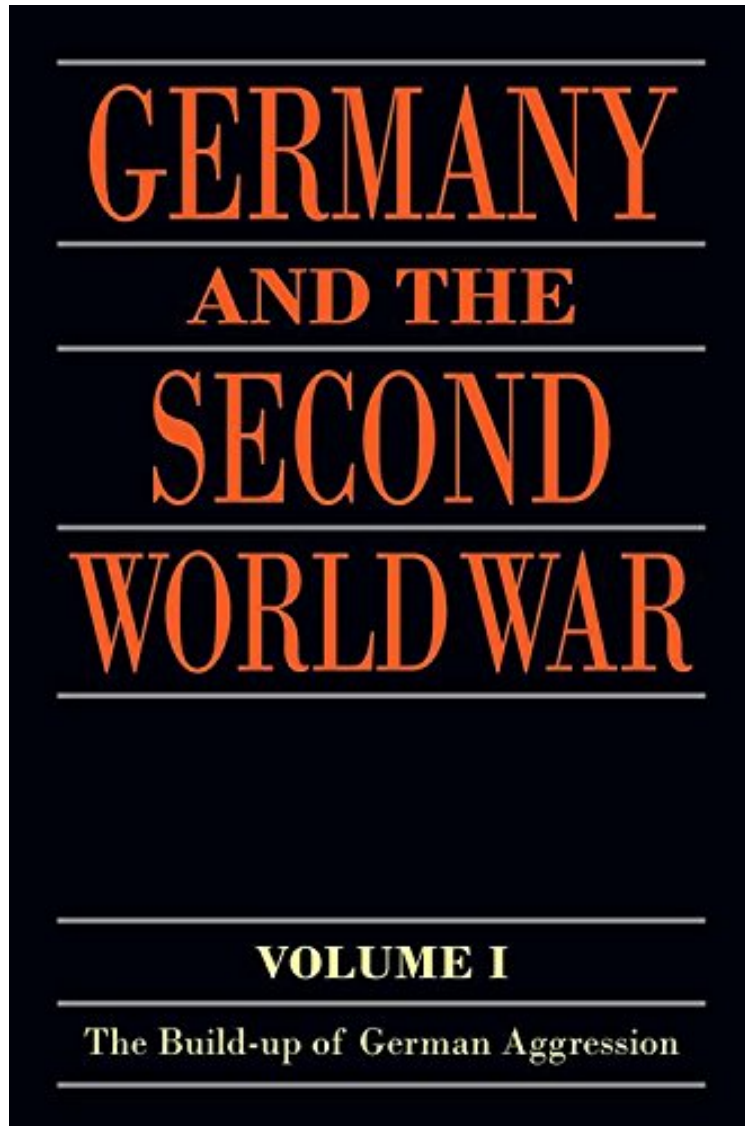


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Germany and the Second World War: Volume I: The Build-up of German Aggression

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W. Hendley I did a double take at the outlandish price of this work- then took the plunge and purchased the first three volumes in a special set. Having just finished volume one, I'd say that my money was well spent. The authors have combined to produce a truly outstanding work on the political, military, and economic factors behind Hitler's unleashing the Second World War in Europe. Note that the reading can be somewhat "dry" at times; however, this work is not for the casual reader of military history. It is, instead, for those who wish to know how the Nazis: 1. Managed to bring together the various right-wing political bodies under National Socialist control so as to eventually make the Nazi's the largest and most powerful party in Germany. 2. Forged, under Hitler's leadership, an alliance between the national socialist party, the senior membership of the armed forces, and the leaders of Germany's industrial firms which had- from the very outset of national socialist leadership- the clearly understood objective of large-scale rearmament and eventual war in Europe. 3. Gradually and systematically mobilized ALL of Germany's industrial, natural, and manpower resources in a peacetime re-armament drive that is without parallel in any capitalist nation in human history- with the so-called issue of "guns or butter" never actually being an issue at all. 4. Made unprecedented use of propaganda to hoodwink both the mass of the German people and foreign observers as to Hitler's ultimate objectives regarding Europe and the Soviet Union. The authors also resolve the seemingly contradictory issues of "slack" in the pre-war German economy with the unreadiness of the German Armed forces for war in 1939 by illustrating Germany's lack of sufficient critical strategic resources as well as the foreign currency to pay for them. The reader should understand that this merely scratches the surface of this one volume, which is a mass of detail masterfully written. As far as I can make out, the authors have no pre-conceived notions to confirm or dispel, and have clearly shown why the Nazis are, indeed, a warning from history. This multi-volume series has a place on the bookshelf of any serious student of the Second World War, and I heartily recommend it.

