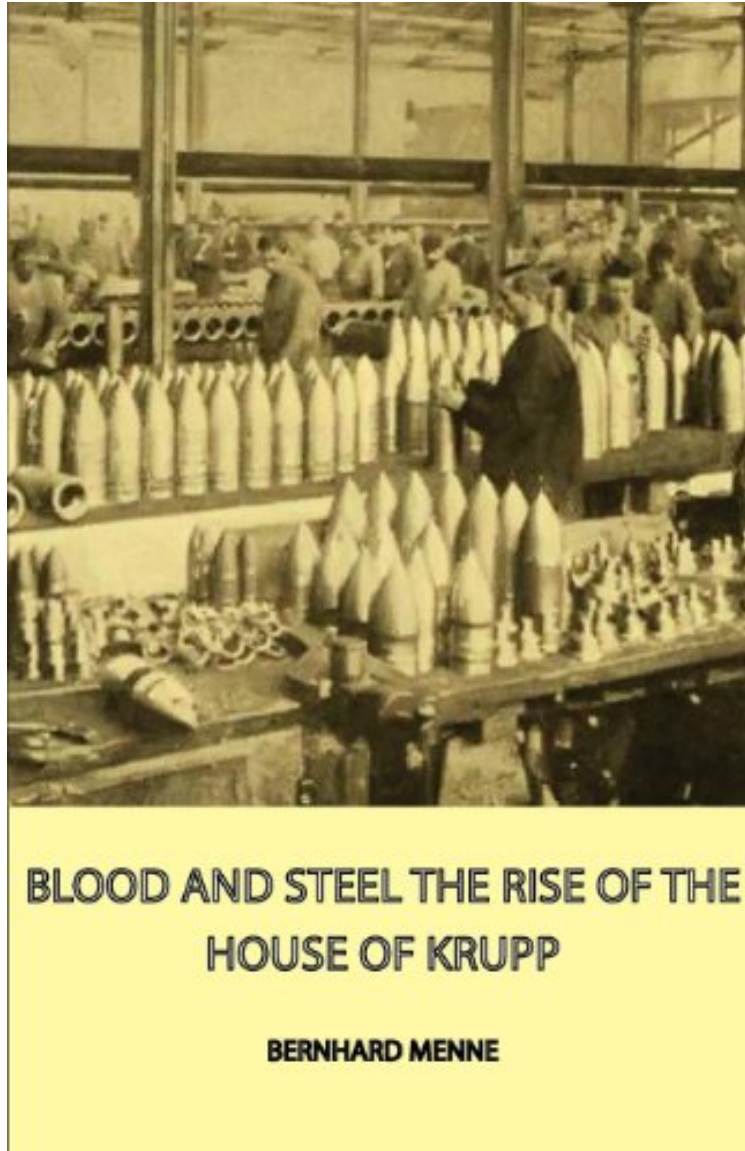


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Blood And Steel - The Rise Of The House Of Krupp

Bernhard Menne

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Bernhard Menne : Blood And Steel - The Rise Of The House Of Krupp before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blood And Steel - The Rise Of The House Of Krupp:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Details Extent of Influence Krupp Exercised on Early Global Arms Races By Ex-Patty Every citizen of the world should read this to understand the forces behind world conflicts that have plagued our society for too long. For those who say, 'That's just the way it is', Menne reveals one of the most malignant causes of why our society is just the way it is, and with knowledge of the cause, we can begin to change it. Recently, while doing research on the types of arms used during the Russo-Japanese War (1905)

and WWI (1914-1918), I noticed many of the armaments used on opposing sides came either directly from the same manufacturer or indirectly through licenses, most notably the German Krupp Company (which still exists today), manufacturers of steel products such as rail ties, armaments and barbed wire (among other things). In light of the excruciating pestilence of these (and subsequent) wars on millions of people around the globe, I looked for more information detailing the extent of influence this particular company exercised on the military conflicts that have plagued the human race during the past 150 years. Menne has written an excellent, well-researched and documented study of the Krupp family beginning in 1599. Menne details the connection and influence (through, gift-giving, persuasion and propaganda) the Krupps developed with the highest ranking political bureaucrats and military men, not just of Germany, but of the empires and governments of all those countries involved in the spiraling European arms race of and subsequent wars that followed from the end of the 19th Century to WWII. During the time leading up to and after the First World War, Krupp not only armed its native Germany, but Russia, Austria, Turkey, Japan, China, Serbia, Britain, France, etc. These governments provided millions (if not billions) from each of their respective taxpayers to produce weapons for all sides of nearly every conflict since the inception of these nation-states. While, Krupp was not the only company selling arms to all sides, it arguably was the largest and most influential. Menne shows how Krupp was able to "make money both ways-on the supply of inferior guns and on subsequent necessary improvements," while agitating "for increase armaments" to each government, telling one that another government had just ordered such-and-such arms, so they would have the advantage if their country didn't buy the same or better quickly! Krupp "disguise[d] business interest as politics", courted world leaders, their cabinet members, and military leaders bestowing lavish gifts and in turn was awarded high government awards from every government involved in the conflicts that resulted: Russia, Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Turkey, Serbia, Japan, etc. Krupp even acquired newspapers whose editors propagated the interests of the industry and developed ideological lines which converted "the business interests of the firm into affairs of patriotism." Regarding Germany's unprecedented Naval expansion in the early part of the 20th Century, he explains; "the middle classes were told about the future growth of overseas trade, the educated classes about coming German world supremacy, and the working class about increased employment and wages in the shipyards." "Each technical development [in arms production] produced a huge volume of orders and enormous profits for Krupp," in 1887, he had 20,000 employees and that number "was steadily increasing at the rate of a thousand a year." All the while, monitoring the political conversations of his employees, fighting unions, and firing and evicting (from company owned housing) any employees who was suspected of having any communist or union sympathies, occasionally firing up to 3000 employees at a time. Menne quotes friend of the German Emperor (Kaiser Wilhelm II), Field Marshal Waldersee's diary, "The idea of seeking to protect our exposed eastern frontiers by means of fortifications is a sadly unhappy thought... Unfortunately dubious motives affect this policy: the vast profits to be derived from the supply of armored turrets, gun mountings, armor plate, etc., by the great industrialists for their own purposes." Continuing that "Ample proof of the evil influence exerted by the Essen firm (Krupp) on the foreign policy of the Empire are contained in various official publications on German diplomacy, e.g. 'The Building of Policy of European Cabinets, 1871-1914.'" I applauded Mr. Menne for taking the great effort to reveal these hidden forces behind world conflicts back in 1938 when the book was originally published. We should use his work, and others like it, to make the necessary changes to prevent it from continuing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customer Excellent historical book about a fascinating period in European history

The Krupp family are a prominent German dynasty from Essen and are famous for their steel production and the manufacture of ammunitions and armaments. This book provides the first genuine critical history of the company whose guns made the background for a half-century of mad armament policy, made possible by Krupp's new patron, Adolf Hitler. The House of Krupp's true history had been concealed by thousands of printed pages containing cleverly dished-up data which the author has pushed aside to reveal a true historical investigative account.