



[Startseite home \(engl\)](#) [francais](#) [italiano](#) [espanol](#) [Photo](#)

[Artículos Fosgeno](#)

[IG Farben Venezuela](#)

[Tea Party Bayer USA](#)

[BAYER Bhopal](#)

[Bhopal](#)

[EEUU Institute / USA](#)

La sucia historia de IG Farben

6 de diciembre de 2003

La sucia historia de IG Farben

Entre 1933 y 1945 la explotación de los obreros alemanes voluntarios, forzados o esclavos y el monopolio químico tenía un nombre: IG Farben. Después de la derrota alemana las potencias victoriosas acabaron con el trust. Así nacieron BASF, Hoechst o Bayer, pero IG Farben siguió existiendo hasta ayer.

El pasado 9 de noviembre el antiguo consorcio IG Farben, una especie de INI o SEPI germana, se ha declarado insolvente, pero ese hecho no significa que vaya a desaparecer de forma inmediata: sus acciones siguen siendo objeto de especulación en los corros bursátiles.

La historia de la IG Farben se lee como el historial de un criminal. Fundada en 1925 por las mayores empresas alemanas de química, la IG Farben se convirtió en un importante actor en la política alemana de entreguerras. Fue el mayor agente financiero del partido nazi que lideraba Adolf Hitler. Cuando el "Führer" llegó al poder los grandes dirigentes de la IG Farben le aseguraron que habían solucionado el problema de la falta de petróleo: la fabricación de gasolina artificial.

Gracias a los ingenieros y técnicos de la IG Farben, Hitler pudo empezar su guerra por el "espacio vital" en Europa. Los estrategas del trust tenían pensando hacerse con los mercados siguiendo a la victoriosa "Wehrmacht". Facilitaron informaciones sensibles al Comando Supremo y colocaron a agentes en sus sucursales. En los campos de concentración se aprovecharon del "material humano". Las SS les alquilaron entre 50.000 y 400.000 obreros a un precio especial. La rama farmacéutica de la IG Farben pudo experimentar sus medicamentos en los presos. En los campos de exterminio el monopolio hizo realmente un muy buen negocio: a través de empresa Degesch vendió a las SS el gas Zyklon B que fue utilizado para matar a miles de personas de una manera industrial: eficaz, barato y más "limpio" que las ejecuciones. Las nefastas consecuencias de la aplicación de ese gas han llegado hasta nuestros días.

Ante este fondo no extraña que la cúpula de la IG Farben se sintiera en el banco de los acusados en uno de los procesos posteriores al de Nuremberg. Pero casi todos salieron absueltos o no tuvieron que cumplir la pena impuesta. A mediados de los 50 los grandes de la IG Farben se habían resocializado en las direcciones de Bayer, BASF y Hoechst, productos de la disolución del trust. Un tema oscuro siguen siendo las relaciones de la IG con empresas estadounidenses, las cuales no cesaron durante la guerra.

Otro misterio está vinculado al archivo de la empresa que desapareció en 1945 sin dejar huella alguna. En 1988 el servicio secreto de la RDA inició una operación para encontrar un "bunker" con el archivo. En vano. Hasta hoy en día no se sabe cuántas y qué firmas pertenecieron al entramado internacional de la IG.

Aunque la IG Farben fue desmantelada, no dejó de existir. En la bolsa se pueden comprar y vender

sus acciones, que se han convertido en un objeto de especulación. La empresa, que oficialmente se halla en disolución, poseía innumerables inmuebles en la RDA y en otros lugares del continente. En un momento u otro la IG Farben podría haber resurgido como el fénix, con ello calcularon los aventureros financieros y se vieron afirmados tras la Caída del Muro y la anexión de la RDA a la Alemania occidental. Estas expectativas recibieron un fuerte revés, cuando a mediados de los 90 estalló de lleno el debate sobre la indemnización de los trabajadores forzados y esclavos. Los pocos supervivientes se van a quedar sin indemnización alguna porque la empresa se ha declarado insolvente y su fundación no ha recibido los 1,5 millones de euros, tal y como fue acordado en 1999 para ese objetivo.

La bancarrota ha tenido lugar porque no se realizó la venta de ciertos inmuebles. Actualmente la empresa debe 28 millones de euros a determinados bancos. El gerente de la Federación de los Accionistas Críticos, Henry Mathews, tiene sus dudas: "¿Por qué se renovaron a lo grande los inmuebles que ahora resultan invendibles?" Mathews ha observado también una extraña venta de acciones hasta las cuatro de la tarde del pasado día 9 de noviembre, hora cuando en la que se dio a conocer la insolvencia del consorcio IG Farben.

