# TRADE POLICY RESEARCH AS IF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS REALLY MATTERED

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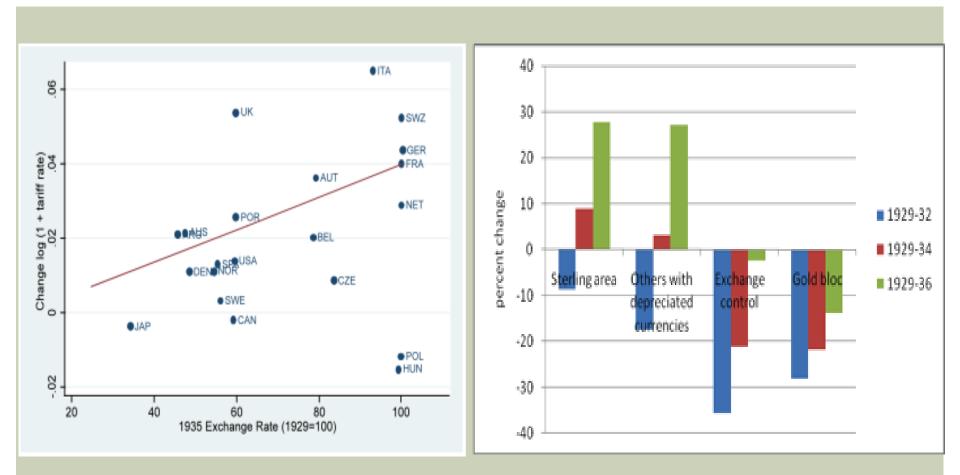
# CONTENTS OF TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Point of Departure—Revisiting Our Understanding of Protectionism in Previous Systemic Economic Crises.
- What is Protectionism?
- The Political Economy of Protectionism During Systemic Crises.
- Discrimination during the Crisis Era.
- Substitutability between Policy Instruments.
- The Resurgence of Industrial Policy.
- What Role for the WTO?
- Concluding Remarks.

### POINT OF DEPARTURE: SOME LESSONS FROM EARLIER CRISES

- Protectionism was not the cause of the Great Depression—but was still important.
- Macro policy choice conditioned the resort to protectionism.
- Protectionism has a bad name—so its principal manifestation changes from crisis to crisis.
- International accords had little purchase over national decision-making.

# CURRENCY DEPRECIATION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR PROTECTIONISM



### WORLD TRADE DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION IN THE 1930S

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B. Eichengreen, D.A. Irwin / J. Int. Econ. 38 (1995) 1-24

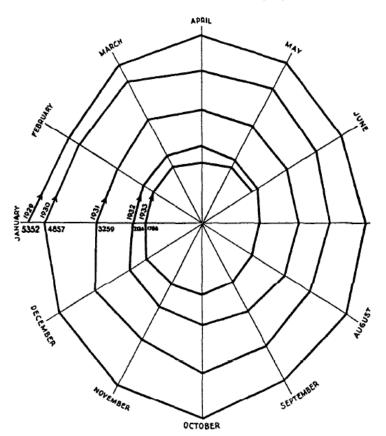


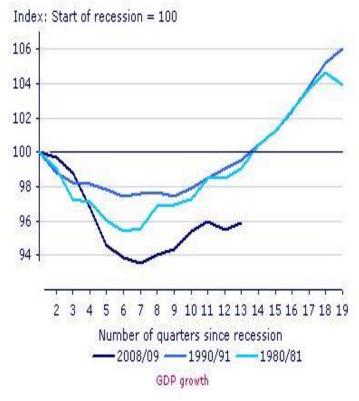
Fig. 1. The contracting spiral of world trade, month by month, January 1929-June 1933 (in millions of U.S. (gold) dollars).



# THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURN OF THE EARLY 1980S

#### Evidence from the UK...

#### Comparing recessions



Worldwide	EC	
	EC-wide	National
52	14	1
55	36	4
17	2	11
72	18	3
19	5	11
14	1	10
7	2	1
25	10	9
261	87	51
	52 55 17 72 19 14 7 25	EC-wide         52       14         55       36         17       2         72       18         19       5         14       1         7       2         25       10

**Table V** Voluntary export restraints operating in 1988

#### Source: Roarty (1989)

## WHAT IS PROTECTIONISM?

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# PROTECTIONISM: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- Which set of policies are relevant for analyses of contemporary protectionism?
- Are policy instruments deemed "protectionist" if they reduce imports?
- Relationship to mercantilism.
- Recall the four modes of supply of foreign markets and competition in third markets.



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