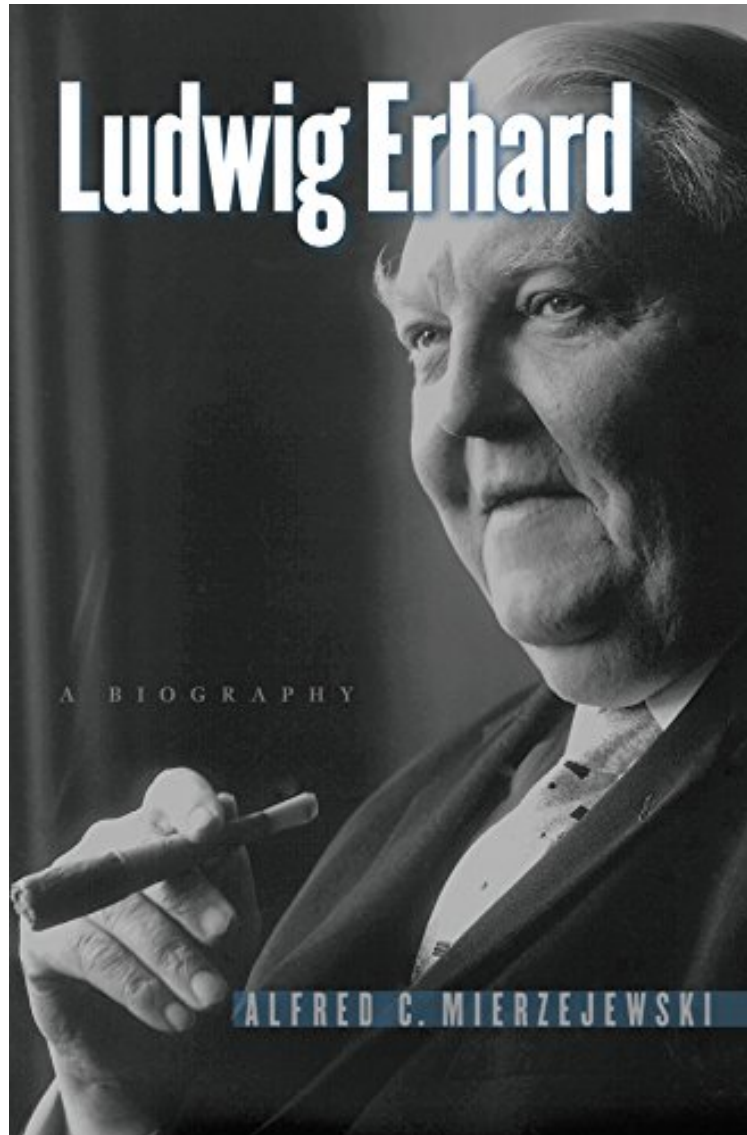


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Ludwig Erhard: A Biography

Alfred C. Mierzejewski

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ministerBy Ian MackechnieLudwig Erhard is not exactly a household name, either in the world of economics or politics. But this great man was economics minister, and eventually the chancellor of West Germany from after the war until 1966.His faults mainly lie in the areas of not being a man of detail and his intense dislike of the political 'beast'.His strengths all focus around his unswerving comittment to free market economics as the prescription for the creation of national wealth and freedom.This books tells a fascinating story about a fascinating man who was possessed by noble ideas and ideals, and who achieved much.This book made me antisocial for a couple of days. A great buy!

In the first English-language biography of one of the most important figures in postwar German history, Alfred C. Mierzejewski examines the life and service of Ludwig Erhard (1897-1977), West Germany's first minister of economics and second chancellor. Erhard liberalized the German economy in 1948 and is generally considered the father of West Germany's "economic miracle--the period of extraordinary growth in jobs and improvement in the standard of living in the 1950s that helped stabilize Germany's first successful democracy. While recent scholarship has dismissed Erhard's influence on Germany's economic recovery, Mierzejewski returns to little-cited German analyses and Erhard's own record and concludes that Allied currency reform and Erhard's liberalization of the economy were crucial triggers for Germany's unprecedented economic boom. Mierzejewski provides insight into Erhard's policies, his ideas, his character, and his relationships with Konrad Adenauer and Charles de Gaulle. By offering a fresh account of Erhard's career as a leader in postwar West Germany, Mierzejewski provides a deeper understanding of Germany's economy as well as its democracy.

Mierzejewski provides the first English-language biography of Ludwig Erhard (1897-1977), West Germany's first minister of economics and its second chancellor, who is generally considered the father of West Germany's "economic miracle"--a period of unprecedented job and income growth in the 1950s that contributed to the stabilization of Germany's first successful democracy. It can certainly be argued that the current plight of the German economy is due to the willingness of successive German governments, supported in turn by all the major parties, to ignore the simple truths with which Erhard tried to enlighten the West German public in the 1950s and 1960s. This clear, well-founded political biography is urgently needed. In addition to describing an important historical figure, the book has a relevant message for Germany today.--A. J. Nicholls, Emeritus Fellow, St. Antony's College, OxfordIlluminating . . . offers essential insights into fundamental conflicts in the early Federal Republic. . . . Highly recommended.--ChoiceDrawing on the published German literature, with some primary research on key topics, [Mierzejewski] has written a solid, sympathetic biography. . . . It offers an informative overview of an important figure.--American Historical About the AuthorAlfred C. Mierzejewski is professor of German history at the University of North Texas. His previous publications include *The Most Valuable Asset of the Reich: A History of the German National Railway* (Volumes 1 and 2) and *The Collapse of the German War Economy, 1944-1945: Allied Air Power and the German National Railway*.