Pero su historia y la especulación siguen. El 16 de noviembre los accionistas de la IG Farben han decidido querrellarse contra el banco suizo UBS, para exigir una indemnización de 2,2 mil millones de euros por la compra supuestamente ilegal de una empresa que formaba parte del antiguo trust germano.

Ingo Niebel

IG Farben

02 de Junio de 2008, *ADN Mundo*

Bayer y BMW, en la mira por su pasado nazi

Un grupo de estudiantes de la Universidad de Tel Aviv, en conjunto con estudiante judíos de los EE.UU., abrirá una base de datos para emitir un documento que esclarezca la real participación e involucramiento de empresas alemanas con la maquinaria de exterminio nazi.

En el libro "Economía de Guerra y Trabajo Forzado" de Constanze Werner se describe el proceso a través del cual la BMW se fue involucrando cada vez más con el régimen nazi y sus crímenes, hasta el punto de, deliberadamente, emplear prisioneros de campos de concentración y otros grupos humanos para realizar trabajos forzados" comenta Werner.

Se estima que entre ocho y doce millones de judíos, roma, polacos y gente de otras nacionalidades y religiones fueron forzados a trabajar bajo condiciones inhumanas en la industria alemana durante el régimen nazi. La agencia responsable de proveer prisioneros para trabajo forzado durante el régimen nazi fue la Oficina Central Económica y Administrativa (EAMO). Su jefe, desde 1944, fue un oficial de la SS llamado Karl Sommer.

Después de la guerra, Sommer fue entrevistado por los norteamericanos sobre sus actividades durante el régimen nazi y, específicamente, sobre las compañías que habían usado esclavos.

Él señaló que a las firmas, luego de cumplir con los requisitos necesarios, se les permitía ir a los campos y elegir los prisioneros que desearan. Incluso, después de ver las horribles condiciones en que vivían los prisioneros -la muerte, inanición, tortura- las empresas elegían personas para explotarlas y conseguir mayores ganancias personales.

En la lista entregada por Sommer, la BMW aparece cuatro veces. En total, dicha empresa automotriz admite haber usado entre 25 y 30 mil prisioneros de guerra y reclusos de campos de

concentración como esclavos. El dinero equivalente a los sueldos que esta gente hubiera recibido -calculado en al menos 20 centavos de dólar por hora al tesoro de la SS, el que a su vez servía para financiar la aniquilación de los mismos trabajadores. Otras firmas de la lista de Sommer incluyen a Ford, Krupp, Siemens, Bayer, Porsche y Daimler-Benz (Mercedes), Audi, Siemens, Cámaras Leica y Volkswagen.

Bayer comenzó como una compañía química mucho, conocida como IG Farben. Al igual que Krupp y Siemens, ésta operó en el campo de la muerte de Auschwitz, donde usaba a los prisioneros produciendo goma sintética y aceite. Sin embargo, la más espantosa de las actividades de Bayer, fue la producción del Zyklon B - el veneno usado por los nazis en las cámaras de gas.

Durante los juicios de Nüremberg, 24 ejecutivos de IG Farben fueron acusados y condenados en cinco causas, incluyendo "esclavitud y genocidio". Se estima que entre 25 y 30 mil personas, que trabajaron para Bayer en Auschwitz, murieron allí. Las expectativas de vida de este tipo de empleados eran 3 y medio meses.

Eva Mozes Kor y su hermana melliza Miriam tenían apenas 9 años cuando Josef Mengele les inyectó en Auschwitz, el campo de concentración nazi, una serie de productos químicos supuestamente fabricados por Bayer como parte de los experimentos genéticos que realizó con un total de 1.500 mellizos. Miriam, murió en 1991 de una enfermedad al riñón provocada por aquellos experimentos. Algunos de esos experimentos incluían la inyección de productos químicos tóxicos y gérmenes, conocidos porque provocan determinadas enfermedades, para probar la eficacia de los diversos medicamentos. Según su Miriam Kor, Bayer monitoreaba y supervisaba los experimentos.

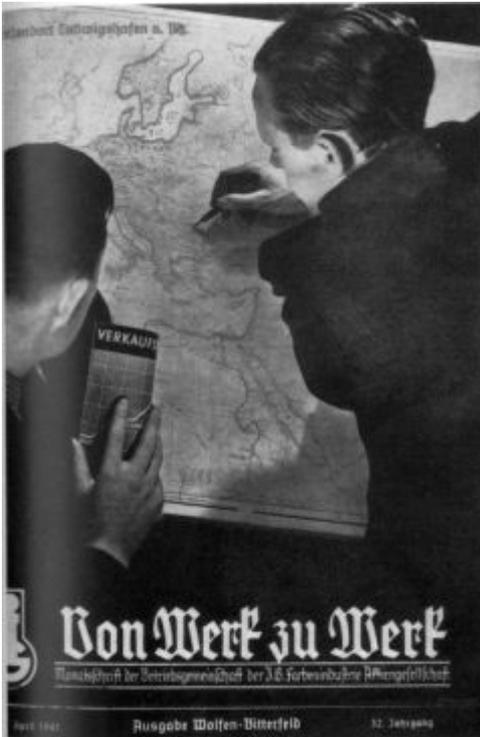
El grupo de estudiantes, que lleva a cabo la investigación se propone realizar un documental, y una campaña de esclarecimiento a nivel mundial, para mostrar el pasado siniestro de algunas de las empresas que hoy se han hecho parte de la vida de la mayoría de los habitantes de las urbes mas importantes del mundo. El objetivo de los estudiantes sería determinar hasta donde han consolidado un capital a costa de la muerte y despojo de millones de personas

