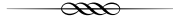


PREFACE



THE FIRST FIVE ESSAYS in this book are based on lectures delivered at the Miller Symposium on “Business and Industry under the Nazi Regime,” held at the University of Vermont in April 2002. Organized by the Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont, this was the second symposium bearing the name of Leonard and Carolyn Miller, generous supporters of the Center’s work and great friends of the university.

Established to honor the work of Professor Raul Hilberg, who served on the faculty of the University of Vermont for more than three decades, the Center for Holocaust Studies is committed to furthering the cause of Holocaust education and to serving as a forum for the presentation and discussion of new perspectives on the history of Nazi Germany and its crimes. Professor Hilberg’s pioneering and ongoing research is a model and a standard for scholars, and it is his work in the field that remains an inspiration for the Center’s programming and for publications such as this. The Miller Symposia have made an important contribution to the Center’s efforts to explore insufficiently charted areas in the history of the Third Reich. Our goal in organizing them has been to address topical, even controversial themes in the history of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, relying on the expertise of some of the most accomplished authorities in the field.

The first Miller Symposium, held in April 2000, resulted in the anthology *Medicine and Medical Ethics in Nazi Germany: Origins, Practices, Legacies* (Berghahn Books, 2002), which the reader may regard as a companion to the present volume. The second Miller Symposium brought together scholars who are among the most respected and innovative analysts of business, industry, and finance in the years of the Third Reich. Their contributions to this volume address the complicity and

collaboration of corporations and financial institutions in the crimes of the regime and, in the process, address some of the salient themes and issues in the field. These include, for example, the broader theme of business-state relations under the Nazi dictatorship, the reorganization of the banking and insurance industries and their participation in the regime's aryanization policies, the complicity of Germany's enormous chemical industry in the Holocaust, the motives and profits associated with the forced and slave labor practices of German industry and the SS, and the role of American corporations in the Nazi wartime economy.

The essays assembled here, based on the authors' original scholarship, will serve as an introduction to some of the most current research and controversies in the business history of the Third Reich. This volume, then, will be of interest to students and scholars of twentieth-century German history and the Nazi era; to students of business, business ethics, and labor and industrial relations; and to general readers in the history of the Third Reich and the Holocaust.

Both the Miller Symposium and this volume owe a tremendous debt to Leonard and Carolyn Miller, whose continuing support for the Center for Holocaust Studies has helped to sustain and expand its programming over the years. The editors also recognize and thank Edwin Colodny, the School of Business Administration at the University of Vermont, Wolfgang Mieder, and the symposium's organizing committee, which included Kathy Johnson, Arthur Kunin, David Scrase, and the editors of this volume. Kathy Johnson in particular deserves a special note of thanks for her tireless efforts, in both organizing the symposium itself and assembling materials for this publication. We also wish to thank Kelly McDonald of Saint Michael's College for her invaluable computer assistance in the preparation of this book. A final word of thanks is due to Volker Berghahn of Columbia University for his contribution to this anthology. Recognized around the world as a leading authority on Germany's history, economy, industry, and commerce in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Professor Berghahn has provided us with a thoughtful synthesis and conclusion. Not only does his analysis provide an appropriate context for these essays, but it also suggests some avenues for further investigation of the issues raised in this volume.