Aspects of the Third Reich

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Preface

This volume of essays on the Third Reich does not claim to cover it in anything like its entirety. As the title says only certain 'Aspects' have been selected which stand and will continue to stand for decades in the centre of historical debate.

The individual contributions are placed within the brackets, so to speak, of the contributions by Ernst Nolte at the beginning and Thomas Nipperdey at the end. Within these brackets five main areas are covered: first, the assumption and early consolidation of Hitler's power as well as the emerging conservative opposition. Secondly, aspects of National Socialist (NS) Germany's foreign policy. Thirdly, economic policy with regard to foreign trade with south-eastern Europe, German rearmament and German economic policy during the Second World War. Fourthly, the subject of genocide will be re-examined and in connection with it Himmler's SS empire. The fifth and final part deals with the problem of examining the Third Reich by concentrating on Hitler himself.

Instead of a general introduction the editor has preferred to write for each section a linking commentary in which not only is the reader's attention drawn to further literature on the subject, but also, wherever necessary, points raised in the individual essays are further amplified or additional debatable points discussed. Thus it is hoped an element of continuity will be given to the volume.

My thanks are obviously due to the contributors who have made their essays available for reprinting in this volume or who have written original contributions specifically for it. I am also indebted to Harvard University Press for permission to reprint excerpts from Burton H. Klein's *Germany's Economic Preparations for War*.

Last, but by no means least, I must express my gratitude to my colleague W. J. D. Trythall whose critical comments on the linking commentary were extremely valuable as were his suggestions for stylistic improvements. However, the

responsibility for their content is my own as is the selection of the individual essays from a virtually countless multitude on the subject. Within this volume there are unavoidable gaps, but if they did not exist this book would be a history of the Third Reich and not a consideration of certain of its aspects.

H. W. KOCH
Spring 1985