I.G Farben, poderoso complejo químico, fue disuelto por los aliados después de la guerra y su capital fue dividido entre Bayer, Hoechst, BASF y otras compañías.

NAVARTH

martes 26 de abril de 2011

IG FARBEN (7)



El 11 de marzo de 1938 la Wehrmacht cruzó la frontera austriaca, y unos días más tarde directivos de IG Farben siguieron sus pasos. Su objetivo era presentar un memorándum titulado “Un nuevo orden para una gran industria química en Austria”. Este nuevo orden consistía, en esencia, en la toma de control por parte de IG Farben de la *Skoda Werke Wetzler*, la mayor empresa química del país. Las razones aducidas por IG en su documento eran que la absorción facilitaría el cumplimiento del plan cuatrienal aprobado por Hitler, y, de paso, eliminaría la influencia judía en el sector, pues, tal y como IG se encargaba de señalar, SWW estaba controlada por los Rothschild. En realidad, desde antes del *Anschluss* los Rothschild eran conscientes de la amenaza que suponía IG Farben, y, a través de su director general Isador Pollak habían intentado conjurarla mediante la fusión con alguna otra gran compañía del sector. Inmediatamente después de la ocupación austriaca, un decreto gubernamental ordenó el despido de todos los trabajadores judíos de SWW, e IG se encargó de facilitar personal ario para llenar los huecos. Pero además de esta ocupación de hecho, y con el fin de dar una apariencia legal a la apropiación, directivos de IG Farben entablaron negociaciones con los Rothschild a través del representante personal de éstos Josef Joham. El caso es que Joham también era judío, lo que reducía a cero su capacidad negociadora, como los propios agentes de IG se encargaron, de forma ominosa, de poner de manifiesto durante sus conversaciones. Finalmente, en otoño IG Farben estuvo en posesión de los documentos que acreditaban la propiedad de WWF. Para entonces Joham ya había huido de Austria, pero no así Isador Pollak, que fue literalmente pateado hasta la muerte por personal de las SS.



El siguiente plato del festín de Hitler era Checoslovaquia, y el 29 de septiembre de 1938 Chamberlain y Daladier dieron en Munich el visto bueno para la ingesta. La atención de IG estaba centrada en dos plantas de *Aussiger Verein*, la mayor química checa, localizadas en los Sudetes. Esta empresa, al ser el 25% de sus directivos judíos, era considerada judía de acuerdo con los parámetros de las leyes de Nuremberg, lo que posibilitaba a las autoridades su expropiación.. El día siguiente a la entrada del ejército alemán, Hermann Schmitz mandó un telegrama de felicitación a Hitler: *"Profundamente impresionados con el retorno de los Sudetes al Reich que usted, mi Führer, ha conseguido. I.G. Farbenindustrie A.G. pone a su disposición medio millón de marcos para que los utilice en este territorio"*. A continuación IG comenzó la negociación con AV para comprar sus plantas, y el encargado fue el barón **Georg von Schnitzler**, uno de los más importantes directivos no técnicos de IG. A falta de una mejor arma de negociación, los representantes de AV se dedicaron a arrastrar los pies y a demorar el proceso, hasta que Schnitzler amenazó con denunciar ante Hitler su falta de colaboración. Esta ruptura de la paz social, continuó, podría muy bien servir como razón para la ocupación del resto de Checoslovaquia. Puestos al habla los representantes de AV con miembros del gobierno checo, se les confirmó que las amenazas de Schnitzler no carecían de fundamento, al tiempo que se les recomendaba que arreglasen sus asuntos como pudieran puesto que ellos tenían sus propios problemas. Así las cosas, en un par de días se firmó la venta de AV a IG.

