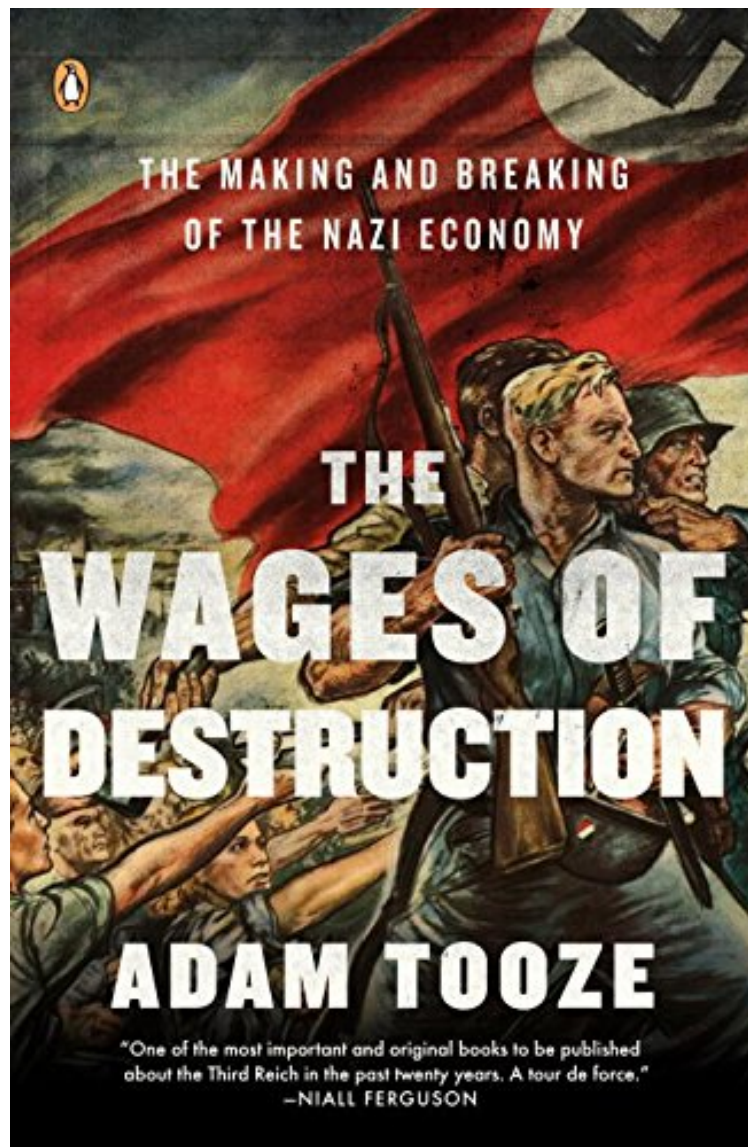


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The Wages of Destruction: The Making and Breaking of the Nazi Economy

Adam Tooze

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#199870 in Books Adam Tooze 2008-02-26 2008-02-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.42 x 1.79 x 5.511, 1.43 #File Name: 0143113208848 pages The Wages of Destruction The Making and Breaking of the Nazi Economy | File size: 72.Mb

Adam Tooze : The Wages of Destruction: The Making and Breaking of the Nazi Economy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wages of Destruction: The Making and Breaking of the Nazi Economy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating
By Thomas Reiter I can't contribute much to the 90 other reviews (as of the time of this review), but did want to add my five star rating for the book. I bought this book a few years ago but was hesitant to read it because I was afraid it would be a very boring read...in fact, while maybe not a page-turner, the book is rather interesting and fairly easy to read. The author makes several many very interesting points about the German economy before and during the war. But the book goes beyond economics in describing the author's view of the strategic rationale for the war, and why it unfolded the way it did. The biggest take-away for me was just how resource-starved the Germany economy was even before the war began--from foreign currency, to steel, to food, to oil, to labor--Germany just didn't have the resources to conduct a sustained war effort. However, because Hitler figured that things would only get worse in the future, he decided the launch the war to grab resources while his enemies were relatively weak. The author's description of the people involved in the Germany economy--including of course Albert Speer--is also very interesting. In any event, a highly recommended read for anyone interested in World War II.
9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. An astounding tour de force of WWII history
By Jerry Saperstein Surely, Adam Tooze joins Niall Ferguson as an important voice in the study of contemporary history. Tooze's groundbreaking study of the German economy is, in a word, breathtaking. The evil inherent in German designs for its Third Reich is astonishing. Imagine, German planning called for the intentional starvation of 30 million or more Soviets so that Germans might eat. This was to be on top of the horrendous German murders of Jews, Gypsies, Slavs and other "sub-humans". Hitler understood that Germany could not win a protracted war that ultimately would involve the production potential of the United States, so he invaded the Soviet Union for its natural resources, intending to kill off the "useless eaters" at the appropriate time. Hitler underestimated both the ruthlessness of Stalin and his cohorts and the inefficiency of the German war economy. Tooze is not an "exciting" writer. Only the dedicated student of history will be able to wend their way through the 676 pages of narrative. But the serious student will be rewarded with insight after insight into the inner workings of German society and its economy - - - and be chilled to the core by its inherent, almost unbelievable depth of evil. Owing to both Tooze's pedestrian writing and more so to the depth of information, "The Wages of Destruction" requires more than one reading. But it is so worthwhile, that a second reading is definitely worth the reading. Tooze demolishes Albert Speer's self-made myth of being just an apolitical technocrat. He was, according to the evidence assembled by Tooze, an integral part of the German killing machine. He just did it on the assembly line in underground factories rather than in the gas chambers. Others have written that the clash between Germany and the Soviet Union was a war between two immensely evil totalitarian systems. Tooze shows how the Germans were able to do as well as they did initially - and why their efforts were largely doomed to failure from the first moment. A truly breathtaking achievement.
Jerry
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A long-awaited economic explanation of Germany's rise to power
By Steve A This book gives a different view of world war II, from an economic position, than anything I've ever read. It gives interesting and detailed data and anecdotal information about the people involved in Germany's rise to power between 1918 and its destruction in 1945. It clears up much of the mystery about how such a buildup could have been accomplished from the ruined economy after world war I.

