

The IMF and Paris club debt rescheduling: A conflicting role?

Richard P. C. Brown

First published: May/June 1992

<https://doi.org/10.1002/jid.3380040304>

Citations: 2

Abstract

The IMF has become increasingly involved in mediating debt rescheduling agreements between debtor countries and official creditors through its role in the Paris Club. This has coincided with increased 'slippage' and breakdown of IMF conditionality agreements, and a worsening 'arrears problem'. After tracing the IMF's role in Paris Club rescheduling procedures, and drawing on recent experience in Egypt and Sudan, this paper argues that the IMF's role in existing debt rescheduling procedures undermines its capacity to perform its policy role, and exposes it to default, particularly by most heavily indebted 'official borrowers' of Sub-Saharan Africa.

References

Brown, R. P. C. (1988). 'A background note on the final round of economic austerity measures imposed by the Numeiry regime: June 1984-March 1985'. In T. Barnett and A. Abdelkarim (eds), *Sudan: State, Capital and Transformation*. London: Croom Helm pp. 73-84.

[Google Scholar](#)

Brown, R. P. C. (1989). 'The rationale and effects of the IMF stabilisation programme in Sudan'. In B. Campbell (ed.), *Political Dimensions of Third World Debt*. London: Macmillan pp. 51-91.

[Google Scholar](#)

Brown, R. P. C. (1990). 'Sudan's debt crisis: the interplay between international and domestic responses. 1978-88'. PhD thesis, University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

[Google Scholar](#)

Buiter, W. & Srinivasan, (1987). 'Rewarding the profligate and punishing the prudent and poor: some recent proposals for debt relief', *World Development*, 15, pp. 411-417.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Economist, The (1988). 'What's \$3.5 billion between friends?' 22 October, p. 18.

[Google Scholar](#)

Economist, The (1989). 'Debt: trouble at t'Fund', 1 April, p. 81.

[Google Scholar](#)

Edwards, C. (1988). 'The debt crisis and development: a comparison of major economic theories', *Geoforum*, 19(1), pp. 3-28.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Edwards, S. (1989). 'The international monetary fund and the developing countries: a critical evaluation'. NBER Working Paper Series, No. 2909. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

[Google Scholar](#)

Faber, M. (1990). 'The shaping of the Brady proposals'. In Faber, M. and Griffith-Jones, S. (eds), *Approaches to Third World Debt Reduction*. IDS Bulletin, 21(2), pp. 17-21.

[Google Scholar](#)

Finch, D. (1988). 'Let the IMF be the IMF', *The International Economy*, January/February, pp. 126-128.

[Google Scholar](#)

Gisselquist, D. (1981). *The Political Economics of International Bank Lending*. New York: Praeger.

[Google Scholar](#)

Goreux, L. M. (1989). 'The Fund and the low-income countries'. C. Gwin and R. E. Feinberg (eds), *Pulling Together: the IMF in a Multipolar World*. Washington, DC: Overseas Development Council, Transaction Books pp. 141-164.

[Google Scholar](#)

Griffith-Jones, S. (1984). 'The Paris Club and the poorer countries'. Unpublished paper, IDS Sussex.

[Google Scholar](#)

Guitian, M. (1980). 'Fund conditionality and the international adjustment process: the early period, 1950-70', *Finance and Development*, 17(4), pp. 23-27.

[Google Scholar](#)

Haggard, S. (1985) 'The politics of adjustment', *International Organisation*. 39(3), pp. 505–534.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Hudes, K. (1986) 'Coordination of Paris and London Club reschedulings'. In D. D. Bradlow (ed.), *International Borrowing: Negotiating and Structuring International Debt Transactions*. International Law Institute, pp. 451–458.

[Google Scholar](#)

IMF (1976) 'Avoidance and Resolution of debt servicing difficulties'. Unpublished internal IMF document (SM/76/202). Washington, DC: IMF (September).

[Google Scholar](#)

IMF (1989) *Annual Report*. Washington DC: IMF.

[Google Scholar](#)

IMF (1991) 'Zambia: rights accumulation program', *IMF Survey*, 29 April, p. 138.

