



Hell's Cartel: IG Farben and the Making of Hitler's War Machine

By Diarmuid Jeffreys

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The remarkable rise and shameful fall of one of the twentieth century's greatest conglomerates

At its peak in the 1930s, the German chemical conglomerate IG Farben was one of the most powerful corporations in the world. To this day, companies formerly part of the Farben cartel—the aspirin-maker Bayer, the graphics supplier Agfa, the plastics giant BASF—continue to play key roles in the global market. IG Farben itself, however, is remembered mostly for its infamous connections to the Nazi Party and its complicity in the atrocities of the Holocaust. After the war, Farben's leaders were tried for crimes that included mass murder and exploitation of slave labor.

In *Hell's Cartel*, Diarmuid Jeffreys presents the first comprehensive account of IG Farben's rise and fall, tracing the enterprise from its nineteenth-century origins, when the discovery of synthetic dyes gave rise to a vibrant new industry, through the upheavals of the Great War era, and on to the company's fateful role in World War II. Drawing on extensive research and original interviews, *Hell's Cartel* sheds new light on the codependence of industry and the Third Reich, and offers a timely warning against the dangerous merger of politics and the pursuit of profit.

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Hell's Cartel: IG Farben and the Making of Hitler's War Machine By Diarmuid Jeffreys Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1065014 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Metropolitan Books
- Published on: 2008-07-22
- Released on: 2008-07-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.17" h x 1.29" w x 6.71" l, 1.85 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 496 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

British journalist Jeffrey (*Aspirin: The Remarkable Story of a Wonder Drug*) pre-sents a compelling account of the comprehensive collaboration of Germany's major chemical conglomerate with Adolf Hitler's genocidal dictatorship. The fourth largest industrial concern in the world, IG Farben was a key element of German foreign policy. Its employees were well treated. Its scientists won Nobel prizes. Its administrators created an international network controlling the production and sale of everything from plastics to camera film—and poison gas. Jeffrey tells the story from the rise of Germany's chemical industry in the 19th century to its support of the Nazis' ascent to power starting in 1932. National Socialism was good for business. The increasingly lucrative contracts came with a price: first accommodation, then collaboration, as one compromise after another enmeshed the cartel ever deeper in the Nazi system. Eventually, from Farben's perspective, Auschwitz was no more than a source of labor for producing the synthetic rubber and oil that kept the war machine operating. Ignominiously dissolved in the early '50s, IG Farben remains a monument to willful and unapologetic moral blindness. (*Aug. 1*)

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Review

“Hell’s Cartel is popular history at its best.”

—*The Seattle Times*

“A damning new history... Jeffrey brings a rare combination of forensic acumen and narrative flair to bear on the material.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“Jeffrey expertly chronicles how this once-proud company descended into the abyss. It’s a complex tale spanning a century and featuring a huge cast... He does a superb job of managing the material and drawing concise sketches of key figures. At almost 500 pages, this is a brisk read.”

—*Business Week*

“An unputdownable narrative and forensically gripping investigation into how energetic German corporate executives became the degenerate monsters who made the Holocaust technically possible.”

—Simon Sebag Montefiore, author of *Young Stalin*

“At last, a fresh and vibrant history—free from the taint of perpetrator sponsorship and corporate influence—that brilliantly chronicles the war monster I.G. Farben. Jeffrey’s work will be consulted as a must for years to come.”

—Edwin Black, author of *Nazi Nexus: America's Corporate Connections to Hitler's Holocaust*

“Behind the guns is always the money. Diarmuid Jeffrey’s perfectly detailed vivisection of the IG Farben companies during the Nazi era is both sensible and powerful—thus a pleasure to read—and exceptionally compelling.”

—Alan Furst, author of *The Spies of Warsaw*

About the Author

Diarmuid Jeffreys, journalist and documentarian, is the author of *Aspirin: The Remarkable Story of a Wonder Drug*, which was nominated for the prestigious Aventis Prize for popular science books and chosen as one of the best books of the year by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He lives in East Sussex, England.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Brown:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important usually. The book *Hell's Cartel: IG Farben and the Making of Hitler's War Machine* seemed to be making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The book *Hell's Cartel: IG Farben and the Making of Hitler's War Machine* is not only giving you much more new information but also to be your friend when you experience bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with the book *Hell's Cartel: IG Farben and the Making of Hitler's War Machine*. You never really feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

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Hazel Gannon:

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Laura Lee:

In this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. On the list of books in the top

checklist in your reading list will be Hell's Cartel: IG Farben and the Making of Hitler's War Machine. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking way up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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