En septiembre de 1939 Hitler invadió Polonia. IG ambicionaba tres compañías del sector de los colorantes: Boruta, la más grande, Wola, una pequeña compañía controlada por judíos, y Winnica, controlada por las la francesa Kuhlmann y la filial suiza de IG. Schnitzler se dirigió, pues, al Ministerio de Economía para declarar que IG estaba en condiciones de operar las tres plantas, pero la respuesta que encontró fue más bien fría. Lo que ocurría era lo siguiente. Heinrich Himmler, jefe de las SS, comenzaba a despuntar por encima de Göring, el tradicional aliado de IG. Himmler, que tenía sus propios planes para las propiedades confiscables en los países conquistados, había dado órdenes a su delegado en Polonia para vetar cualquier movimiento que se produjera sin su consentimiento, de modo que Schnitzler encontraba ahora las puertas cerradas. De modo que, viendo el realineamiento de los astros nazis, IG comenzó un progresivo acercamiento a la órbita de Himmler.



De forma paralela al estrechamiento de la relación entre IG y los nazis, Carl Bosch fue siendo despojado de todas sus responsabilidades en IG. Bosch, que consideraba que sus aportaciones en el campo de la fabricación de carburante y goma sintética habían sido decisivas para la guerra, se sumió en recurrentes depresiones y se refugió en el alcohol, hasta que decidió irse de Alemania. En febrero de 1940 marchó a Sicilia acompañado de una colonia de hormigas que le había donado el Instituto Káiser Guillermo. No es de extrañar que su depresión se acentuara, por lo que al poco tiempo volvió a Alemania y murió en Heidelberg. Poco antes predijo la inminente caída de Francia, a la que, a medio plazo, seguiría inexorablemente la de la propia Alemania y la de IG Farben.



En mayo de 1940 los tanques de von Manstein atravesaban las Ardenas; unas semanas más tarde Francia ya se había rendido, mientras Inglaterra rescataba a sus tropas de Dunquerque. Con cada nueva invasión, IG Farben se encargaba de redactar puntualmente el correspondiente memorándum sobre el nuevo orden de la industria química. El redactado tras la caída de Francia no sólo detallaba el destino de las empresas químicas de Francia, Bélgica, Holanda, Luxemburgo, Noruega y Dinamarca, sino también de Rusia, hasta ese momento aliada de Alemania, de Inglaterra, aún no conquistada, e incluso de Suiza. Con el tiempo, también fue incluida en los planes la industria de los Estados Unidos. En opinión de IG, la clave para controlar el mercado europeo era, precisamente, Francia, y dentro de ésta la empresa más importante era **Kuhlmann**. En agosto el plan de IG fue presentado al Ministerio de Economía. Según él, todas las compañías francesas de colorantes debían fundirse en una, que se llamaría **Francolor**, de la que IG tendría el 51% del accionariado, repartiéndose el 49% restante entre las compañías francesas. Pero cuando el plan les fue

comunicado a los franceses lo rechazaron enérgicamente, pues pretendían negociar con IG en condiciones de igualdad. A fin de cuentas, en octubre Hitler y Pétain habían firmado un pacto en Montoire en el que se establecían las bases de la colaboración franco-alemana: *“El Eje y Francia tienen idéntico interés en ver conseguida la derrota de Inglaterra en el menor tiempo posible. En consecuencia el Gobierno francés apoyará, dentro del límite de sus fuerzas, las medidas que el Eje pueda adoptar en este sentido.”**

Dentro del espíritu de colaboración nacido en Montoire, los representantes franceses del sector químico arreglaron un encuentro con miembros del gobierno alemán e IG en Wiesbaden, en noviembre de 1940. Por parte alemana acudieron Hans Hemmen, máximo responsable económico de la delegación alemana enviada a negociar el armisticio, y el inevitable Schnitzler. En Wiesbaden los franceses comenzaron a exponer sus puntos de vista en pie de igualdad, como aliados, hasta que Hemmen dio un puñetazo en la mesa que hizo volar todos los papeles y se marchó dando un portazo. Schnitzler, más educado, tradujo sus palabras: no podía olvidarse que Francia había declarado la guerra a Alemania y la había perdido, y, por eso, no estaban en una negociación entre iguales, sino entre vencedores y vencidos. La delegación francesa informó de los resultados del encuentro al Gobierno francés, que se mostró alarmado. No sólo la industria de los colorantes era considerada esencial para las necesidades de defensa, sino que se temía que esta primera negociación marcara las pautas para las que se producirían en el resto de los sectores. Mientras tanto IG realizó una nueva aproximación usando el palo (la amenaza de confiscar Kuhlmann conforme a las leyes de Nuremberg) y la zanahoria (compensar a los franceses con un 1% del accionariado de IG). Finalmente en noviembre de 1941 se cerró el acuerdo.



