

the book case

Included among these natural poisons is aflatoxin, one of the most powerful carcinogens known, especially suited to growing on grain foods and peanuts, and tolerated by the Food and Drug Administration to a hazard level 667 times higher than the EDB residue levels set by the EPA. In addition, of the three effective substitutes for EDB, two contain proven carcinogens and two are more poisonous than EDB.

Whelan points out that "there is no evidence" that exposure to trace levels of pesticides "increases the risk of cancer, birth defects, or any other human ailment"—no evidence. "The EDB phenomenon could happen only in a highly affluent society. . . . The preoccupation of most of the world is not with traces of pesticides or additives. . . . The reality is that we compete with insects for food. Losses on a global scale have been estimated to be as great as 45 percent."

Similar stories are told of other chemicals: DDT, PCBs, PBBs, formaldehyde, dioxin. Cases of hazardous misuse can almost always be found, but proper use has presented many benefits and no demonstrable hazards. Why, then, do we rarely hear a perspective like Whelan's in the mass media?

The mass media are geared to the crudest outlines of an issue, and reporters are not just looking for the facts but for a story—and that requires drama. Scary anecdotes and dire warnings are, as the *Washington Post* has put it, "red meat." Cautious evaluations of peer-reviewed articles in staid scientific journals are—well, boring.

Moreover, Whelan astutely observes, when it comes to reporting on controversial chemical or technological issues, "it is *de rigueur* for the media to concoct a debate format." This lends drama. It also looks like the media are presenting both sides of an issue—even when one side offers pseudo-scientific hysteria and "even though the protechnology guest represents 99.9 percent of the scientific community's views." Certain alarmist scientists (and organizations) even become widely known, seen, and read as *the* experts in their field, since they are among the few scientists who can be counted on for a dramatic and scary story—often because, Whelan charges, they "feel free to cite data rejected by consensus of the scientific community."

Some examples: Dr. Ernest Steinglass, whose definitively refuted charge that the Three Mile Island nuclear accident caused "several hundred" infant deaths

reads like a textbook example of how to lie with statistics; Dr. Beverly Paigen, whose study of birth disorders in the Niagara Falls (Love Canal) region was rejected in 1980, by a panel of physicians appointed by the governor of New York, as "literally impossible to interpret";



Reporters are not just looking for the facts but for a story, and that requires drama—scary anecdotes and dire warnings.

Lewis Reginstein, whose *America the Poisoned* (Acropolis) was still, in 1982, citing Paigen's study as authoritative proof of a disaster at Love Canal; Dr. Samuel Epstein, whose *The Politics of Cancer* (Sierra Club, 1981) contended that we are in the midst of a cancer epidemic, when in fact, except for steep increases in lung cancer, cancer incidences and mortalities have declined sharply or remained steady for decades, adjusting for age and depending on the site.

While *Toxic Terror* is thorough, illuminating, and convincing, it has some an-

noying flaws. Whelan is clear but not much of a stylist, and the book has many clumsy jokes and phrasings. In addition, in trying to catch her quarry off-guard, Whelan makes some arguments that are either trivial or nonsensical: She says that "the environmental alarmists like to point to carcinogens and poisons in the air of our cities. . . . Cigarette-induced air pollution, however, doesn't interest the environmentalist."

Well, first, a concern with toxins in the air doesn't sound like alarmism to me. (The book is sprinkled with red-flag phrases like this; even the subtitle talks about "environmental fanatics.") Second, it just doesn't seem to be true that cigarette pollution doesn't interest environmentalists. Anyway, industrial air pollution is a more public issue than smoking: You *can* smoke without polluting the air of others; you *can't* run a coal-fired powerplant without doing that. Advocating regulation, Whelan never considers arguments for dealing with air pollution by more clearly defining property rights, as a growing body of free-market environmentalists proposes. Does *she* therefore think we should regulate smoking, too?

These problems with the book crop up when Whelan is trying to use emotional persuasion through wit, indignation, or exposure of hypocrisy. It doesn't work here, but it doesn't have to. *Toxic Terror's* persuasive power comes from thorough and sober analysis. It is a breath of fresh air in the public debate on toxic substances in the environment, soundly separating hysterical fear and politicized science from cautious concern and good science.

David Stewart is a free-lance writer in Madison Heights, Michigan.

Big Business: Friend or Foe of Hitler?

