



OXFORD JOURNALS  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

---

Harrod after Twenty-One Years: A Reply

Author(s): Joan Robinson

Source: *The Economic Journal*, Sep., 1970, Vol. 80, No. 319 (Sep., 1970), p. 741

Published by: Oxford University Press on behalf of the Royal Economic Society

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2229987>

---

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



JSTOR

Royal Economic Society and Oxford University Press are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Economic Journal*

I made a statement, not by way of dogmatic assertion but to illustrate the kind of thing that I had in mind.<sup>1</sup> I suggested that we might take *six months* as a likely time for the reaction to a disturbing force to occur. No one can say that one is on a “knife-edge” if it takes six months to move one. Incidentally, this idea of a six-months time-lag may be deemed to be illustrated by experiences in the United States in 1968 and 1969. So, once again, I must protest against a description which gives an entirely false impression of my views. The expression, carrying the prestige of Professor Robinson and being vivid in itself, sticks in the minds of those who have not been at pains to study my works. I hope that we shall hear no more of the “Harrod knife-edge.”

Finally, this instability principle, much stressed by Mrs. Robinson, is only one part, and perhaps by now a minor part, of my total growth theory.

R. F. HARROD

*London.*

---

## HARROD AFTER TWENTY-ONE YEARS A REPLY

THE “warranted rate of growth” is that which ensures equilibrium with a predetermined ratio of saving to net income. The point of view developed by Kaldor, Pasinetti and myself is that, when a steady rate of growth is actually going on, the share of saving adapts to it. As Sir Roy Harrod says, he has not gone into the question of the relation of steady growth to distribution. He cannot forbid us to do so. My article is concerned with how limits are set to the range within which equilibrium growth rates are possible and with the “Harrod formula,”  $g = s/v$  or  $I/K = s/Y \cdot Y/K$ . It does not touch upon the important aspect of Sir Roy’s work which is concerned with the short-period instability of a growth path.

JOAN ROBINSON

*Cambridge.*

<sup>1</sup> ECONOMIC JOURNAL, March 1939, p. 26. Reprinted in R. F. Harrod, *Economic Essays*, 1952, p. 268.