En verano de 1942, Hitler se encontraba librando su temida guerra en dos frentes, y las masivas movilizaciones habían dejado despobladas las industrias alemanas. Se pensó utilizar mano de obra francesa, pero del total de 350.000 trabajadores requeridos, sólo acudieron 30.000. Entonces se recurrió a Francolor, que se encargó de transferir a Alemania a una parte de sus trabajadores, sin consultar a éstos. A partir de ese momento los alemanes se referirían a los directivos franceses de Francolor como los “tratantes de esclavos”.

* A cambio, continuaba el acuerdo, a Francia le sería reconocido el lugar “que merecía”. Por fortuna para Francia, al finalizar la guerra no se le reconoció el lugar que merecía, sino que fue considerada potencia vencedora de la guerra, con derecho a un puesto permanente en el Consejo de Seguridad

de la ONU.

Imágenes, superior a inferior:

1. Revista comercial de IG Farben: “De obra en obra”
2. Hitler anuncia el *Anschluss* en el Reichstag.
3. Exterior del edificio de IG Farben en Frankfurt.
4. Mapa: “Los logros de IG en todo el mundo”
5. Edificio IG Farben

Auschwitz: 60 Year Anniversary-- the Role of IG Farben-Bayer

Date: Thu, 27 Jan 2005

Today marks the 60th anniversary of the Soviet liberation of the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz. Elderly Holocaust survivors, former soldiers and world leaders have gathered in Poland to mark the 60th anniversary: "I would like to say to all the people on the Earth: This should never be repeated, ever," said Maj. Anatoly Shapiro, 92, who led the first Soviet troops to enter Auschwitz.

Lest we forget an important corporate participant in the Holocaust - two excerpts shed light on the role of IG Farben, ie. Bayer.

IG Farben was the most powerful German corporate cartel in the first half of the 20th century and the single largest profiteer from the Second World War. IG (Interessengemeinschaft) stands for "Association of Common Interests": IG Farben included BASF, Bayer, Hoechst, and other German chemical and pharmaceutical companies.

As documents show, IG Farben was intimately involved with the human experimental atrocities committed by Mengele at Auschwitz.

A German watchdog organization, the GBG Network, maintains copious documents and tracks Bayer Pharmaceutical activities.

Below is an excerpt from a BBC documentary about an Auschwitz survivor who for years tried to get compensation from the pharmaceutical giant that carried out medical experiments on her. Now living in Dundee, Scotland, she tells her story in a BBC documentary.

Another excerpt is from the website of the Dr. Rath Health Foundation. Dr. Matthias Rath heads a research development institute in nutritional and Cellular Medicine conducting basic research and clinical studies to scientifically document the health benefits of micronutrients in fighting a multitude of diseases. Dr. Rath was born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1955.

In the Auschwitz files, correspondence between the camp commander and Bayer Leverkusen was discovered. It dealt with the sale of 150 female prisoners for experimental purposes:

"With a view to the planned experiments with a new sleep-inducing drug we would appreciate it if you could place a number of prisoners at our disposal (...)" - "We confirm your response, but consider the price of 200 RM per woman to be too high. We propose to pay no more than 170 RM per woman. If this is acceptable to you, the women will be placed in our possession. We need some 150 women (...)" - "We confirm your approval of the agreement. Please prepare for us 150 women in the best health possible (...)" - "Received the order for 150 women. Despite their macerated condition they were considered satisfactory. We will keep you informed of the developments regarding the experiments (...)" - "The experiments were performed. All test persons died. We will contact you shortly about a new shipment (...)"

See: http://www4.dr-rath-foundation.org/PHARMACEUTICAL_BUSINESS/history_of_the_pharmaceutical_industry.htm

Medical Experiments in Auschwitz Conducted by I.G. Farben (from the book "I.G. Farben - from Anilin to forced labor" by Jörg Hunger and Paul Sander)

Unethical human experiments are a major threat to vulnerable populations everywhere - including in the US where, for example, the EPA is seeking to conduct pesticide exposure experiments on children. The IG Farben culture continues to drive the chemical-pharmaceutical industry. "Profit urber alles" - that means ANYTHING goes - profit above all else.

Contact: Vera Hassner Sharav

About Bayer's Nazi-past

IG Farben was the only German company in the Third Reich that ran its own concentration camp. At least 30.000 slave workers died in this camp; a lot more were deported to the gas chambers. It was no coincidence that IG Farben built their giant new plant in Auschwitz, since the workforce they used (altogether about 300.000 people) was practically for free. The Zyklon B gas, which killed millions of Jews, Gypsies and other people was produced by IG Farben's subsidiary company Degesch.

In Germany a growing number of people do not understand that IG Farben's successors Bayer, BASF and Hoechst still refuse to apologize for their misdeeds. It is hard to accept that after the war the companies were allowed to keep IG Farben's entire property, whereas the surviving slave workers received nothing. Until today Bayer, BASF and Hoechst did not pay any wages to their former workers.

