

5 June 1883

Born in Cambridge, England

1897

Awarded a scholarship to Eton College

1902

Enrols at King's College, Cambridge. Becomes active in the College Debating Society and later serves as its president

1906

Begins work at the India Office of the Civil Service in London

1913

Publishes his first book, *Indian Currency and Finance*

1916–18

Works for the British Treasury

1919

His second work, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*, is published

1924

Becomes First Bursar of King's College, Cambridge

1925

Marries Russian ballerina Lydia Lopokova

1929

Becomes a Fellow of the British Academy

1936

His magnum opus, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*, is published

1937

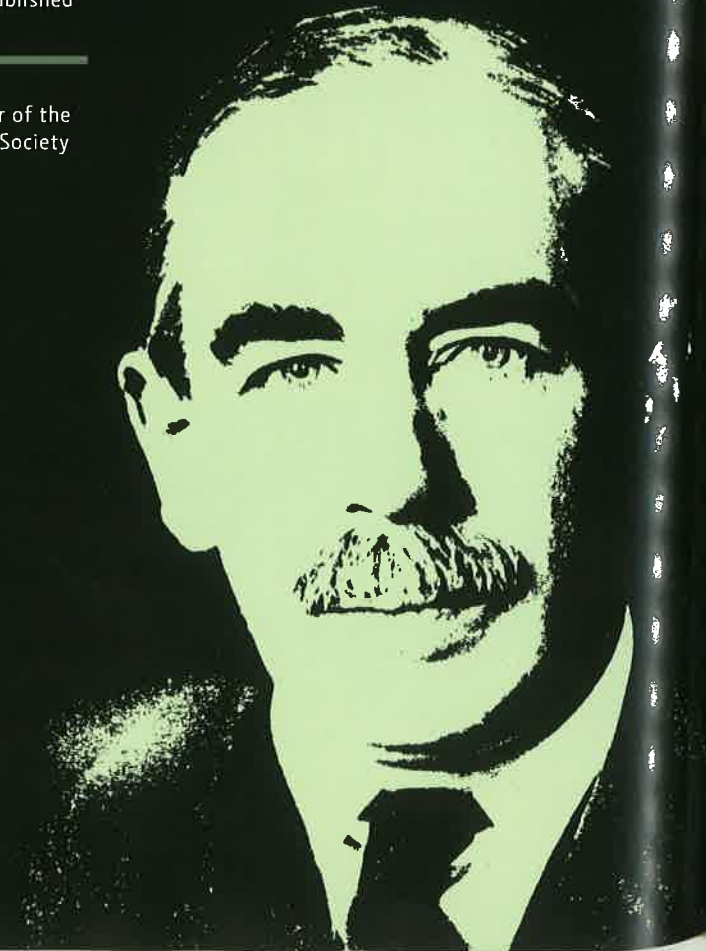
Becomes director of the British Eugenics Society

1939–45

Serves as a British representative to the US in negotiating financial support for Britain's war effort (a role he also performed in the First World War)

21 April 1946

Dies in Sussex, England



## JOHN MAYNARD KEYNES

John Maynard Keynes was born to a prominent English family. As a child he impressed his teachers with his intuitive grasp of mathematics and frustrated them with his intellectual independence. He attended Eton College and established himself as one of that prestigious institution's top students. In 1902 he was accepted to King's College, Cambridge University, where he excelled in economics and distinguished himself as a speaker and debater.

In 1906 Keynes took a position with the Revenue, Statistics and Commerce section of the British Civil Service India Office. Though he resigned his position in 1908, his time in the India Office was clearly influential, reflected in his first book *Indian Currency and Finance* (1913). Over the next years he undertook a number of professional activities, ranging from lecturing part-time at Cambridge to publishing articles in influential magazines and serving as editor for the scholarly *Economics Journal*.

With the outbreak of the First World War, Keynes was enlisted by the British Treasury Department to help set economic policy during the war. By 1917 he had been given responsibility for negotiating key financial elements of the allied war effort. After the end of hostilities, Keynes was outspoken in his condemnation of the heavy reparations levied on Germany, eventually authoring *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (1919).

In the same year he was the Treasury's financial representative at the Paris Peace Conference in Versailles.

During the late 1920s, as Europe slid into economic depression, Keynes began to challenge the British government's laissez-faire economics and argued for such radical notions as lowering of interest rates and using government spending to stimulate economies. These ideas greatly influenced Roosevelt's New Deal policies in the US and eventually became the basis of Keynes' *General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* (1936) – widely held to be the most influential economics text of the 20th century.

With the rise of fascism, Keynes called for a stand against Italian and German aggression. When war broke out in 1939, he returned to his role as a British negotiator. He made repeated visits to the US, the most significant of which was his attendance of the Bretton Woods talks, a gathering in July 1944 of representatives of the Second World War allies to determine international monetary policy for the post war years. The strenuous nature of the negotiations, however, took a toll on his health. He suffered a series of heart attacks during the period from 1944 to 1946, eventually succumbing on 21 April 1946.

Jonathan T. Reynolds