By Ralph Raico

German Big Business and the Rise of Hitler, by Henry Ashby Turner, Jr.
New York: Oxford University Press, 528 pp., \$25.00

Capitalism, according to economist Joseph Schumpeter, stands its trial before judges—the intellectuals—who already have the sentence of death in their pocket. As evidence for this dictum, consider the succession of arguments used to vilify the system. Capitalism, critics argue, condemns the working masses to poverty; it decrees the an-

nihilation of the middle classes between monopoly capitalists and pauperized proletarians; it leads to military and political expansion into the precapitalist world, thus producing increasingly frequent conflicts among the capitalist nations; it maintains or destroys (take your pick) the family unit; and so on. No sooner is one argument rendered dubious or nuga-

THE FASTEST, EASIEST \$100,000

You'll Ever Make in Your Life, Yours Now

- WITHOUT A PENNY OF INVESTMENT
- WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR HOME
- WITHIN 90 DAYS
- "WORKING" ABOUT ONE HOUR A DAY (OR EVENING)



There are all kinds of ways to make money. Good golly, Molly — if anyone knows that, I do! For the past 20+ years I've concentrated on finding, investigating, creating and specifically singling out only the very finest legal and ethical methods for carving out a mass of wealth in a hurry. But believe me, in all those years never have I experienced anything remotely as exciting as this one!

Recently, I came across a fairly new way to make big bux, but after a thorough study I discarded it because it required too much investment of time, money and personal effort. But my study did serve as inspiration to develop yet another fantastic and unusual wallet-fattener — **something that until now has never been done** — yet fully complies with the tough set of standards I'm noted for demanding of *any* potential wealth-producing concept:

- Must be able to be started with **minimum investment**
- Must be possible to **start at home** and not interfere with family life.
- Must be able to be started and run initially by **one man or woman**
- Must require only a **few hours of spare time per week**
- Must have realistic annual profit potential of **\$40,000 or more**

Well, this one goes way beyond my usual rigorous test. Get this: This extra-ordinary money-maker® allows you to:

- Start at once — **within 30 seconds** of studying my report
- Invest **not a single cent**
- Accomplish everything **without leaving your home** — heck, you can do it from your favorite easy chair whilst eating pizza or petting the dog (or vicey versey!)
- Have a potential **net profit** (not gross ... **net!**) of: **\$100,000.00** by the end of 90 days — tops. And that's cash, not theoretical or paper profits.

Naturally, you're wondering what all this is — but I'm not going to tell you here. No, it's going to cost you ten

For the past two decades Du Vall has captured the imagination of men and women the world over by providing solid, unique direction for their quest for financial freedom. His firm is headquartered in Michigan with international marketing offices in Hong Kong (known as DAX International, John W. Lane, President). In addition to producing some three dozen publications on money-making/self-improvement themes, DuVall is also the creator of the popular Derek Dax adventure/mystery/romance series and the author of the political intrigue novel, "The Big Dream" (published by Lyle Stuart, Inc., New York). Unlike most, he has never had to resort to outlandish money-back guarantees to attract only the finest DAX-DOERS worldwide and no such policy is expressed or implied.

His writings have been used in numerous style and content workshops and accredited courses at such institutions as California State University, UCLA, Fordham, University of Illinois and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

smackers to find out. But I will tell you what it *isn't* so you'll not be off on some wild goose chase:

- ★ No sex or off-color stuff
- ★ No chain letter, pyramid or multi-level scam
- ★ No mail order, envelope stuffing or drop-shipping
- ★ No writing or self-publishing how-to stuff
- ★ No loan brokerage scheme
- ★ No stocks, commodities, real estate, etc.
- ★ No gambling, betting or wagering
- ★ No arts, crafts or special skills
- No party-plan, door-to-door or phone selling
- ★ No catalogs, mailing lists, postage, etc.
- ★ No equipment to buy or rent
- ★ No bothering friends, relatives, etc.
- ★ Not anything you have ever seen advertised anywhere

WHO CAN DO IT

Anyone with even a smidgen of ambition.

WHAT IS REQUIRED

Other than my step-by-step detailed report ... nothing. I have thought long and hard about it; A person virtually without a shirt on their back or a pot to plant petunias in could do it. You will of course, have to put my plan into motion — but that's both fun and easy and totally accomplished from the comfort of your own home. (By the way, no one will be coming to your home, either.)

Finally, let me make this clear: Once you have my report, **that is all you need to get going!** I have nothing else to sell you for this deal. Your purchase of this extraordinary report is NOT a "foot in the door" to get you to buy some extra or expensive "course" or whatever ... this is all you need from me!

WANT PROOF?