An extraordinary mythology has grown up around the Third Reich that hovers over political and moral debate even today. Adam Tooze's controversial new book challenges the conventional economic interpretations of that period to explore how Hitler's surprisingly prescient vision- ultimately hindered by Germany's limited resources and his own racial ideology-was to create a German super-state to dominate Europe and compete with what he saw as America's overwhelming power in a soon-to- be globalized world. *The Wages of Destruction* is a chilling work of originality and tremendous scholarship that is already setting off debate in Germany and will fundamentally change the way in which history views the Second World War.

From Booklist *Starred * Tooze's economic history of the Third Reich is, in a word, monumental. Lately, social and ideological analyses of Hitler's strategic choices have prevailed; in part because of the volume and complexity of available data, even the most economically savvy historians of World War II have generally provided only fragmentary glimpses of the myriad ways in which economics influenced German rearmament and aggression. As Tooze argues, however, the choices made by the Nazi war machine were as economically driven as they were Hitler driven. The author challenges a number of commonly held assumptions, among them the notion that successful rearmament was caused by the Nazi state's job-creation efforts and the idea that Hitler did not intend to start a continental war in attacking Czechoslovakia. Tooze also addresses the relationship between economics and ideology at Auschwitz. The net result, emerging from more than 800 pages of genuinely readable macroeconomic analysis, is an original and comprehensive thesis that couches the strategic choices of the Third Reich firmly within an increasingly American twentieth century. Originally released to broad acclaim in the UK in 2006, Tooze's tome sets a high bar for the historians of the twenty-first century. Brendan Driscoll Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "One of the most important and original books to be published about the Third Reich in the past twenty years. A tour de force." -Niall Ferguson "Tooze has produced the most striking history of German strategy in the Second

World War that we possess. This is an extraordinary achievement, and it places Adam Tooze in a very select company of historians indeed ... Tooze has given us a masterpiece which will be read, and admired; and it will stimulate others for a long time to come." -Nicholas Stargardt, *History Today* "It is among Adam Tooze's many virtues, in *The Wages of Destruction: The Making and Breaking of the Nazi Economy*," that he can write about such matters with authority, explaining the technicalities of bombers and battleships. Hovering over his chronicle are two extraordinary questions: how Germany managed to last as long as it did before the collapse of 1945 and why, under Hitler, it thought it could achieve supremacy at all." -Norman Stone, *The Wall Street Journal* "Virtually every page of his book contains something new and thought-provoking, making the whole an impressive achievement, in which original research has been combined with critical scrutiny of a vast literature that seems ripe for such a re-examination." -Michael Burleigh, *The Sunday Times* (London) "A magnificent demonstration of the explanatory power of economic history." -*The Times* (London) "Masterful . . . Tooze has added his name to the roll call of top-class scholars of Nazism." -*Financial Times* From the Back Cover Advance praise for *The Wages of Destruction*: "One of the most important and original books to be published about the Third Reich in the past twenty years. A tour de force." —Niall Ferguson, author of *Colossus* "Unputdownable epic history . . . Transforms not only our reading of Hitler's sordid regime, but the history of the twentieth century itself. Brilliantly written, its original scholarship is telling and lightly borne on every page." —John Cornwell, author of *Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII*