Great Depression  
   
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The Great Depression was a severe global economic downturn from 1929 to 1939. The period was  
characterized by high rates of unemployment and poverty, drastic reductions in industrial production  
and international trade, and widespread bank and business failures around the world. The economic  
contagion began in 1929 in the United States, the largest economy in the world, with the devastating  
Wall Street crash of 1929 often considered the beginning of the Depress