

Did the stock market crash cause the Great Depression? Historians have very different views on this question.

### Opposing Viewpoints

*“Much mythology surrounds these dramatic events in 1929. Perhaps the most [enduring] misconception portrays the Crash as the cause of the Great Depression. The disagreeable truth is that [historians] have been unable to demonstrate an appreciable cause-and-effect link between the Crash and the Great Depression. So, legend to the contrary, the average American—a description that in this case encompasses at least 97.5 percent of the population—owned no stock in 1929. Accordingly, the Crash had little direct economic effect on the typical American. The Depression, however, would be another story.”*

—David Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear* (1999)

*“Most academic experts agree on one aspect of the crash: It wiped out billions of dollars of wealth in one day, and immediately depressed consumer buying. If you look at sales of consumer goods, particularly radios or automobiles, you will see they fell dramatically,” said Economics Professor John Galbraith. “The crash had the impact of glass shattering, and while other more essential factors took over as the Depression wore on—universal fear, the slump in agricultural production because of drought, the decline in business investment—it is hard to argue that the collapse of the market did not start things in motion.”*

—Albert Scardino, *Did the '29 Crash Spark the Great Depression?* (1987)

- ▶ How do these views differ?
- ▶ With which historian would you most agree? Why?

Did the stock market crash cause the Great Depression? Historians have very different views on this question.

### Opposing Viewpoints

*“Much mythology surrounds these dramatic events in 1929. Perhaps the most [enduring] misconception portrays the Crash as the cause of the Great Depression. The disagreeable truth is that [historians] have been unable to demonstrate an appreciable cause-and-effect link between the Crash and the Great Depression. So, legend to the contrary, the average American—a description that in this case encompasses at least 97.5 percent of the population—owned no stock in 1929. Accordingly, the Crash had little direct economic effect on the typical American. The Depression, however, would be another story.”*

—David Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear* (1999)

*“Most academic experts agree on one aspect of the crash: It wiped out billions of dollars of wealth in one day, and immediately depressed consumer buying. If you look at sales of consumer goods, particularly radios or automobiles, you will see they fell dramatically,” said Economics Professor John Galbraith. “The crash had the impact of glass shattering, and while other more essential factors took over as the Depression wore on—universal fear, the slump in agricultural production because of drought, the decline in business investment—it is hard to argue that the collapse of the market did not start things in motion.”*

—Albert Scardino, *Did the '29 Crash Spark the Great Depression?* (1987)

- ▶ How do these views differ?
- ▶ With which historian would you most agree? Why?

Did the stock market crash cause the Great Depression? Historians have very different views on this question.

### Opposing Viewpoints

*“Much mythology surrounds these dramatic events in 1929. Perhaps the most [enduring] misconception portrays the Crash as the cause of the Great Depression. The disagreeable truth is that [historians] have been unable to demonstrate an appreciable cause-and-effect link between the Crash and the Great Depression. So, legend to the contrary, the average American—a description that in this case encompasses at least 97.5 percent of the population—owned no stock in 1929. Accordingly, the Crash had little direct economic effect on the typical American. The Depression, however, would be another story.”*

—David Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear* (1999)

*“Most academic experts agree on one aspect of the crash: It wiped out billions of dollars of wealth in one day, and immediately depressed consumer buying. If you look at sales of consumer goods, particularly radios or automobiles, you will see they fell dramatically,” said Economics Professor John Galbraith. “The crash had the impact of glass shattering, and while other more essential factors took over as the Depression wore on—universal fear, the slump in agricultural production because of drought, the decline in business investment—it is hard to argue that the collapse of the market did not start things in motion.”*

—Albert Scardino, *Did the '29 Crash Spark the Great Depression?* (1987)

- ▶ How do these views differ?
- ▶ With which historian would you most agree? Why?

Did the stock market crash cause the Great Depression? Historians have very different views on this question.

### Opposing Viewpoints

*“Much mythology surrounds these dramatic events in 1929. Perhaps the most [enduring] misconception portrays the Crash as the cause of the Great Depression. The disagreeable truth is that [historians] have been unable to demonstrate an appreciable cause-and-effect link between the Crash and the Great Depression. So, legend to the contrary, the average American—a description that in this case encompasses at least 97.5 percent of the population—owned no stock in 1929. Accordingly, the Crash had little direct economic effect on the typical American. The Depression, however, would be another story.”*

—David Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear* (1999)

*“Most academic experts agree on one aspect of the crash: It wiped out billions of dollars of wealth in one day, and immediately depressed consumer buying. If you look at sales of consumer goods, particularly radios or automobiles, you will see they fell dramatically,” said Economics Professor John Galbraith. “The crash had the impact of glass shattering, and while other more essential factors took over as the Depression wore on—universal fear, the slump in agricultural production because of drought, the decline in business investment—it is hard to argue that the collapse of the market did not start things in motion.”*

—Albert Scardino, *Did the '29 Crash Spark the Great Depression?* (1987)

- ▶ How do these views differ?
- ▶ With which historian would you most agree? Why?