Reshaping Capitalism in Weimar and Nazi Germany

In Weimar and Nazi Germany, capitalism was hotly contested, discreetly practiced, and politically regulated. This volume shows how it adapted to fit a nation undergoing drastic changes following World War I. Through wide-ranging cultural histories, a transatlantic cast of historians probes the ways contemporaries debated, concealed, promoted, and racialized capitalism. They show how bankers and industrialists, storeowners and commercial designers, intellectuals and politicians reshaped a controversial economic order at a time of fundamental uncertainty and drastic rupture. The book thus sheds fresh light on the strategies used by Hitler and his followers to gain and maintain widespread support. The authors conclude that National Socialism succeeded in mobilizing capitalism's energies while at the same time claiming to have overcome a system they identified with pernicious Jewish influences. In so doing, the volume also speaks to the broader issue of how capitalism can adapt to new times.

Moritz Föllmer is Associate Professor of Modern History at the University of Amsterdam. He has previously taught at the University Leeds, the Humboldt University Berlin and the University of Chicago. His publications on Weimar and Nazi Germany include *Individuality* and Modernity in Berlin: Self and Society from Weimar to the Wall (Cambridge, 2013) and Culture in the Third Reich (2020). Moreover, he has published a range of articles and chapters, including in Past & Present, Historical Journal, Journal of Modern History, Central European History and German History, where he has also served as review editor.

Pamela E. Swett is Professor of History at McMaster University. Her publications include Neighbors and Enemies: The Culture of Radicalism in Berlin 1929–1933 (Cambridge, 2004), Selling under the Swastika: Advertising and Commercial Culture in Nazi Germany (2014), and, as co-editor, Selling Modernity: Advertising in Twentieth Century Germany (2007) and Pleasure and Power in the Third Reich (2011) as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters. She is also the co-editor of the Nazi Germany section of the German Historical Institute's online portal, German History in Documents and Images.

Publications of the German Historical Institute

Edited by Simone Lässig with the assistance of Kelly McCullough

The German Historical Institute (GHI) is a center for advanced study and research whose purpose is to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among historians across national and disciplinary boundaries. The GHI conducts, promotes, and supports research in three core fields: German/European and Jewish history, the history of the Americas and transatlantic history, and global and transregional history. The GHI works closely with partner institutions and organizations to provide scholars from around the world with opportunities to extend their professional networks and build relationships across borders.

A full list of titles in the series can be found at: www.cambridge.org/pghi

Reshaping Capitalism in Weimar and Nazi Germany

Edited by MORITZ FÖLLMER University of Amsterdam

PAMELA E. SWETT McMaster University



and





Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108984775

DOI: 10.1017/9781108985192

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2022 First paperback edition 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

15BN 978-1-108-83354-7 Hardback 15BN 978-1-108-98477-5 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

List of Illustrations		e vii
List of Contributors		viii
Acknowledgments		ix
	cizing Capitalism in Germany, 1918–1945 Föllmer and Pamela E. Swett	I
PA	RT I DEBATING CAPITALISM	
1 Capitalism and Age Moritz Föllmer	ncy in Interwar Germany	31
2 Aporias of "Politica Depression <i>Martin H. Geyer</i>	l Capitalism" between World War I and the	58
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	: German Jurists Debate Economic Power,	30
Kim Christian Priem	el	85
PART	T II CONCEALING CAPITALISM	
	, and the Question of (In)Visibility: and Its Investments	117
	s: The Cases of Friedrich Flick and	11/
Tim Schanetzky		136

vi	Contents	
6	Hamburg Coffee Importers: From Guild to Class, 1900s–1960s Dorothee Wierling	154
	PART III PROMOTING CAPITALISM	
7	Between Criticism and Innovation: Beer and Public Relations in the Weimar Republic <i>Sina Fabian</i>	183
8	Managing Consumer Capitalism: Artists, Engineers, and Psychologists as New Marketing Experts in Interwar Germany Jan Logemann	208
9	A Society Safe for Capitalism: Violent Crowds, Tumult Laws, and the Costs of Doing Business in Germany, 1918–1945 <i>Molly Loberg</i>	232
	PART IV RACIALIZING CAPITALISM	
10	<i>Völkisch</i> Banking? Capitalism and Stuttgart's Savings Banks, 1933–1945 <i>Pamela E. Swett</i>	257
II	<i>Völkisch</i> Capitalism: Himmler's Bankers and the Continuity of Capitalist Thinking and Practice in Germany <i>Alexa Stiller</i>	278
Ind	lex	305

