If the claim that books are never finished, merely discarded, is true, then I am fortunate in my timing. At the start of the 1990s the issue of continuity and change in Germany has returned to the forefront of public debate. Events in Eastern Europe have dramatically resurrected support for a united Germany, a support evident even among West Germany’s most conservative politicians. More cautious observers may feel that some barriers to reunification are still impenetrable, but the speed of events in Europe has threatened to make any pronouncements instantly redundant.

No doubt historians and political scientists are now beginning to work on new projects about the division and reunification of Germany. Such a theme appears premature for this book—even as this preface is written at the turn of the decade. But this volume does stress a broader theme, one that was unpopular while I was writing but now has renewed vigor—that of twentieth-century German continuity. Specifically, it focuses on ideological and institutional continuities of the state in the fascist and postfascist periods, and their influence on postwar prosperity in the Federal Republic. I stress the influence of fascism on postwar economic prosperity. In doing so, I do not suggest that the Great Depression and two world wars had no bearing on the dynamics of postwar capitalism in the advanced industrial states. But fascism’s influence on postwar prosperity has been neglected in the literature of political economy.

As I write this preface, in the context of ringing, euphoric West German demands that Germany be reconstituted, perhaps The Fruits of Fascism will serve as a reminder of what happened when Germany was last united—and why Germany was divided in the first place.
Preface

Books are written by one author but result from the cooperation and support of many institutions and individuals. Numerous administrators, teachers, colleagues, friends, and relations generously assisted me by contributing resources and patience—even though some considered the project doomed to failure. This book might still have been written without them, but it would not have been as good.

I received financial support for research and writing in the form of a Council of European Studies fellowship, a Sicca Foundation award, a National Resource Fellowship, and an award from the University Grants Program at the University of Pittsburgh. Brave archivists were helpful in putting up with my incessant demands, especially David Crippen of the Edison Institute, Darleen Flaherty of the Ford Industrial Archives, Philip Reed of the Imperial War Museum in London, Dr. Rest of the Bundesarchiv, Koblenz, Amy Schmidt of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and Richard Storey of the Modern Records Center at the University of Warwick. The staffs of the Public Records Office in London and the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich were courteous and efficient.

Several individuals allowed me to ransack their personal collections of empirical material. Mira Wilkins allowed me to rummage through her collection of primary data and interview notes, retained after the completion of her and Frank Hill’s book on Ford. Ian Turner gave me free rein over the data he had collected while writing on Allied policy toward Volkswagen during the Occupation. Hans Mommsen gave me access to the materials he and his staff are collecting for their study of Volkswagen. Heidrun Edelmann proved especially hospitable while I conducted research in Bochum. And Karl Heinz Roth allowed me to examine data from materials now deposited at the archive of the Hamburger Stiftung für Sozialgeschichte. Ulrich Jürgens and his colleagues at the Wissenschaftszentrum in Berlin helped me gain a sense of the location and nature of the available empirical materials at the outset of this project. I also thank Rainer Fröbe, who helped me get through the archival bureaucracy of Lower Saxony, helped develop my understanding of German fascism, and improved my chess game while eating currywurst in Hannover.

Over the last seven years I have built up hefty intellectual debts that I can never repay. Elliot Feldman, then at Brandeis University, played an important role when I originally conceived of this book; his loss from the ranks of political science is deeply regretted. Isabel Hull and Mitchell Abolafia helped me develop an understanding of German history and industrial sociology. I must mention the contribution of Sidney Tarrow, whose attempts to save me from myself, and this project, went unheeded but not unappreciated. T. J. Pempel and Jonas
Preface

Pontusson both proved extraordinarily helpful when faced with my disproportionate demands upon their time. Jonas's unabashed cynicism about this project has never abated (perhaps he will be proved right), but it was always presented constructively, forcing me to return to fundamentals, even if I do not see the world the same way as he does.

Several people read parts or all of this book. Steve Tolliday and Gary Marks read and provided valuable comments on the entire manuscript. Herrick Chapman, David Kaiser, Fritz Ringer, and Richard Smethurst all provided me with useful comments on my analysis of various historical debates. Furthermore, a group of friends provided me with valuable professional advice as well as intellectual criticism. Ellis Krauss has single-handedly made my first two years at the University of Pittsburgh a delight and taught me much about the world beyond Western Europe, academia, and state theory. Teaching a class with him proved to be a valuable intellectual experience. And Chris Allen has proved to me that is is possible simultaneously to have the deepest personal and professional respect for another human being—and to agree with him or her about nothing!

But there are three people whose intellectual contributions dominate this book. The first is Andrei Markovits. Before we had even met, Andy convinced a Council for European Studies committee that this project was worth funding. We finally met a year later, and ever since Andy has been a consistent source of intellectual criticism and professional advice. When they first coined the word “mensch,” they must have had Andy in mind.

The second person is Theodore J. Lowi. Ted was instrumental in my gaining admission to Cornell University and securing the funding I desperately needed. Like many scholars before me, I am indebted to Ted Lowi for the enthusiasm with which he approached my work. Making a young scholar feel his or her work is interesting and significant bespeaks an attitude both rare and infectious. Most authors accept sole responsibility for a book. I refuse to do so. Ted Lowi played so essential a role in my professional development, and was so supportive, that he shares responsibility. For better or worse, Ted, this is the final product.

Beyond all these people stands Peter Katzenstein. At Cornell, Peter served as a constant source of both encouragement and criticism. He provides a model for both intellectual aspiration and professional behavior. This project had many initial drawbacks; while others were critical of the intellectual approach and feasibility, Peter had the patience to support it despite his many doubts—teaching me a valuable lesson in tolerance. His patience has proved inexhaustible. I have been a constant burden to him for the last six years—and very much doubt
that I'll stop being one with the publication of this book. I can never repay him, I can only try to “send the elevator down.”

In the final stages John Ackerman and Roger Haydon of Cornell University Press helped guide this manuscript through the publishing process. And as I made final revisions, Blaine Shiff provided valuable assistance.

My wife, Linda Myers Reich, played an ambivalent role in the development and completion of this book. She willingly provided the resources that made the book possible while she complained that the work often led me to neglect her (demonstrating one of the limits of classic rational choice theory). But I never diminished in my love and admiration for her. If nothing else, I hope that the appearance of this book in print will justify all the time I have not spent with her. My mother, Elisabeth Reich, constantly strengthened my resolve. She provided something generally missing in the lives of scholars—instant gratification—by telling me how proud she was of my efforts. And my daughter, Jamie Reich, often helped put this book into perspective while I worked on revisions. The arrival of my second daughter, Melissa, happily coincided with this book's completion. If they read it one day, I hope they'll not think their father's work outdated.

Finally I acknowledge the role of my late father in the completion of this manuscript. It is impossible to recall a specific date when work on a research project really commences. Maybe it is the first time one reads a formative article—in my case, by Barrington Moore—maybe the day one starts one's field research. Erich Reich died from a sudden heart attack at the age of sixty-two on the day I was to leave for Germany to begin mine. As is typical between father and son, we combined cooperation and conflict over the years in a relationship that was often resolved by compromise. In his latter years we grew to share a particularly close relationship. He supported me in periods of self-doubt and became a soothing influence in times of stress. My father gave me the intellect and character to begin this manuscript and the motive to complete it. I hope I have justified his efforts.

SIMON REICH

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
The Fruits of Fascism