



HOW
NAZI
GERMANY
HAS
CONTROLLED
BUSINESS

By
L. HAMBURGER



Published by
THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

How Nazi Germany Has Controlled Business

BY L. HAMBURGER

Although National Socialism has posed as the protector of the German business community and the interests of investors, it has progressively narrowed the area in which business can make its own decisions. Without assuming the burden of actual ownership and operation, the government has so curbed and directed the conduct of business that the men in charge of private enterprise are deprived of all real freedom of action.

The position of the businessman as owner and manager of property has ostensibly been upheld; but, under the extreme regulation that has emerged, business finds itself in a position not essentially different from what it would be if the Nazis had commandeered or nationalized it.

This volume describes the complex ways and progressive steps by which this close regulation has evolved, and shows who it is among the Nazi bureaucracy that does the regulating—and how.

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Prefatory Note

The major object of this study is to make available to the American reader a concise running story of Nazi business control. This has necessitated the omission of many details which, though interesting in themselves, might have made it difficult for the reader to see the woods because of the trees.

Preparation of such a study at a distance more than 3000 miles from Berlin presents obvious problems. Since the war the flow of German source materials has not been as full or as regular as before; and, while the author has gathered valuable first-hand information from persons who had experience on the spot—American officials, businessmen, and other observers—it has not been possible to interview any of the men charged with the control of the German economy. Some parts of the narrative are therefore not as well rounded or as close to the ground as they could have been made under normal circumstances.

In the development of this study the author has enjoyed the advantage of numerous discussions and consultations with Mr. Richard Eldridge of the Department of State. Mr. Eldridge's broad knowledge and penetrating judgment of the European economic scene, together with his advice and encouragement, have been invaluable. For background information and a number of helpful suggestions the author is indebted to Professor F. K. Mann of the American University. Source materials available in the European unit, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce, have been used extensively. For their many courtesies as well as for information generously supplied, the author wishes to thank Dr. Louis Domeratzky and Mr. H. Arnold Quirin, chief and economic analyst, respectively, of this unit. The assistance of Mrs. Irma K. Chapman, secretary of the unit, is also gratefully acknowledged. It goes without saying that the author is solely responsible for all statements of fact and all interpretations offered.

L. H.

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