We have over 10,000 'tasty testimonials' from housewives, doctors, lawyers, laid-off factory workers—all sorts of good people. These excerpts sum up their feelings:

"Thanks a million times ... you have proved 100% accurate in what you said in your advertisement. Doing this work is so easy! I sometimes work while in bed. Should you come up with another ingenious thing, please let me know."

Mohidin Mohammed, Sweden

"We are so impressed ... have our 13 and 16 year olds involved ... thanks for giving our family new hope."

MacClear Family, Indiana

"... man in economically depressed area left \$35,000 secure job to put this method to work ... made \$120,000. First man I've ever met who really made money on idea purchased through mail."

David Roman, Editor, ROMAN REPORTS, Ohio

WHAT TO DO NOW

You've got two choices:

1. Put this ad aside, wait 90 days or so and perhaps lose your chance at \$100,000.

Nifty Bonus!

A few months back in our DAX MONEY-MAKER® CONFIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER, we reported on another business that can easily net \$1,000 a week for life. It's a bit more involved and does require getting out and about, but our readers were so delighted with it that I'm including it as an extra **free bonus** when you order our new special DAX report, "\$100,000 in 90 Days."

2. Do the only sensible thing. Send me the ten bux and get started on wearing in that path to the bank.

P.S. One more thing (say, this Du Vall is a windy so and so, isn't he!). There are lots of people right now in bad financial straits. I hope you're not one of them, but if you are, having read this ad you now have absolutely no excuse for being broke, because as the saying goes, "This is it!" This could truly be the once-and-for-all solution to any money miseries you have. I guess you'll have to take my word for it until you receive these fabulous reports — but if it eases your mind any, over 1,000,000 men and women worldwide have been, over the years **repeat buyers** of my books, courses, reports, cassette tape programs and newsletters. There must be a reason ...

— Dean F. V. Du Vall

Du Vall Press Financial Publications
920 W. Grand River, Williamston, Michigan 48895

For same day DAX processing mail to: BOX 14-ND332 WILLIAMSTON, MI 48895

Dean — this sounds like just what I'm looking for — a chance to make mega-bux without any investment or having to leave the house. The same day you receive my order rush me your new DAX Special Report, "\$100,000 in 90 Days" plus the Free Bonus Report, "\$1,000 A Week for Life." Enclosed is ten dollars.



For Personal Success

Zip _____

Optional: Add \$2 for individual handling/first class postage.

©1985

the book case

tory by historical developments or rational analysis than it is replaced by another. The verdict is always the same: capitalism is guilty. It is the *of what* that keeps changing.

A historical thesis popular today in East Germany, the Soviet Union, and in left-leaning circles in West Germany and elsewhere proposed to lay a very large sum indeed on the debit side of capitalism's account. This thesis states that the major (or one of the few major) causes of the Nazis' coming to power in Germany in the 1930s was the vigorous and generous support accorded Hitler's movement by German big business. It is not clear, logically, how these alleged actions of even a large number of German *capitalists* can constitute an argument against *capitalism* itself, but the rhetorical effect, and intention, of the argument is clear: "in the last analysis," capitalism was responsible for Nazism, World War II, and genocide.

Mainstream Western historians have not, of course, gone to the lengths of their left-wing brethren in tying big business to the rise of Nazism. Still, ever

since the connection was postulated back in the 1920s, Western writers have tended to acknowledge big-business support as significant, at least at certain crucial points, in Hitler's success. After the publication of Henry Ashby Turner's *German Big Business and the Rise of Hitler*, a magnificently researched and brilliantly reasoned book, this will become difficult indeed for any honest historian.

With masterly thoroughness and care, Turner, of Yale University, traces the development of relations between the German business community and the Nazi movement. In the earlier stages—before their electoral breakthrough in 1930—the Nazis excited virtually no support and a good deal of hostility and suspicion among the business elite. (Their one important convert was Fritz Thyssen, prominent in the steel industry.) This derived largely from the anticapitalist elements in the National Socialist ideology and practice, although Nazi anti-Semitism also often offended big businessmen, who tended to consider this form of bigotry vulgar and plebeian.

The prominence in the Nazi ranks of men like the economic crank Gottfried Feder, with his rantings against the "tyranny" of lending money at interest, and Josef Goebbels, whose diatribes against capitalism sometimes could not be distinguished from those of the Communists, was also hardly reassuring to the business community. Until the very end, its members preferred to support the "bourgeois" parties (DVP, DNVP, DDP), more dependable from their point of view. It was to them that big business channeled the great bulk of its political contributions.