In 1995 the coalition "Never again!" was created by the German Auschwitz Committee, Critical Shareholders and several organizations of former slave workers. In a joint appeal the coalition demands that there has to be an appropriate compensation by the companies for slave-workers and their descendants. Also the maintenance of the memorial at Auschwitz, which reminds the public of IG Farben's victims, should be paid by the corporations. "Never again!" states that without verification of the past we always have to be present so that these crimes might never happen again. More than 1,500 individuals and about 100 German groups have signed this platform. The activities were organized by the Coalition against Bayer-dangers, a group that has monitored Bayer for 25 years.

Life as a human guinea pig

For years an Auschwitz survivor has tried to win compensation from the pharmaceutical giant that carried out medical experiments on her. Now living in Dundee, she tells her story in a BBC documentary.

Zoe Polanska Palmer never imagined she would survive Dr Mengele's experiments in Auschwitz.

Nor did her German doctors. Like thousands of other children, she was destined to be gassed once her usefulness to Nazi science had ceased.

During her two years at the camp, 13-year-old Zoe was forced to take tablets and pills as part of a series of pharmacological experiments, believed to be part of early birth control tests.

But Zoe refused to die. Saved by a Russian doctor who evacuated her to Dachau, she recovered and eventually settled in Scotland.

Now in her early 70s, she has been fighting for compensation and an apology from the German drug manufacturer, Bayer.

"I still find it difficult to take aspirin," she says. "I remember one of the SS doctors holding my jaw open and forcing pills down my throat. I'm still very wary of men wearing white coats."

Eyewitness testimonies held in the Auschwitz camp archive claim the doctor who force-fed her pills worked for the pharmaceutical company Bayer when it was part of the IG Farben conglomerate.

His name was Dr Victor Capesius. It's a name that Zoe can never forget.

He helped Dr Mengele to conduct genetic experiments, usually on children, and also selected thousands of prisoners at the huge death camp, choosing those who might be useful and sending the rest to an immediate death with a flick of his finger.

Dr Capesius was tried in Frankfurt for war crimes in 1963 and served time in prison.

Another longtime Bayer employee, Helmut Vetter, also worked as a SS doctor at Auschwitz. He was involved in the testing of experimental vaccines and medicines on inmates and after the war he was executed for administering fatal injections.

Denial of culpability

"The concentration camps were used as a huge laboratory for human experimentation," says Wolfgang Eckhart, the Professor of Historical Medicine at Heidelberg University.

"We have to look upon the camps as outposts of pharmacological research. The Nazis wanted to sterilise the population of the east, especially Russian people, but enable them to continue to be useful as workers."

The pain has yet to heal

Bayer says the company which exists today has nothing to do with its wartime counterpart. A spokesperson told the BBC: "Between 1925 and 1952, no company named Bayer existed, neither as a subsidiary of IG Farben nor as any other legal entity.

"Bayer has worked in good faith with the German government to establish a fund to help those who have suffered. The company's contribution to this fund amounted to more than €40m."

Damaged beyond repair

Although it is nearly 60 years since the end of World War II, for survivors like Zoe the consequences of the war are as alive today as they were in January 1945 when the Russian Army liberated Auschwitz.

After the war, Zoe married and settled in Scotland. There she underwent several painful operations to repair the damage done to her body. But she has never been able to have children. Now suffering from cancer, she is a remarkably cheerful woman whose home in a quiet suburb is punctuated with laughter from her jokes and tears from her memories.

When I first travelled to meet her in July 2002, she was angry that she had been ignored for so long by the authorities managing the compensation fund set up by German industry and the German government.

She had campaigned for 28 years but received nothing.

"They want us all to die so they won't have to pay out so much money," Zoe says.

Within weeks of the authorities being contacted by the BBC, Zoe received a cheque for a little over €2,000 from the German compensation fund.

"I want to make sure people remember what happened to people like me when I was a child at Auschwitz," she says. "I was just one of thousands of children treated in this way. But I was one of the very few lucky ones who managed to survive." (By Mark Handscomb, BBC Radio 4 reporter for It's My Story)

BAYER "Aryanized" Jewish Cemetery

Documents show that in 1942 IG Farben's branch office in Uerdingen, Germany got hold of the town's Jewish cemetery.

The forced sale price was way below the actual market value: 100,000 square meter property for 3,000 Reichsmark. After the war the property was passed on to IG Farben's successor BAYER AG.

The Nazis dissolved the Jewish Community of Uerdingen in 1942. Today all traces of the Jewish cemetery in Uerdingen have been completely obliterated. The city archive indicates that the

cemetery was located approximately where the main gate to the BAYER factory currently stands. The COALITION AGAINST BAYER-DANGERS demands that the company publicly apologize for the defilement of the Uerdingen cemetery and affix a memorial plaque to the main gate of the company's Uerdingen works.

