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The great depression in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay: revisiting vulnerabilities and policies

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In this thesis Marcelo Gerona and Silvana Sosa undertake an analysis of the Great Depression (1928-1934) in a sample of three highly interconnected South American countries: Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay (ABU).

The problem tackled in this work is the relative vulnerabilities of ABU, which contributed to the strong impact of the Great Depression, as well as the nature of the policy responses to the economic emergency. In this context, the hypothesis is that ABU were highly vulnerable to the Great Depression, and among them the smallest country, Uruguay, was the most vulnerable of all.

This research is original not only for having assessed jointly these three scarcely analysed countries from a historical-comparative perspective during this uneasy period of time, but also because of the introduction of a new eclectic conception of 'complex vulnerability' that involves many paradigms and points of view. Furthermore, the historic research along with a comparative reference to the Financial Crisis of 2008 helps the reader to understand the role of the semi-periphery, in an effort that is appealing for both historians and policymakers worldwide.

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