



# The Most Valuable Asset of the Reich: A History of the German National Railway

## Volume 2, 1933-1945

By Alfred C. Mierzejewski

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### **The Most Valuable Asset of the Reich: A History of the German National Railway Volume 2, 1933-1945** By Alfred C. Mierzejewski

The largest enterprise in the capitalist world between 1920 and 1945, the Deutsche Reichsbahn (German National Railway) was at the center of events in a period of great turmoil in Germany. In this, the second volume of his comprehensive history of the Reichsbahn, Alfred Mierzejewski offers the first complete account of the national railway under Hitler's regime.

Mierzejewski uses sources that include Nazi Party membership records and Reichsbahn internal memoranda to explore the railway's operations, finances, and political and social roles from 1933 to 1945. He examines the Reichsbahn's role in German rearmament, its own lack of preparations for war, and its participation in Germany's military operations. He shows that despite successfully resisting Nazi efforts to politicize its internal functions, the Reichsbahn cooperated with the government's anti-Semitic policies. Indeed, the railway played a crucial role in the Holocaust by supporting the construction and operation of the Nazi death camps and by transporting Jews and other victims to them.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

Mierzejewski's book will be the standard work on the German National Railway for years to come.

### *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*

Essential reading for all scholars of modern Germany.

### *Central European History*

Mierzejewski has done a wonderful job.

### *Business History*

An account that is elaborate, circumspect, and thoroughly convincing.

### *Central European History*

Essential.

### *Historische Zeitschrift*

### **Review**

The development of German railways in the twentieth century has found its true historian . . . . Scholars are bound to marvel at Mierzejewski's facility in tackling one technical problem after another with a keen eye and sure hand . . . . He has produced an account that is elaborate, circumspect, and thoroughly convincing.--*Central European History*

### **From the Inside Flap**

The first comprehensive account of Germany's national railroad under Hitler, this book explores the railway's operations, finances, and political and social roles from 1933 to 1945, including the pivotal role it played in the Holocaust by supporting the construction and operation of the Nazi death camps and by transporting victims to them.

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