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0521470056 - Ambassador Frederic Sackett and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic, 1930-1933: The United States and Hitler's Rise to Power

Bernard V. Burke

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This book details a striking political relationship between American Ambassador Frederic Sackett and German Chancellor Heinrich Brüning and their attempts to save the Weimar Republic, achieve German nationalist goals, and thwart Adolf Hitler's drive to power. Sackett thought that financial policy was at the heart of German problems and, unless resolved, could be the basis for Hitler's success. He was critical of the American corporatist policy that encouraged American bankers in the private sector to loan large amounts of money to the Germans. Sackett believed this policy was partly responsible for the German financial crisis and attempted to remedy it. Very early in his tenure in Berlin, Sackett saw Hitler and the Nazis as a serious danger to the Weimar Republic and to peace in Europe. He considered Hitler a political agitator and demagogue who was not fit to govern Germany. Imbued with a strong aversion to communism, the American ambassador thought that misrule by incompetent and inefficient Nazis would pave the way for a communist state. Although at first he saw the Nazis as harbingers of worse to come, in time he came to see Hitler as the real threat to democracy in Germany.

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Frederic M. Sackett. (Photo reproduced by permission of  
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The United States and Hitler's rise to power

BERNARD V. BURKE

*Portland State University*



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*For Young Barney*

*Steve, Katy, Eileen, Patty  
Chris, and Barney*

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# Abbreviations used in the notes

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ADAP	<i>Akten zur deutschen auswärtigen Politik</i>
BDFA	<i>British Documents on Foreign Affairs</i>
DBFP	<i>Documents on British Foreign Policy</i>
FDRL	Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library
FRBNY	Federal Reserve Bank of New York
FRUS	<i>Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States</i>
GFMR	German Foreign Ministry Records
HHPL	Herbert Hoover Presidential Library
LC	Library of Congress
VJZG	<i>Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte</i>
WAR/MID	U.S. War Department, Military Intelligence Division

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