This is the first of a comprehensive ten-volume history of the Second World War, written from the German perspective and translated for the first time into English. The volumes so far published have achieved international acclaim as a major contribution to historical study. Under the auspices of the Militargeschichtliches Forschungsamt (Research Institute for Military History), a team of renowned historians has combined a full synthesis of existing material with the latest research to produce what will be the definitive history of the Second World War. This volume, *The Build-up of German Aggression*, surveys the forces both within and outside Weimar Germany which paved the way for Hitler. The authors examine the systematic preparation for war, from the outset of Nazi rule, through rearmament, economic autarky, diplomacy, and the penetration of German society at all levels. They consider the extent to which the movement can be regarded as a continuation of historic German nationalism; the limits of Hitler's involvement with the army and big business; and the lack of coordination between the administration and the armed services. The book demonstrates that, despite Nazi propaganda and in stark contrast to 1914, most Germans in 1939 opposed a war which they nevertheless endured with such tragic consequences. Intensively researched and documented, *Germany and the Second World War* is an undertaking of unparalleled scope and authority. It will prove indispensable to all historians of the twentieth century.

From reviews of the German edition: "The tone of the work is cool, magisterial and convincing ... this is a work of the highest importance, not only for military historians, but for all students of world history in the 20th century." -- Michael Howard, *English Historical* "This is a work of outstanding scholarship ... The book as a whole is a major achievement, pulling together existing literature and adding original material drawn from the archives. On almost every page there are insights and stimulating ideas." -- *Journal of Modern History* "these volumes will provide the comprehensive and factual framework that alone can enable the reader to understand a period in modern history that in some respects will always remain incomprehensible." -- *Times Literary Supplement* "Should leave no doubt that the world's most distinguished company of military historians is to be found in the Militargeschichtliches Forschungsamt." -- *American Historical* "The level of scholarship throughout is of a very high order, the style of the four contributors is fluent, authoritative and eminently readable, and an incredible amount of hard information has been packed into 700-odd pages. The series will quickly establish itself as an indispensable reference and a stimulus to further research." -- *History* "This is the first volume of an important and ambitious project, a massive collaborative historical study of Germany's war from a German perspective." -- *World War II* "Oxford University Press is to be congratulated for undertaking the revised English edition of this authoritative and acclaimed ten-volume series from the Military History Research Institute at Freiburg im Breisgau. This volume cannot be recommended highly enough." -- John P. Fox, *Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, International Affairs, October 1991* "presents a massive and compelling synthesis of German historical research from an official viewpoint, and provides both a valuable overview of the state of German historiography and a timely and detailed reminder of Germany's responsibility for the most destructive war in history." -- *The CT* "... the book is a notable contribution to military history in the broadest sense of that term and an indispensable tool for serious students of the war." -- *Choice* 29/01/1993 "worth waiting for ... its contributors ... do a truly commendable job of analysing the receptivity of Germans to the martial spirit ... Handsomely produced and smoothly translated ... the first two installments of

Germany and the Second World War can be warmly recommended to the broadreadership they deserve." --Marilyn Shevin Coetzee, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, History, Summer 1992 08/06/1993Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: GermanAbout the AuthorWilhelm Deist, Manfred Messerschmidt, Hans-Erich Volkmann, Wolfram WetteProject co-ordinated by the Militargeschichtliches Forschungsamt (Research Institute for Military History), Freiburg im Breisgau, GermanyTranslated from the German by P. S. Falla, Dean S. McMurry, and Ewald Osers