

## The Great Depression: Economic Ground Zero 经济大萧条今昔谈

The stock market has **slumped**. Banks are **going out of business**. Everyone's worried about losing their job. Scenes like these can be seen in the financial **tsunami** today. However, these were also the features of the [Great Depression](#), a giant economic crisis that started in the United States in 1929 and spread throughout the world. Although it happened almost 80 years ago, it is still mentioned at the first **hint** of a decline in the markets.

股市跌跌不休、银行倒闭、每个人都担心会丢饭碗。诸如此类的场景全都出现在今日的金融海啸里。但是，这些同时也是大萧条的现象。大萧条是一次巨大的金融危机，发生于 1929 年的美国，进而扩散到全世界。尽管大萧条已经是 80 年前的事了，但是每当市场出现一丝衰退迹象的时候，人们还是会提到大萧条。

While today's economic **turmoil** is quite serious, the Great Depression was much more **devastating**. From 1929 to 1933, **stock** prices declined by 90%, causing huge losses throughout the business world.

**Unemployment** rose dramatically to the point where about 25% of all workers were without jobs. And by March 1933, over 5,000 banks had failed, **wiping out** the savings of millions of Americans.

尽管今日的金融灾害已相当严重，但是大萧条更具破坏效果。从 1929 年到 1933 年，股价下跌百分之 90，导致业界蒙受巨大损失。失业率陡升，百分之 25 的人都没有工作。到了 1933 年三月，超过五千家银行倒闭，使得数百万美国人民的存款一夕成空。

The U.S. government took **drastic** action by **enacting** the [New Deal](#), a huge package of relief programs.

These included programs to reduce unemployment, **regulate** banks and the stock market more effectively, and provide financial support for the neediest people.

美国政府采取大规模紧急应变措施，推行「新政」——一项大型的疏困专案。项目包括减少失业率，更有效地管理银行以及股票市场，并且提供金融援助给最需要的人。

Although the Great Depression caused great **hardship**, people learned many important lessons, such as the need to save money, borrow less, and plan for the future. In today's **harsh** economic times, we certainly **can't afford to** forget such lessons.

大萧条使人们面临许多困难，但是人们也从中学到重要的教训，例如多存钱，少借钱，以及规划未来。在今日严峻的金融情势下，我们当然不能忘记大萧条带给我们的教训。

—by Marcus Lindy Sortijas

### Vocabulary

**depression** [dɪˈpreʃən] n. 不景气，萧条（期）

**economic** [ˌi:kəˈnɒmɪk] adj. 经济上的

**turmoil** [ˈtɜːməɪl] n. 混乱，骚乱

**unemployment** [ˌʌnɪmˈplɔɪmənt] n. 失业；失业状态

**regulate** [ˈrɛɡjəˌleɪt] v. 管理；控制

## More Information

**ground zero** 开始; 起点; 爆心投影点

**slump** [slʌmp] v. (突然或沉重地) 倒下, 陷落

**go out of business** 破产; 倒闭 to stop doing commerce or business

**tsunami** [tsu`nami] n. (源自日语) 海啸

**hint** : [hɪnt] n. 线索, 迹象 a slight indication of the existence, approach, or nature of something

**stock** [stɔk] n. (公司的) 股票

**wipe out** 彻底消灭或摧毁某事物 to destroy or be destroyed completely

**drastic** [ `dræstɪk] adj. 激烈的; 严厉的

**enact** [ɪn`ækt] v. 制定 (法律); 颁布 (法案)

**hardship** [ `hardʃɪp] n. 艰难, 困苦

**harsh** [hɑʃ] adj. 恶劣的

**can't afford to** 不能冒...之险

**devastating** [ `dævəstetɪŋ] adj. 破坏性极大的, 毁灭性的