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0521845289 - Technology and the Culture of Modernity in Britain and Germany,
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TECHNOLOGY AND THE CULTURE
OF MODERNITY IN BRITAIN AND
GERMANY, 1890–1945

This book examines the obsession for new technology that swept through Britain and Germany between 1890 and 1945. Drawing on a wide range of popular contemporary writings and pictorial material, it explains how, despite frequently feeling overwhelmed by innovations, Germans and Britons nurtured a long-lasting fascination for aviation, glamorous passenger liners, and film as they lived through profound social transformations and two vicious wars.

Public discussions about these “modern wonders” were torn between fears of novel risks and cultural decay on the one hand, and passionate support generated by nationalism and social fantasies on the other. While the investigation focuses on tensions between technophobia and euphoria, the book also examines the relationship between responses to technology and the differing political cultures in Britain and Germany before and after 1933.

This innovative study will prove invaluable reading to anyone interested in German and British history as well as the history of technology.

BERNHARD RIEGER teaches modern history at the International University Bremen. He has co-edited *Meanings of Modernity: Britain from the Late-Victorian Era to World War II* (2001) with Martin J. Daunt.

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Dedication

To Liz

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