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Statistics and the German State, 1900–1945

J. Adam Tooze provides an interpretation of the dramatic period of statistical innovation between 1900 and the end of World War II. At the turn of the century, virtually none of the economic statistics that we take for granted today were available. By 1944, the entire repertoire of modern economic statistics was being put to work in wartime economic management. As this book reveals, the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich were in the forefront of statistical innovation in the interwar decades. New ways of measuring the economy were inspired both by contemporary developments in macroeconomic theory and the needs of government. The Weimar Republic invested heavily in macroeconomic research. Under the Nazi regime, these statistical tools were to provide the basis for a radical experiment in economic planning. Based on the German example, this book presents the case for a more wide-ranging reconsideration of the history of modern economic knowledge.

J. ADAM TOOZE is University Lecturer in Economic History in the History Faculty, University of Cambridge. He directs studies in history at Jesus College. He has published in the *Economic History Review*. Articles and reviews have also appeared in French and German.

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The Making of Modern Economic Knowledge

J. Adam Tooze

Jesus College and the Faculty of History
University of Cambridge

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For Sarah, John
and
Becky

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Glossary and abbreviations

ADGB	Allgemeiner Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund: Federation of German Trade Unions associated with the SPD
ASA	*Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv*, journal published by German Statistical Association
Auskunftspflicht	Obligatory Reporting Decree introduced in 1917 to formalize and expand the state's powers of enquiry, renewed in 1923
Betriebszählungen	Workplace censuses
Cambridge circus	A small group of young economists in Cambridge who read and critiqued early drafts of Keynes' *General Theory*
DAF	Deutsche Arbeitsfront: Nazi labour organization that replaced the free trade unions
DANAT	Darmstädter und National Bank
DIW	Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, *see* IfK
DSZ	*Deutsches Statistisches Zentralblatt*, fortnightly bulletin of the German Statistical Association (DSG)
Gau	Regional sub-division of Nazi party organization
GBW	Generalbevollmächtigter für die Wehrwirtschaft: General Plenipotentiary for the War Economy, office created in 1935 to give the RWM (q.v.) responsibility for the civilian side of military–economic planning
General equilibrium analysis	The generalization of marginalist analysis to the entire economy; the aim is to establish the possibility of an equilibrium not just in one market, but simultaneously across all markets
Gesamtplan	Statistical overview of the German economy

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	which the Planungsamt (q.v.) struggled to create in 1944
Gewerbezählungen	Trade Surveys (nineteenth century)
Gleichschaltung	'Coordination', euphemism to describe the process through which organizations declared loyalty to the Nazi regime
GNP	Gross National Product: measure of total output attributable to economic activity of nationals
GRA3	Statistical section of Kehrl's staff in the RWM (q.v.), est. 1942
IfK	Institut für Konjunkturforschung: Institute for Business-Cycle Research founded in 1925; since the 1940s known under its present name as DIW
Konjunkturforschung	Business-cycle research
Konzerne	Corporations or trusts
Kreislauf	Circular flow
KSA	Kaiserliches Statistisches Amt: Statistical Office of Imperial Germany
Kuratorium	Governing Board of the IfK (q.v.)
Länder	Member states of the German federation
Lenkungsbereiche	Lb: Streamlined planning organizations for civilian production est. 1942–3 on the basis of Reichsstellen (q.v.)
Machtergreifung	(Nazi) seizure of power; term coined by the Nazis to describe the events of 1933
Macroeconomics	The study of economies in the aggregate
Marginalist economics	A brand of economics that dates to the 1870s; it describes the economic process in terms of the rational decision-making of individual actors, which is modelled as a mathematical process of maximization and involves the behaviour of variables 'at the margin'
MB	Maschinelles Berichtswesen: Title given to the army Hollerith organization in 1942
Microeconomics	The study of rational decision-making by individual economic actors in particular markets; the twentieth-century descendant of marginalism
Mittelstand	Middle class
National Revolution	Nationalist euphemism for the Machtergreifung (q.v.)
Neoclassical	A brand of monetary theory, which emerged in

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monetary theory	the 1870s, concerned to revamp the classical Quantity Theory of Money
NEP	New Economic Policy, comparatively liberal period in Soviet economic policy between 1921 and 1928
Net product	The value of final output calculated from total turnover by excluding the value of all intermediate stages of production
NSBO	Nationalsozialistische Betriebszellenorganisation: Nazi shopfloor organization
Physiocrat	Eighteenth-century French economic doctrine
Planungsamt	Economic staff of the Zentrale Planung (q.v.) established by Kehrl during the reorganization in the summer of 1943
Polizei	In seventeenth- and eighteenth-century German the term embraced not merely police, but the entire field of absolutist policy
Public choice analysis	Brand of political science which treats bureaucrats as self-seeking, utility-maximizing actors
RdI	Reichsverband der deutschen Industrie: peak association of German industry, succeeded after 1934 by the RgI (q.v.)
Reichsbank	German Central Bank
Reichsbeauftragten	Heads of the Supervisory Agencies, Reich's Agencies and Lenkungsbereiche (q.v.)
Reichsindex	National cost of living index that came into operation in spring of 1921
Reichsstellen	Reich's Agencies: New title given to Supervisory Agencies in 1939
Reichstag	German parliament
Reichswehr	Name given to the German armed forces between 1918 and 1935
Reichswirtschaftsrat	Reich's Economic Council: Corporatist revising chamber of the Weimar Republic
RgI	Reichsgruppe Industrie: Industry organizations within the Nazi system of business organizations
RPI	Retail Price Index
Ruhr	North-Western heartland of German heavy industry
RWM	Reichswirtschaftsministerium: Reich's Ministry of Economic Affairs

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RwP	Reichsamt für wehrwirtschaftliche Planung: Reich's Office for Military–Economic Planning, est. 1938
Sonderweg	Shorthand for the idea that Germany followed a predetermined 'special path' through modern history
Sozial Marktwirtschaft	Social market economy, a concept developed by German liberals opposed to the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich
Sparkommissar	Reich's Savings Commissioner
SPD	Social Democratic Party
SRA	Statistisches Reichsamt: Reich's Statistical Office
State Secretary	Highest civil service rank in German Ministry
SZA	Statistischer Zentralausschuss: Central Statistical Committee, est. 1939 to cull redundant surveys
Time-series	Data arrayed along a time axis, as opposed to cross-sectional snapshots
Überwachungsstellen	Supervisory Agencies: est. 1934 under the 'New Plan' to implement control of German imports
Value added	*See* net product
VdMA	Verein deutscher Maschinenbauanstalten: Industrial organization for mechanical engineering
Verein für Sozialpolitik	Association for Social Policy, the most important association of German economists from the late nineteenth century
Volksgemeinschaft	Nazi utopia of a racially unified community
Volkswirtschaft	The national economy, a term used in German from the mid-nineteenth century
Vorwärts	Social Democratic daily
VzK	*Vierteljahrshefte zur Konjunkturforschung*: quarterly bulletin of the IfK (q.v.)
WuS	*Wirtschaft und Statistik*, fortnightly bulletin of the Statistical Office, first appeared in 1920
ZAG	Zentrale Arbeitsgemeinschaft (Central Working Group): Corporatist assembly of major interest groups formed in 1918
Zentrale Planung	Central Planning Committee est. in the spring of 1942 by Speer

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