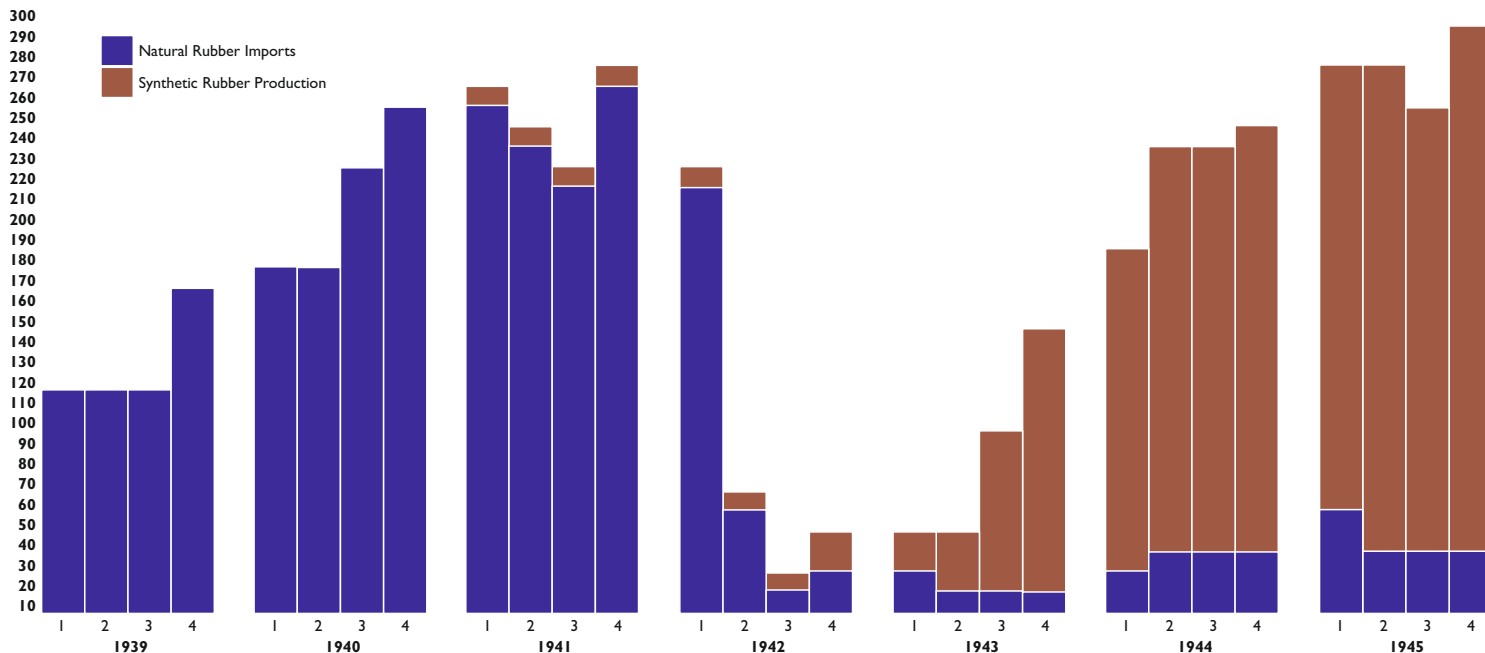


Natural Rubber Supply and Synthetic Rubber Production in the United States : 1939-1945

Chart: C.1



Rubber, which had been largely imported from Malaya in the pre-war period, was one of the few commodities which America found itself in short supply. Although stockpiles were built up in the years prior to the outbreak of the war with Japan, 1942 saw a dramatic collapse in natural supply after the conquest of the British colony in Malaya in 1942. It took 18 months for US industry to be able to replace the supply with synthetic rubber.