
NEW TITLES

*History***GERMAN BIG BUSINESS AND THE RISE OF HITLER**

by Henry Ashby Turner, Jr.
Oxford, 1985
504 pp. \$25



"It is impossible," wrote the German émigré-scholar Max Horkheimer, "to speak about fascism without also speaking about capitalism." It is against such conventional wisdom that Turner, a Yale historian, directs his book. Leftist Weimar Republic journalists and, later, like-minded historians always insisted that the Nazis' rise to power during the 1920s and '30s was financed by Germany's corporate giants. Turner maintains that the leaders of the major industrial firms—including IG Farben, Krupp, and Siemens—had every reason *not* to back Hitler, and, in fact, did not do so, at least in the beginning. First, they saw the Nazis' failed Munich "Beerhall Putsch" of 1923 as the work of an outlaw organization. Even more troublesome to corporate leaders was Nazi anticapitalist rhetoric; Nazi anti-Semitism only compounded the fears of Jews (and many Gentiles) on corporate boards. Above all, German tycoons could not be sure where Hitler stood on practical business matters. He refused to address their vital goals: the elimination of binding arbitration in labor disputes, the return to a 10-hour workday, the reduction of state interference in business. Instead, he preached ultranationalism and repeatedly denounced the reparations for World War I imposed on Germany by the victorious Allies under the 1919 Treaty of Versailles. Turner describes Nazism as a "genuinely populist movement," financed largely by membership dues and a grassroots fund-raising apparatus.

THE FOUCAULT READER

edited by Paul Rabinow
Pantheon, 1985, 390 pp.
\$19.95 cloth; \$9.95 paper

Michel Foucault's concern was with knowledge and power—specifically, with the way Western states since the Renaissance have used knowledge (e.g., political philosophies, educational principles, scientific theories) to maintain an orderly system of power relationships. During the two decades before his death last year at the age of 58, the French

philosopher influenced a generation of scholars throughout the world in history, literature, and a host of other fields. His work was largely an extension of the thought of Friedrich Nietzsche: Foucault tried to show how the "will to power" had become institutionalized in the modern state. He focused on such social sore spots as crime, delinquency, disease, and sexuality because Western governments have tended to intervene most actively in those areas. Armed with theories, statistics, and an array of disciplinary techniques, the well-meaning agents of the state have, according to Foucault, established the "norm" and sequestered the "deviant." More subtly, they have reduced human beings to manipulable "subjects." His belief that all Western political systems succumbed to this urge to dominate their citizens made him a target of criticism from all ideological quarters, even while intellectuals of the Left and the Right absorbed his ideas. Foucault's major books, essays, and interviews are broadly represented in this first general anthology, ably edited by Rabinow, a University of California anthropologist.

THOMAS MORE

by Richard Marius
Knopf, 1984

562 pp. \$22.95



Thomas More (1478–1535) was canonized 400 years after his martyrdom, but even before the Catholic Church's official recognition, biographers tended to depict him as a saint, a "museum piece rather than a man." Marius, a Harvard historian, shares the admiration of earlier biographers, but his More is human with a vengeance. Torn throughout his life by conflicting impulses—toward asceticism (he almost entered a Carthusian monastery when he was 25) and toward marriage and worldly success—More chose the latter but was never comfortable with the choice. His adult life, says Marius, was a "quest to be always busy" in order to quiet his guilt over material comfort and pride of place. In his public career as a lawyer and lord chancellor (1529–32), More was compliant, often obsequious, an "eternal staff sergeant," says Marius. A devoted son to his father, he seems to have had a lifelong