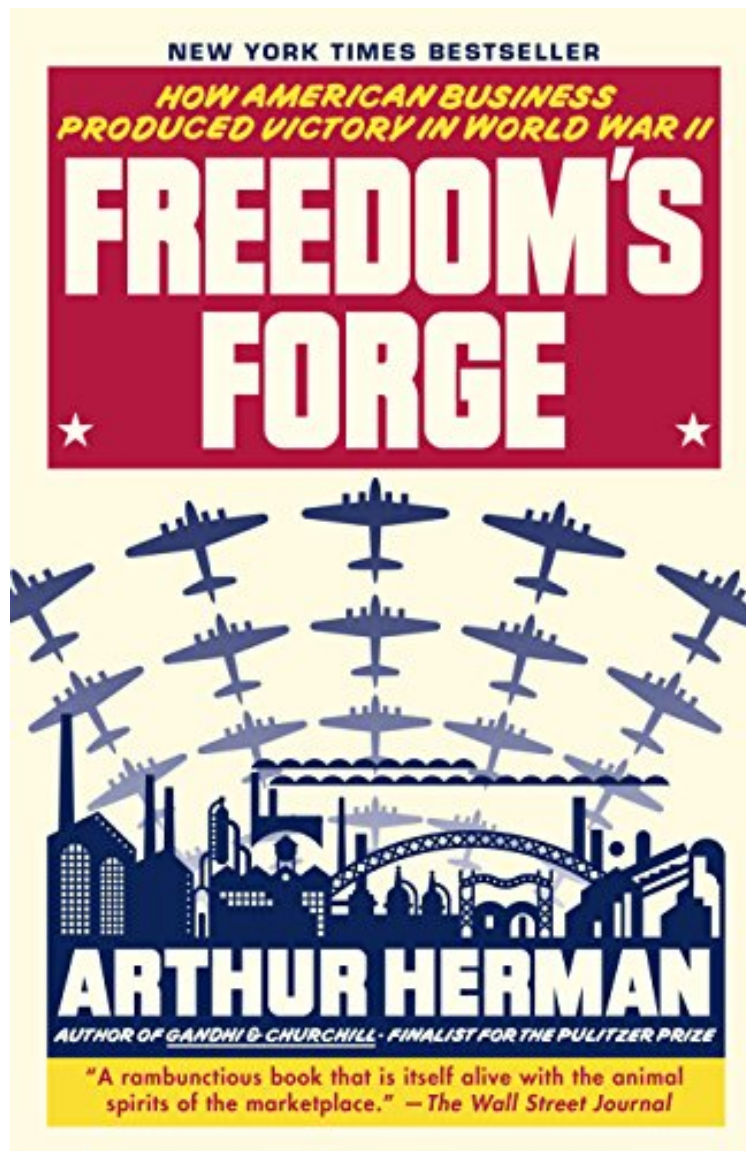


(Download pdf) Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II

Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II

Arthur Herman

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Arthur Herman : Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Review of Freedom's ForgeBy RichFreedom's Forge portrays the businessmen and industrialists who organized and managed the production of war materials for the US involvement in

WW II as unsung heroes. Without their organizing and production genius, defeating the Axis powers would have been much more difficult if not impossible. The war started with the Axis powers well-armed and with substantial resource production capabilities. However, during the last two years of the war, the US overtook them in a big way and made war equipment faster than all the Axis powers combined. We were also able to supply our Allies with much of what they needed; especially England and Russia. Many history books have characterized these men (such as William Knudsen and Henry Kaiser, among others) as robber barons. They did profit handsomely, but they did earn it and the reader is left with the sense they did what they had to because of a "calling"; they were driven and not just by profit. What made these industrial giants' leadership interesting is that most of them were Republicans who were appointed by Progressive Democrats under the Roosevelt administration; you will have to read the book to see how all this turned out. Freedom's Forge will provide the reader with a different perspective of what was going on behind the scenes of the WW II effort; it is a good read. Rich1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I was around during this era. I was young ...By Chuckrfl was around during this era. I was young, but most of the names were familiar to me. My father was transferred from NJ to California in 1940 in anticipation of the shipyards being built by Henry Kaiser in Richmond. (Said to be built to supply ships to England.) He worked at the yard in Alameda until the ones in Richmond were open. We had a house being built in Richmond and after church on December 7, 1941 we were on our way to check out the progress when we heard the report of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The next day we listened to Roosevelt's speech on the school PA system. There were no war protesters then.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How Freedom Was Saved During WW IIBy Randall S. This is a fantastic chronicle of American industry, and one man, Big Bill Knudsen, and how American business and American production saved the nation during WW II. This book in absolutely no way discounts the bravery and sacrifices so many Americans and our allies made during WW II but it does clearly illustrate how the untold story of American business gave the American military people, and our allies, everything needed to save the nation and the world from Axis tyranny during WW II. In my humble opinion, this book should be required reading for every high senior.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER bull;nbsp;SELECTED BY THE ECONOMIST AS ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEARRemarkable as it may seem today, there once was a time when the president of the United States could pick up the phone and ask the president of General Motors to resign his position and take the reins of a great national enterprise. And the CEO would oblige, no questions asked, because it was his patriotic duty. nbsp; In Freedom's Forge, bestselling author Arthur Herman takes us back to that time, revealing how two extraordinary American businessmen—automobile magnate William Knudsen and shipbuilder Henry J. Kaiser—helped corral, cajole, and inspire business leaders across the country to mobilize the "arsenal of democracy" that propelled the Allies to victory in World War II. nbsp; "I want to see you in Washington. I want you to work on some production matters." With those words, President Franklin D. Roosevelt enlisted "Big Bill" Knudsen, a Danish immigrant who had risen through the ranks of the auto industry to become president of General Motors, to drop his plans for market domination and join the U.S. Army. Commissioned a lieutenant general, Knudsen assembled a crack team of industrial innovators, persuading them one by one to leave their lucrative private sector positions and join him in Washington, D.C. Dubbed the "dollar-a-year men," these dedicated patriots quickly took charge of America's moribund war production effort. nbsp; Henry J. Kaiser was a maverick California industrialist famed for his innovative business techniques and his can-do management style. He, too, joined the cause. His Liberty ships became World War II icons—and the Kaiser name became so admired that FDR briefly considered making him his vice president in 1944. Together, Knudsen and Kaiser created a wartime production behemoth. Drafting top talent from companies like Chrysler, Republic Steel, Boeing, Lockheed, GE, and Frigidaire, they turned auto plants into aircraft factories and civilian assembly lines into fountains of munitions, giving Americans fighting in Europe and Asia the tools they needed to defeat the Axis. In four short years they transformed America's army from a hollow shell into a truly global force, laying the foundations for a new industrial America—and for the country's rise as an economic as well as military superpower. nbsp; Featuring behind-the-scenes portraits of FDR, George Marshall, Henry Stimson, Harry Hopkins, Jimmy Doolittle, and Curtis LeMay, as well as scores of largely forgotten heroes and heroines of the wartime industrial effort, Freedom's Forge is the American story writ large. It vividly re-creates America's finest hour, when the nation's business elites put aside their pursuit of profits and set about saving the world. Praise for Freedom's Forge nbsp; "A rambunctious book that is itself alive with the animal spirits of the marketplace."—The Wall Street Journal nbsp; "A rarely told industrial saga, rich with particulars of the growing pains and eventual triumphs of American industry. . . Arthur Herman has set out to right an injustice: the loss, down history's memory hole, of the epic achievements of American business in helping the United States and its allies win World War II."—The New York Times Book Review nbsp; "Magnificent. . ."