Hans Frankenthal, former slave worker in IG Farben's plant in Auschwitz and board member of the Jewish Community: "I was terrified when I learned from this offence against Jewish belief. According to our faith, taking possession of the cemetery without exhuming the bodies is tantamount to defiling the graves."

BAYER today is living off the fruits of Nazi legalism. On paper everything was legally correct: Julius Israel Kohn from the "Association of Jews in the German Reich" and Bernhard Hoffmann, the representative of IG Farben, signed the sales agreement in a notary's office, and the copy of this seemingly standard real estate transaction has a stamp from the Krefeld tax office.

At the same time the former culprits are publicly honored in Uerdingen. Fritz ter Meer served on the IG Farben board of directors from 1926 to 1945 and was the head officer directing the operations of the IG Farben factory at Auschwitz. The Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal sentenced him to seven years in prison.

He was released after serving only four years. Not long after, in 1956, Ter Meer was elevated to the chairman of the supervisory board at BAYER, a position he held for seven years. His grave in Krefeld has a meter-high wreath on it - donated by BAYER in recognition of his services.

Coalition against BAYER-dangers (Germany)

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See: http://www4.dr-rath-foundation.org/PHARMACEUTICAL_BUSINESS/history_of_the_pharmaceutical_industry.htm

Medical Experiments in Auschwitz Conducted by I.G. Farben (from the book "I.G. Farben - from Anilin to forced labor" by Jörg Hunger and Paul Sander)

Scientific experiments were also done in other concentration camps. A decisive fact is that IG employee SS major Dr. med. Helmuth Vetter, stationed in several concentration camps, participated in these experiments by order of Bayer Leverkusen.

At the same time as Dr. Joseph Mengele, he experimented in Auschwitz with medications that were designated "B-1012", "B-1034", "3382" or "Rutenol". The test preparations were not just applied to those prisoners who were ill, but also to healthy ones. These people were first infected on purpose through pills, powdered substances, injections or enemas. Many of the medications caused the victims to vomit or have bloody diarrhea. In most cases the prisoners died as a result of the experiments.

In the Auschwitz files correspondence was discovered between the camp commander and Bayer Leverkusen. It dealt with the sale of 150 female prisoners for experimental purposes: "With a view to the planned experiments with a new sleep-inducing drug we would appreciate it if you could place a number of prisoners at our disposal (...)" - "We confirm your response, but consider the price of 200 RM per woman to be too high. We propose to pay no more than 170 RM per woman. If this is acceptable to you, the women will be placed in our possession. We need some 150 women (...)" - "We confirm your approval of the agreement. Please prepare for us 150 women in the best health possible (...)" - "Received the order for 150 women. Despite their macerated condition they were considered satisfactory. We will keep you informed of the developments regarding the

experiments (...)" - "The experiments were performed. All test persons died. We will contact you shortly about a new shipment (...)"

A former Auschwitz prisoner testified: "There was a large ward of tuberculars on block 20. The Bayer Company sent medications in unmarked and unnamed ampoules. The tuberculars were injected with this. These unfortunate people were never killed in the gas chambers. One only had to wait for them to die, which did not take long (...) 150 Jewish women that had been bought from the camp attendant by Bayer, (...) served for experiments with unknown hormonal preparations."

Parallel to the tests by Behringwerke and Bayer Leverkusen the chemical-pharmaceutical and serologic-bacteriological department at Hoechst started experimenting on Auschwitz prisoners with their new typhus fever preparation "3582". The first series of tests had results that were far from satisfactory. Of the 50 test persons 15 died; the typhus fever drug led to vomiting and exhaustion. Part of the concentration camp Auschwitz was quarantined, which led to an extension of the tests to the concentration camp in Buchenwald. In the journal of the "department for typhus fever and viral research of the concentration camp Buchenwald" we find on January 10th, 1943: "As suggested by the IG Farbenindustrie A.G. the following were tested as typhus fever medications: a) preparation 3582

The first and also the second series of therapeutic tests, held in Buchenwald between March 31st and April 11th 1943, had negative results due to insufficient contamination of the tested prisoners. Neither did the experiments in Auschwitz have evident successes.

The scientific value of all these experiments, whether ordered by the IG Farben or not, was in fact zero. The test persons were in bad physical condition, caused by forced labor, insufficient and wrong nutrition and diseases in the concentration camp. Add to this the generally bad sanitary circumstances in the laboratories. "The test results in the concentration camps, as the IG laboratory specialists should know, could not be compared to results made under normal circumstances".

