

B

ECONOMIC PLANNING AND MOBILIZATION  
FOR AGGRESSIVE WAR

1. As soon as the Nazi conspirators had consolidated their control of Germany, they proceeded to subject the entire economic system to the purpose of creating the war machine necessary for carrying out their program of aggression. They completely transformed the German economic structure; they deprived labor of every vestige of industrial democracy; they imposed a totalitarian system of government control, supervision and regulation, which embraced every aspect of economic life: finance, foreign trade, investments, agriculture, labor, production, and distribution. They integrated newly created controls with existing ones and applied the entire control mechanism with a view to accomplishing the re-armament and the economic mobilization necessary for achieving their aggressive purposes. They devoted their business enterprises and productive capacity, both in Germany and abroad, to the production and development of material of war, to the general strengthening of the German offensive potential, and to the weakening of the defensive capacity of their intended victims.

2. Among the agencies and business enterprises chiefly responsible for these policies were the Reichsbank, the Ministry of Economics, the Foreign Office, the OKW, the groups and chambers of German business, RSHA, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Nazi Party, the German Labor Front, the Auslands organization, the Four Year Plan, the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich, Krupp and I. G. Farben.

3. In carrying out their program the Nazi conspirators engaged in the following acts among others:-

- (a) They changed the statutes of the Reichsbank and

imposed new policies in order to finance the rising Government expenditures for rearmament.

(b) They adopted and applied comprehensive controls over imports and exports in order to secure and conserve materials necessary for rearmament.

(c) They used exchange and trade controls as instruments of foreign economic penetration and domination.

(d) They dissolved the voluntary associations of German business, created an all-inclusive and compulsory organization, and imposed the leadership principle upon its constituent groups and chambers; they used the newly created organization as an instrument for State control of industry in the interests of economic mobilization for war.

(e) They dissolved the democratic labor unions, destroyed the right of collective bargaining and established the German Labor Front to indoctrinate the German labor with Nazi ideology. They created government agencies which were empowered to fix wages and working conditions and to allocate labor. They supported the employers' authority over workers with the full power of the State. By this means, they achieved the total regimentation of German workers in the interests of the war economy.

(f) They used the German business enterprises in other countries for espionage, the financing of disruptive propaganda and fifth column activities.

(g) They used cartel agreements in order to strengthen their offensive potential and to weaken, in the anticipation of war, the defensive potential of their intended victims. (The inclusion of this allegation is questionable both because of

difficulties of proof and because allied nationals share the guilt.)

(h) They expanded the powers of the Ministry of Economics by extending its control over the distribution of raw materials and over German business, banking, business organizations and cartels.

(i) They expanded the powers of the Ministry of Agriculture and organized German farmers and processors of agricultural products into the Reich's Food Estate upon which they imposed the leadership principle. They imposed sweeping production and distribution controls and used subsidies to foster agricultural production, in order to decrease their dependence on foreign sources of supply, thereby to protect themselves against any blockade which might follow the execution of their plans for aggression.

(j) They established under Hermann Goering as Plenipotentiary for the Four Year Plan, a comprehensive and supreme organization vested with overriding powers over the Government agencies which controlled every phase of German economic life. They avowed that the objective of the Four Year Plan was to make Germany independent of foreign materials by expanding domestic production of synthetic materials, directing the use of raw materials and labor, and by controlling prices and foreign exchange. Their actual objective was a larger and criminal one, to gear the entire German economy to the execution of the plans for aggressive war.

(k) Immediately prior to launching their aggression against Poland, they completed their administrative preparations for economic mobilization. On 18 August 1939, they issued a

decree establishing complete government control over the disposal of all agricultural and industrial materials and finished goods. On 28 August 1939 they appointed a Plenipotentiary for Economics; and on 30 August 1939 set up the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich to act as a War Cabinet.

4. The Nazi conspirators used their political and economic powers for the personal benefit and aggrandizement of themselves and their adherents. They and their adherents acquired, as a result of the systematic persecution and confiscation, properties of Jews and of political opponents. They rewarded the support of certain industrialists by allowing them high profits and by destroying the trade unions. They profited from the conversion of government and industry to war purposes by securing for themselves and their adherents positions in administration and business involving power, influence and lucrative perquisites. (This paragraph should be expanded and made more specific. This is being deferred pending the completion of the work being done on the persecution of the Jews.)