Where, then, did the Nazis obtain financial support? At first, seed money came from disparate sources, including the Pan-German League, White Russian émigrés, and a few smaller businessmen, like Edwin Bechstein, the owner of a Berlin piano company. But the financial undergirding of the Nazis' march to power, through the lean years of the 1920s and even the period of growing influence after 1930, was forged by the fanaticism of their own membership.

book hints a selective mention of books received for review

"Fair of speech... And sometimes of intention too. But at other times foul of meaning and dishonest in intent." With these words, editor D. J. Enright introduces us to the world of euphemisms in *Fair of Speech* (New York and Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 228 pp., \$15.95). Orwellian "newspeak" marches across the pages of the chapter on political euphemisms, where governments "pacify" rather than conquer enemies and "nationalize" rather than forcefully acquire private business. Other euphemisms, whose intent is merely to cushion the truth, receive gentler treatment in chapters on sex, children, or work.

The Third World (yes, that's a convenient euphemism for the rather denigrating "poor countries") has recently taken center stage in the media with reports of famine, soaring debts, and political instability. Four recent short works illuminate different dimensions of Third World problems and prospects: *US Aid to the Developing World: A Free Market Agenda*, edited by Doug Bandow (Washington, D.C.: Heritage Foundation, 152 pp., \$8.00 paper); *Theology, Third World Development, and Economic Justice*, edited by Walter Block and

Donald Shaw (Vancouver, Canada: Fraser Institute, 145 pp., \$5.00 paper); *Are World Population Trends a Problem?*, edited by Ben Wattenberg and Karl Zinsmeister (Washington, D.C.: American Enterprise Institute, 53 pp., \$6.95); and *Paths to the Future: Women in Third World Development*, by Brigitte Beyer, Shelley Green, and Jerry Jenkins (Sacramento, Calif.: Sequoia Institute, 70 pp., \$2.00 paper). All depart from the collectivism that dominates current discussion of Third World development. Says *Paths to the Future*: "Unlimited development" requires "limited government" in which individuals are "accorded both primary responsibility for their own successes and the corollary rights necessary for succeeding."

And, speaking of departures from conventional wisdom and the subject of women (this time in the United States), authors David Kirp, Mark Yudof, and Marlene Strong Franks urge in *Gender Justice* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 240 pp., \$19.95) that in trying to further sexual equality, governments would best encourage choice rather than promote particular outcomes.

Choice is the theme of another book,

Crime by Choice: An Economic Analysis, by Morgan O. Reynolds (Dallas, Tex.: Fisher Institute, 232 pp., \$24.95/\$8.95). Reynolds contests the view that crime is the product of society's influence on behavior and that individuals bear no responsibility for their actions.

Contesting another commonly held myth, Nicholas Wolfson challenges the belief that publicly held corporations are powerful ministrates. In *The Modern Corporation: Free Markets versus Regulation* (New York: Free Press, Macmillan, 191 pp., \$25.00), he argues against the need for strong government regulations to "protect" the public from these giants, contending that free-market competition can contain corporate activities.

Another large institution on the American landscape—the philanthropic foundation—is examined by journalist and historian Marvin N. Olasky in *The Council on Foundations* (Washington, D.C.: Capital Research Center, 58 pp., \$3.00 paper). The Council is "the establishment of the foundation rich," says Philip N. Marcus in a preface; and Olasky probes its propensity to advance governmental rather than voluntary solutions.

—L. S.

the book case

The great German Socialist party, the SPD, had shown how a major political organization could be supported by its own adherents. The Nazis, as Turner says, "applied socialist organization and financial techniques to a considerably more affluent following."

After the Nazis had established themselves as a major factor in German politics, some big businessmen contributed relatively minor subsidies, mostly to particular Nazis. The aim was to assure themselves of "friends" in positions of power, should the Nazis enter the state apparatus. Other industrialists, like many other anti-Marxists, looked forward to bringing the Nazis into a great conservative coalition—in effect, "taming" them and exploiting their popular appeal for traditional right-wing purposes.

All these efforts, however, were quite marginal to the process of Hitler's ascent to power. His strategy called not for mobilizing big business behind him but for neutralizing it as a possible hindrance, a task he astutely accomplished. In time, those from smaller and medium-sized firms came to join the Nazis in substantial numbers. On the other hand, there were fighters for the good cause until the end, among them "the Hansa-Bund, a pro-free trade, anti-cartel organization with a sizeable following in banking, commercial, and manufacturing circles," which continued to brand the Nazis the "vigorous enemy of the individualist and capitalist order for which we stand."

