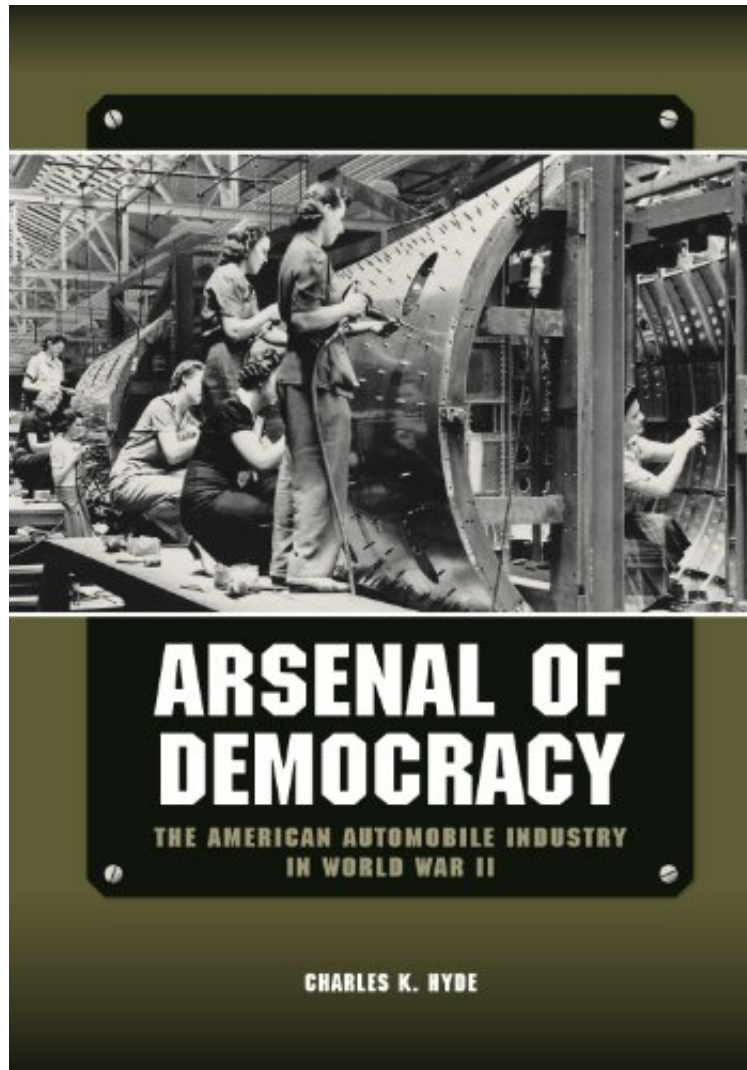


(Mobile ebook) Arsenal of Democracy: The American Automobile Industry in World War II (Great Lakes Books Series)

## Arsenal of Democracy: The American Automobile Industry in World War II (Great Lakes Books Series)

*Charles K. Hyde*

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**Charles K. Hyde : Arsenal of Democracy: The American Automobile Industry in World War II (Great Lakes Books Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arsenal of Democracy: The American Automobile Industry in World War II (Great Lakes Books Series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy ColBuckshotVery insightful book, enjoyed reading from cover to cover. The build up of weapons for the Allies in WWII is astounding. How much and how fast this country was able to build up arms when we had been in a terrible depression with little arsenal to begin with is one of

the greatest achievements by this country in our history. Many companies that never before produced anything for the military were very quickly converted to building aircraft, tanks, weapons, having to overcome many major obstacles but persevering nevertheless. If you feel it may be too detailed well isn't that what real history is about, I don't agree with another reviewer that it is too laborious. However there are plenty of real lessons in here for example the racial prejudice against black people where whites would stage strikes. Happened many times at many defense plants and were supported by the unions. Even in the face of the Axis powers their hatred against blacks overrode their patriotism. There were many people at the time who wanted non-intervention many were prejudice against Jews such as Henry Ford. He refused at first to convert his assembly plants to the war effects as most all major manufacturing companies did. I found one lesson after another here and feeling very proud of all we overcame in order to preserve our freedom. This book should be required reading in school, enjoy. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. How the war was really won... By Customer I thought the book was very well researched. The story telling was good. You got a real sense of that war time urgency with all of the aspects of production; labor, material, and engineering coming together in a way that probably could never happen again. I find this aspect of ww2 to be a fascinating adjunct to the story of the war. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting stuff, but not a beach read. By Motor Guy The subject material of the book is actually quite interesting. For example that the automobile industry got to be quite good in making aircraft, and more particularly aircraft engines. On the other hand, the automobile industry did not have as big or decisive a role in making tanks or armored vehicles. Vignettes about some of the folks in the industry (Ford) were also kind of interesting. The downside is that the prose in the book is kind of wooden, and numbers come and go, sometimes repeated, often with little context. It is hard to keep one's attention.

Throughout World War II, Detroit's automobile manufacturers accounted for one-fifth of the dollar value of the nation's total war production, and this amazing output from "the arsenal of democracy" directly contributed to the allied victory. In fact, automobile makers achieved such production miracles that many of their methods were adopted by other defense industries, particularly the aircraft industry. In *Arsenal of Democracy: The American Automobile Industry in World War II*, award-winning historian Charles K. Hyde details the industry's transition to a wartime production powerhouse and some of its notable achievements along the way. Hyde examines several innovative cooperative relationships that developed between the executive branch of the federal government, U.S. military services, automobile industry leaders, auto industry suppliers, and the United Automobile Workers (UAW) union, which set up the industry to achieve production miracles. He goes on to examine the struggles and achievements of individual automakers during the war years in producing items like aircraft engines, aircraft components, and complete aircraft; tanks and other armored vehicles; jeeps, trucks, and amphibians; guns, shells, and bullets of all types; and a wide range of other weapons and war goods ranging from search lights to submarine nets and gyroscopes. Hyde also considers the important role played by previously underused workers—namely African Americans and women—in the war effort and their experiences on the line. *Arsenal of Democracy* includes an analysis of wartime production nationally, on the automotive industry level, by individual automakers, and at the single plant level. For this thorough history, Hyde has consulted previously overlooked records collected by the Automobile Manufacturers Association that are now housed in the National Automotive History Collection of the Detroit Public Library. Automotive historians, World War II scholars, and American history buffs will welcome the compelling look at wartime industry in *Arsenal of Democracy*.

**About the Author** Charles K. Hyde is professor emeritus of history at Wayne State University. He is the author of *Storied Independent Automakers: Nash, Hudson, and American Motors* (Wayne State University Press, 2009), *The Dodge Brothers: The Men, the Motor Cars, and the Legacy* (Wayne State University Press, 2005), and *Riding the Roller Coaster: A History of the Chrysler Corporation* (Wayne State University Press, 2003).