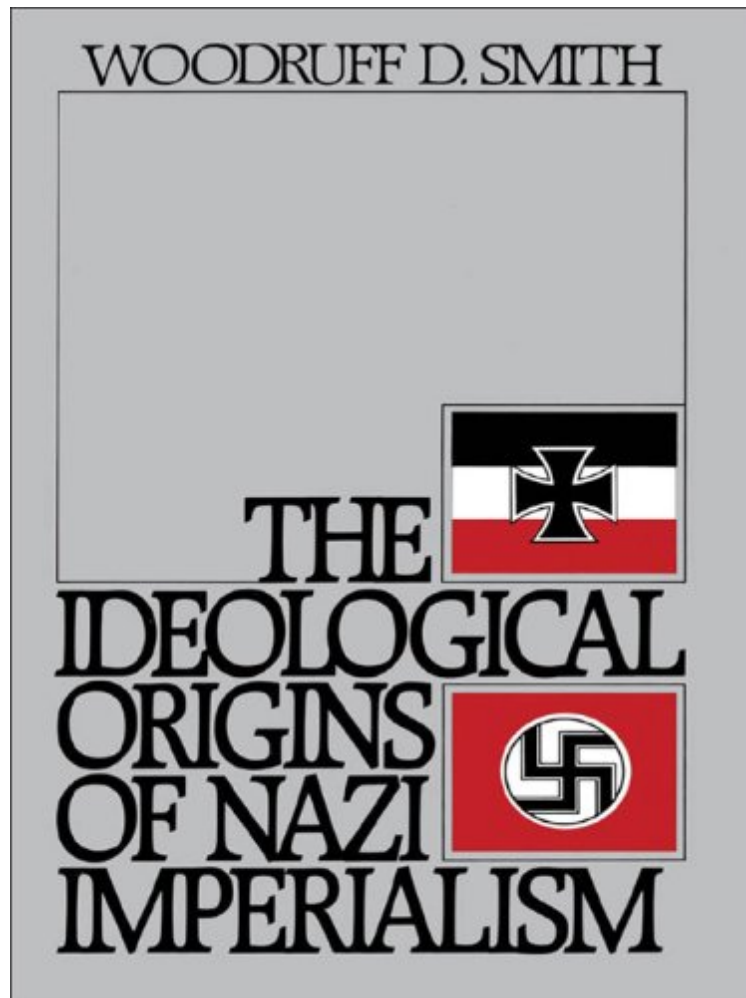


The Ideological Origins of Nazi Imperialism

Woodruff D. Smith

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Woodruff D. Smith : The Ideological Origins of Nazi Imperialism before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ideological Origins of Nazi Imperialism:

This study traces the evolution of imperialist ideology in Germany from Bismarck in the mid-19th century through Hitler and the Third Reich. Although much has been written about the virulently racist and anti-communist ideologies of the Nazi party, this is the first book to treat Nazi imperialism as a separate ideology and set it within a sturdy theoretical framework. Smith contends that Nazi imperialism represented the last, ambitious attempt to integrate two century-old ideologies--the elite, pro-industrial Weltpolitik and the popular-based, pro-agrarian Lebensraum--into a single system. In fact, Smith argues that it was largely the way in which the Nazis attempted to reconcile these contradictory ideologies that explains Germany's disastrous policies during World War II. This wide-ranging study

also contributes to the debates over several other aspects of German history, including German military aims in World War II, the continuity--or discontinuity--of German policy from Bismarck to Hitler, and the relation between ideology and social-political life.

From Library Journal
Smith has written a scholarly and intelligent study of the nature and evolution of the ideologies of imperialism in Germany during the century leading up to Nazi expansionism in World War II. He identifies two distinct types or "aggregates" of imperialist ideas in German politics: a migrationist colonialism (later Lebensraum) and an economic imperialism (later Weltpolitik), both of which evolved in the Wilhelmine years and continued to influence policy through World War I, Weimar, and into the Nazi era. These ideologies of imperialism, though logically inconsistent, were followed in various forms by the Nazis, and culminated in the catastrophe of Hitler's war. This is an important, challenging, and difficult book, recommended for academic libraries and collections with a German emphasis. James B. Street, Santa Cruz P.L., Cal. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. "An excellent study--probably the most thoughtful, detailed, and erudite account of this subject that has yet been written."--American Historical "Teachers of contemporary European history will find that Smith's book contains a great deal of fascinating material as well as many stimulating ideas. The book is based on impressive research."--The History Teacher "Fascinating....Includes a most interesting analysis of the structure and functions of ideologies."--New York of Books "A splendid synthesis of the numerous detailed studies of German chauvinism."--Journal of Modern History "A significant contribution...A prodigiously researched, cogently argued, and forcefully written book that deserves wide attention."--Journal of Interdisciplinary History "A scholarly and intelligent study of the nature and evolution of the ideologies of imperialism in Germany during the century leading up to Nazi expansionism in World War II."--Library Journal "This study both synthesizes much recent research and makes an original contribution in its own right. Its carefully articulated theoretical framework allows us to make sense of this complex topic in a much more satisfying way."--Geoffrey Eley, University of Michigan
About the Author
Woodruff D. Smith is at University of Texas, San Antonio.