Turner's book is a work of historiographical revision in the best sense of the word—the replacement of ideologically motivated myth by a truer picture of past reality, based on the most comprehensive command of the sources. In the course of this salutary debunking, the author has occasion to examine more specific legends that have come to be enshrined in accounts of the period. These legends—concerning, for instance, Hitler's appearance at the Industry Club of Düsseldorf in January 1932 and his meeting with Franz von Papen and the "representative" of big business, Kurt von Schröder, in Cologne a year later—have been repeated and elaborated on not only by sensationalistic journalists such as William L. Shirer but by reputable historians such as Alan Bullock, A. J. P. Taylor, Norman Stone, and H. Stuart Hughes, as well. Having taught modern European history for many years, I can only state my gratitude to Turner for clearing away these seriously

misleading fabrications.

Besides the steady development of his main theme, Turner often brings out new features in territory one had thought sufficiently investigated already. Take, for example, the dreadful economic crisis that in the end brought the Nazis to power. What was the role of the Weimar Republic's "advanced" and widely admired *Sozialpolitik*—welfare-state system—in hindering economic growth and fostering extraordinarily high unemployment rates? Is it possible that, by insisting on the sacrosanctity of Weimar *Sozialpolitik*, the Socialists (and others) unwittingly contributed to the triumph of Nazism?

Finally, Turner is to be commended for joining battle head-on, in his concluding section, "Myths, Preconceptions, and the Misuse of History," with the ad-

vocates of the thesis of big-business complicity. These historians, he contends, evince a deep-seated bias against the world of industry and trade. This is true not only of Soviet and East German writers—whose jobs, after all, depend on generating rationales for the death warrant on capitalism. Even Western historians, he writes, "generally have little or no personal contact with the world of business. Like so many intellectuals, they tend to view big business with a combination of condescension and mistrust." Perhaps Turner's rich and pleasingly written book is a sign there are some changes under way.

Ralph Raico is associate professor of history at the State University of New York College at Buffalo and a fellow of the Institute for Humane Studies, at George Mason University.

Wonders of the (Economic) World

By Paul McGouldrick

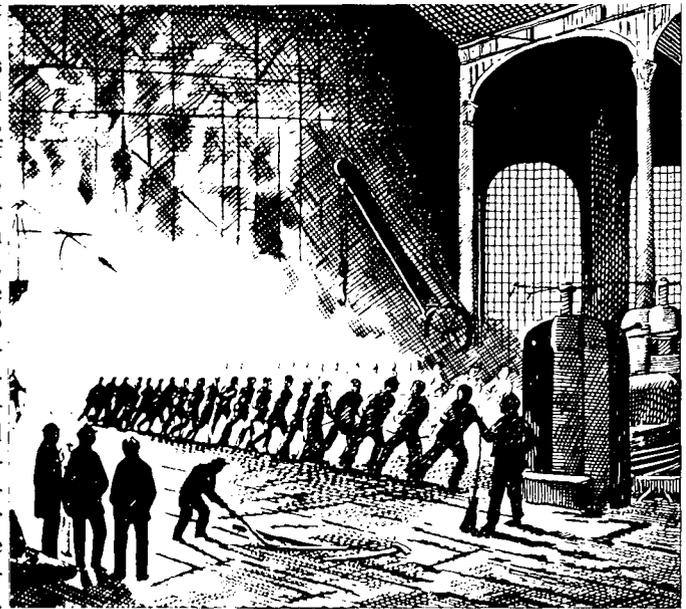
*From Adam Smith to the Wealth of America, by Alvin Rabushka
New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Books, 237 pp., \$29.95*

In lands dominated by the Anglo-Saxon empirical tradition, advocates of the free marketplace need to cite empirical evidence as well as deductive reasoning in order to persuade. That is why Alvin Rabushka's brilliant study is so useful.

The first part tells how Great Britain dismantled a complex, incoherent system of monopoly privileges, regulation of production and trade, high or prohibitive tariffs, and wage and price fixing between 1815 and the 1860s. Simultaneously, Britain moved to a complete gold standard with market determination of the quantity of money, for reasons cited by the Parliamentary Bullion Report of 1810. Monetarists as well as Keynesians, both of whom favor an active role for the state in regulating the money supply, need to ponder the report's message:

The most detailed knowledge of the actual trade of the Country, combined with the

profound science in all the principles of Money and circulation, would not enable any man or set of men to adjust, and keep always adjusted, the right proportion of circulating medium in a country to the wants of trade.



Finally, supply-side principles were followed in reducing tax rates: Rabushka is superb in fighting through the thickets of tax changes to get to the underlying principles and results. Quite simply, this section of the book should replace the older