Illustrations

Postwar capitalism, based on the original diagram	
from Nachkriegs-Kapitalismus	page 70
Leaflet that describes beer as more nutritious	
than pearl barley	192
The brewers' exhibition area at GeSoLei-Düsseldorf in 1926	5 200
Pro-beer poster for the Deutsche Brauer-Bund at GeSoLei-	
Düsseldorf	202
1921 cover of the advertising magazine Das Plakat	213
Shoppers inspecting a jewelry store display window	226
	Leaflet that describes beer as more nutritious than pearl barley The brewers' exhibition area at GeSoLei-Düsseldorf in 1926 Pro-beer poster for the Deutsche Brauer-Bund at GeSoLei- Düsseldorf 1921 cover of the advertising magazine <i>Das Plakat</i>

Contributors

- Simone Derix, Department of History, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
- Sina Fabian, Department of History, Humboldt University of Berlin
- Moritz Föllmer, Department of History, University of Amsterdam
- Martin H. Geyer, Department of Modern and Contemporary History, University of Munich
- Molly Loberg, Department of History, California Polytechnic State University–San Luis Obispo
- Jan Logemann, Institute for Economic and Social History, University of Göttingen
- Kim Christian Priemel, Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo
- Tim Schanetzky, Department of Modern and Contemporary History, University of Jena
- Alexa Stiller, Institute of History, ETH Zurich
- Pamela E. Swett, Department of History, McMaster University
- Dorothee Wierling, Research Center for Contemporary History in Hamburg

Acknowledgments

Writing from the vantage point of January 2021, during a global pandemic, we are reminded how important it is for researchers to meet and share ideas, to collaborate, and to critique one another. The volume compiled here grew out of such a meeting – a workshop hosted by the German Historical Institute (GHI), Washington, DC, in February 2018. We were lucky to hold the event when we did. We were also fortunate to benefit from the support of many institutions and individuals in its planning and in producing this collection of essays.

We want to begin by thanking the Thyssen Foundation, McMaster University, and the GHI. Together they provided the financial assistance needed to host an event that welcomed historians from the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, and Norway as well as the United States and Canada. We also want to thank the GHI team for their deft handling of the preparations for the two-day event and its logistics, and for offering their beautiful space as the venue. In particular, Ines Prodöhl (now at the University of Bergen) helped us select the participants, while GHI director Simone Lässig, David Lazar, Susanne Fabricius, and intern Martin Kristoffer Hamre should be commended for making sure all participants had a productive and enjoyable stay in Washington, DC. We also wish to thank Julia Erol, Steven G. Gross, Claus-Christian Szejnmann, Jonathan Zatlin, and various GHI researchers for their insightful contributions to the discussions.

We also appreciate the guidance of the individuals who assisted with this publication. We were thrilled that the GHI and Cambridge University Press selected the project for their long-standing and highly respected book series. We are grateful to David Lazar and Kelly McCullough at

х

Acknowledgments

the GHI and to Liz Friend-Smith and Atifa Jiwa at Cambridge University Press for their editorial support. For their work on the manuscript and page proofs, we thank copyeditor Ami Naramor and proofreaders Richard Pettit and Elizabeth Tucker. Additionally, we thank Melissa Ward and Sheik Azharudeen J for their expert support during the production process. We thank GHI librarian Anna Maria Boss for her help with illustrations. Our thanks also go to the two anonymous reviewers who provided us and our contributors with constructive commentary and critique. The National Archives of Norway generously supplied the cover photo free of charge. Stephen Curtis was an excellent and thorough copyeditor, while Christine Brocks did a marvelous job indexing the volume. It has been a pleasure to work with everyone involved in this project from start to finish, and any shortcomings that remain are ours alone.