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Between Depression and Disarmament

The International Armaments Business, 1919–1939

This business history analyzes the connections between private business, disarmament, and rearmament as they affected arms procurement and military technology transfers in Eastern Europe from 1919 to 1939. Rather than focusing on the negotiations or the political problems involved with the Disarmament Conferences, this study concerns itself with the business effects of the disarmament discussions. Accordingly, Schneider-Creusot, Škoda, Vickers, and their respective business activities in Eastern European markets serve as the chief subjects for this book, and the core primary sources relied upon include their unpublished corporate archival documents. Shifting the scope of analysis to consider the business dimension allows for a fresh appraisal of the linkages between the arms trade, disarmament, and rearmament. The business approach also explodes the myth of the ‘merchants of death’ from the inside. It concludes by tracing the armaments business between 1939 and 1941 as it transitioned from peacetime to war.

JONATHAN A. GRANT is Professor of Modern Russian History at Florida State University. His previous publications include *Rulers, Guns and Money* (2007) and *Big Business in Russia* (1999).

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Dedicated with love to Laila Susana Beth Grant,
who grew up with this book

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Abbreviations

IWM	Imperial War Museum, London
MAE	French Foreign Ministry Archive, Paris
SA	Schneider Archive, Académie François Bourdon, Le Creusot, France
SG	Société Générale Archive, Paris
VA	Vickers Archive, Manuscripts Division, Cambridge University Library, Cambridge, UK

British National Archives, Kew

ADM	Admiralty
AIR	Air Ministry
BT	Board of Trade
CAB	Cabinet Papers
FO	Foreign Office
GFM	German Foreign Ministry, Captured German Documents microfilm
T	Treasury
WO	War Office

US National Archives II, College Park, Maryland

RG	Record Group
USDS	US Department of State