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*(Resolution adopted October 25, 1926 and revised February 6, 1933
and February 24, 1941)*

Shares of Upper Income Groups in Income and Savings

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FOREWORD

The general design of this study was conceived and some calculations initiated in the late 1930's, in the course of work on *National Income and Its Composition, 1919-1938* (1941). But while we recognized that distinguishing the shares of upper groups would lend additional interest and value to the other analysis of our national income totals, it soon became evident that the estimates needed would be so difficult as to delay by years the report then under way. It was therefore decided to postpone the present study until after completion of *National Income and Its Composition*. Work was resumed in 1941, but the pace was slow because attention had to be concentrated on other topics. Indeed, full emphasis on this study became possible only late in 1946, and the major part of the work occupied the next four years. The report was substantially completed in 1950.

Throughout these years I had the invaluable assistance of Elizabeth Jenks and Lillian Epstein. Miss Jenks carried the burden of the work, of the several revisions of estimates and analysis, and of the innumerable details attendant upon seeing the report through its various phases. The study owes much to Miss Jenks' perseverance and patience, and to Miss Epstein whose other duties allowed of only intermittent help.

In the course of work, aid in obtaining unpublished materials was kindly and promptly given by various data collecting agencies, particularly the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Bureau of the Census, and the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan. I am indebted to Thomas C. Atkeson and Marius Farioletti of the Bureau of Internal Revenue; A. Ross Eckler of the Bureau of the Census; and George Katona of the Survey Research Center. O. C. Stine of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Selma F. Goldsmith and Charles F. Schwartz of the National Income Division of the Department of Commerce, and Duncan McC. Holthausen and Ralph A. Young of the Research Division of the Federal Reserve Board were also helpful. And I am indebted to my friends Hildegarde Kneeland and Clark Warburton for unpublished estimates and data from their files.

The report was reviewed by a committee of the National Bureau staff. It benefited from comments by Ruth P. Mack, Thor Hultgren, and espe-

cially those by Geoffrey H. Moore. A preliminary and brief version was presented for discussion at the spring 1949 meeting of the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth. I profited greatly from the various critical suggestions made at that meeting.

Martha Anderson edited the volume, and contributed much to its readability. H. Irving Forman is responsible for the charts.

My sincere thanks go to one and all.

Simon Kuznets

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