[Google Scholar](#)

Keller, P. M. (1988). 'Multilateral Official Debt Rescheduling: Recent Experience', *World Economic and Financial Surveys, International Monetary Fund*, Washington DC: IMF (May).

[Google Scholar](#)

Killick, T. (1984a). 'IMF Stabilisation Programmes', In T. Killick (ed.), *The Quest for Economic Stabilisation: The IMF and the Third World*. London: Heinemann pp. 183–226.

[Google Scholar](#)

Killick, T. (1984b). 'The impact of fund stabilisation programmes'. In T. Killick (ed.), *The Quest for Economic Stabilisation: The IMF and the Third World*, London: Heinemann, pp. 227–269.

[Google Scholar](#)

Kitchen, R. (1987). 'Managing Jamaica's debt—the art of the possible'. Unpublished paper presented at the 5th general conference, EADI, Amsterdam, 1-5 September.

[Google Scholar](#)

Klein, T. (1987) 'Debt relief for African Countries', *Finance and Development*, 28(4), pp. 10–13.

[Google Scholar](#)

Korner, P., Maass, G., Siebold, T. and Tetzlaff, R. (1986). *The IMF and the Debt Crisis: A Guide to the Third World's Dilemma*. London: Zed Books.

[Google Scholar](#)

Martin, M. (1987). 'Crisis management: solving Africa's debt problem?' E. O. Akinrinade and J. K. Barling (eds), *Economic Development in Africa: International Efforts, Issues and Prospects*. London: Pinter pp. 218-238.

[Google Scholar](#)

Mosley, (1987). 'Conditionality as bargaining process: structural adjustment lending, 1980-86'. Essays in International Finance, No. 168, International Finance Section, Department of Economics, Princeton University. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

[Google Scholar](#)

Mountfield, P. (1990) 'The Paris Club and African debt'. In Faber, M. and Griffith-Jones, S. (eds), *Approaches to Third World Debt Reduction*, IDS Bulletin, 21(2), pp. 42-46.

[Google Scholar](#)

Rieffel, A. (1985). 'The role of the Paris Club in managing debt problems', *Essays in International Finance*, No. 161, International Finance Section, Department of Economics, Princeton University. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Sachs, J. (1989a). 'Strengthening IMF programs in highly indebted countries'. In C. Gwin and R. E. Feinberg (eds), *Pulling Together: the IMF in a Multipolar World*. Washington, DC: Overseas Development Council, Translation Books pp. 101-122.

[Google Scholar](#)

Sachs, J. (1989b). 'Conditionality, debt relief, and the developing country debt crisis'. In J. Sachs (ed.), *Developing Country Debt and Economic Performance. Vol. I: The International Financial System*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press pp. 255-295.

[Google Scholar](#)

Umbadda, S. (1989). 'Economic crisis in the Sudan: impact and response'. Paper presented at the UNRISD/ISER Conference on Economic Crisis and Third World Countries: Impact and Response, University of West Indies, Kingston, 3-6 April.

[Google Scholar](#)

World Bank (1988). *World Debt Tables: 1987-88 Edition*, Vols I-III. Washington, DC: World Bank.

[Google Scholar](#)

World Bank (1989a). *Beyond Adjustment: a Participatory Program for Sustainable Growth and Equity in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

[Google Scholar](#)

World Bank (1989b). *World Debt Tables: 1988–1989 Edition, Vols I-III*, Washington, DC: World Bank.

[Google Scholar](#)

Citing Literature



Citation Statements beta ⓘ

Supporting
✔ 0

Mentioning
🕒 5

Contrasting
❓ 0

Explore this article's citation statements on [scite.ai](#)

powered by **scite_**

[Download PDF](#)

ABOUT WILEY ONLINE LIBRARY

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[About Cookies](#)

[Manage Cookies](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Wiley Research DE&I Statement and Publishing Policies](#)

[Developing World Access](#)

HELP & SUPPORT

[Contact Us](#)

[Training and Support](#)

[DMCA & Reporting Piracy](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

[Subscription Agents](#)

[Advertisers & Corporate Partners](#)

CONNECT WITH WILEY

Copyright © 1999-2025 John Wiley & Sons, Inc or related companies. All rights reserved, including rights for text and data mining and training of artificial intelligence technologies or similar technologies.

WILEY