October 8, 1946

First Loan Approved
May 9, 1947

Fifth Annual Board of Governors Meeting Held in Paris
September 7, 1950

International Finance Corporation charter comes into force; France among First to Sign Articles of Agreement
July 20, 1956

France Signs the IDA Articles of Agreement
December 29, 1960

Bank Announces That Its First Loan Of $250 Million Made In 1947 To Credit National of France
August 2, 1963
France Joins ICSID
September 20, 1967

MIGA Articles of Agreement Signed by France
December 28, 1989

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.

Eleven European countries sign IBRD Articles of Agreement
December 27, 1945

World Bank approves first loan for reconstruction
May 9, 1947

Bank Research Director Leonard Rist travels to Europe
May 21, 1947

The Prospects of European Recovery released
April 8, 1948

World Bank Vice President Garner travels to Europe
May 21, 1948

World Bank and U.K. Colonial Development Corporation (CDC) halt negotiations
January 1, 1950

Paris, France hosts Fifth Annual Board of Governors meetings
September 7, 1950

France - The Economy released
May 31, 1954

First World Bank loan sold
August 2, 1963

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 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.
Country Assistance Strategies
List is based on a similar list compiled by 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. CASs were often initially published as part of project documents but later on were published as standalone documents.

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 has 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, arrival of new staff, recreational events, favorite cooking recipes submitted by staff, and features on different aspects of staff’s home country and culture.
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 were 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Crena de Jongh</td>
<td>August 1, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Garner</td>
<td>July 19, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard Rist</td>
<td>July 19, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lester Nurick</td>
<td>November 10, December 5, 2003; February 20, April 7, 2004; February 22, 2005</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Online exhibits
Online exhibits are authored by 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: The World Bank’s First Loan - May 9, 1947
Originally published: March 2002

Title: The Bank’s First Development Loans
Originally published: May 2003

Title: Fifth Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the WBG and the IMF, Paris, September 1950
Originally published: September 2008
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MENDES-France, Pierre (France)</td>
<td>May 7, 1946</td>
<td>October 27, 1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOPPENOT, Roger, (France)</td>
<td>January 8, 1948</td>
<td>October 31, 1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEROUSE, Maurice (France)</td>
<td>November 1, 1956</td>
<td>February 14, 1957</td>
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<tr>
<td>LARRE, Rene (France)</td>
<td>July 1, 1957</td>
<td>August 31, 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLESCOFF, Georges (France)</td>
<td>September 1, 1967</td>
<td>October 31, 1970</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIENOT, Marc (France)</td>
<td>November 1, 1970</td>
<td>June 30, 1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAHL, Jacques (France)</td>
<td>July 1, 1973</td>
<td>September 4, 1978</td>
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<tr>
<td>MENTRE de LOYE, Paul (France)</td>
<td>September 5, 1978</td>
<td>December 15, 1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>DE MAULDE, Bruno (France)</td>
<td>December 16, 1981</td>
<td>January 24, 1986</td>
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<td>PLOIX, Helene, (France)</td>
<td>February 24, 1986</td>
<td>August 29, 1989</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLOIX, Helene, (France)</td>
<td>September 18, 1989</td>
<td>October 1, 1989</td>
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<tr>
<td>LANDAU, Jean-Pierre (France)</td>
<td>October 30, 1989</td>
<td>August 3, 1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUTHEMAN, Marc-Antoine (France)</td>
<td>August 4, 1993</td>
<td>November 30, 1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>MILLERON, Jean-Claude (France)</td>
<td>February 7, 1998</td>
<td>August 1, 2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>DE VILLEROCHÉ, Hervé (France)</td>
<td>March 11, 2013</td>
<td>January 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUISSÉ, Arnaud Fernand, (also: BUISSE, Arnaud Fernand) (France)</td>
<td>January 13, 2020</td>
<td>present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.