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# John R. Commons and John Maynard Keynes on Economic History and Policy: The 1920s and Today

Charles I. Whalen

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## **Abstract**

In a pair of 1925 lectures, John Maynard Keynes described world economic history with reference to a classification of stages developed by John R. Commons. This article examines Keynes's two 1925 lectures in the context of Commons's writings. It spotlights lesser-known aspects of Commons's scholarship and helps clarify ambiguities in Keynes's two addresses. It also identifies a key document, written by Commons, an developing his present

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