The SS physician Dr. Hoven testified to this during the Nuremberg Trial: "It should be generally known, and especially in German scientific circles, that the SS did not have notable scientists at its disposal. It is clear that the experiments in the concentration camps with IG preparations only took place in the interests of the IG, which strived by all means to determine the effectiveness of these preparations. They let the SS deal with the - shall I say - dirty work in the concentration camps. It was not the IG's intention to bring any of this out in the open, but rather to put up a smoke screen around the experiments so that (...) they could keep any profits to themselves. Not the SS but the IG took the initiative for the concentration camp experiments."

WALL STREET AND THE RISE OF HITLER

By
Antony C. Sutton

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface
Introduction Unexplored Facets of Naziism
PART ONE: Wall Street Builds Nazi Industry
Chapter One Wall Street Paves the Way for Hitler 1924: The Dawes Plan 1928: The Young Plan B.I.S. — The Apex of Control Building the German Cartels
Chapter Two The Empire of I.G. Farben The Economic Power of I.G. Farben Polishing I.G. Farben's Image The American I.G. Farben
Chapter Three General Electric Funds Hitler

[General Electric in Weimar, Germany](#)
[General Electric & the Financing of Hitler](#)
[Technical Cooperation with Krupp](#)
[A.E.G. Avoids the Bombs in World War II](#)

Chapter Four

Standard Oil Duels World War II

[Ethyl Lead for the Wehrmacht](#)
[Standard Oil and Synthetic Rubber](#)
[The Deutsche-Amerikanische Petroleum A.G.](#)

Chapter Five

I.T.T. Works Both Sides of the War

[Baron Kurt von Schröder and I.T.T.](#)
[Westrick, Texaco, and I.T.T.](#)
[I.T.T. in Wartime Germany](#)

PART TWO: Wall Street and Funds for Hitler

Chapter Six

Henry Ford and the Nazis

[Henry Ford: Hitler's First Foreign Banker](#)
[Henry Ford Receives a Nazi Medal](#)
[Ford Assists the German War Effort](#)

Chapter Seven

Who Financed Adolf Hitler?

[Some Early Hitler Backers](#)
[Fritz Thyssen and W.A. Harriman Company](#)
[Financing Hitler in the March 1933 Elections](#)
[The 1933 Political Contributions](#)

Chapter Eight

Putzi: Friend of Hitler and Roosevelt

[Putzi's Role in the Reichstag Fire](#)
[Roosevelt's New Deal and Hitler's New Order](#)

Chapter Nine

Wall Street and the Nazi Inner Circle

[The S.S. Circle of Friends](#)
[I.G. Farben and the Keppler Circle](#)
[Wall Street and the S.S. Circle](#)

Chapter Ten

The Myth of "Sidney Warburg"

[Who Was "Sidney Warburg"?](#)
[Synopsis of the Suppressed "Warburg" Book](#)
[James Paul Warbur's Affidavit](#)
[Some Conclusions from the "Warburg" Story](#)

Chapter Eleven

Wall Street-Nazi Collaboration in World War II

[American I.G. in World War II](#)
[Were American Industrialists and Financiers](#)
[Guilty of War Crimes?](#)

Chapter Twelve

Conclusions

[The Pervasive Influence of International Bankers](#)
[Is the United States Ruled by a Dictatorial Elite?](#)
[The New York Elite as a Subversive Force](#)
[The Slowly Emerging Revisionist Truth](#)

Appendix A

[Program of the National Socialist German](#)
[Workers Party](#)

Appendix B

Affidavit of Hjalmar Schacht
Appendix C Entries in the "National Trusteeship" Account
Appendix D Letter from the U.S. War Department to Ethyl Corporation
Appendix E Extract from Morgenthau Diary (Germany)
Footnotes
Bibliography
Index

**Dedicated to the memory of Floyd Paxton —
entrepreneur, inventor, writer, and American,
who believed in and worked for individual rights
in a free society under the Constitution**

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CHAPTER TWO

The Empire of I.G. Farben

Farben was Hitler and Hitler was Farben. (Senator Homer T. Bone to Senate Committee on Military Affairs, June 4, 1943.)

On the eve of World War II the German chemical complex of I.G. Farben was the largest chemical manufacturing enterprise in the world, with extraordinary political and economic power and influence within the Hitlerian Nazi state. I. G. has been aptly described as "a state within a state."

The Farben cartel dated from 1925, when organizing genius Hermann Schmitz (with Wall Street financial assistance) created the super-giant chemical enterprise out of six already giant German chemical companies — Badische Anilin, Bayer, Agfa, Hoechst, Weiler-ter-Meer, and Griesheim-Elektron. These companies were merged to become Inter-nationale Gesellschaft Farbenindustrie A.G. — or I.G. Farben for short. Twenty years later the same Hermann Schmitz was put on trial at Nuremberg for war crimes committed by the I. G. cartel. Other I. G. Farben directors were placed on trial but the American affiliates of I. G. Farben and the American directors of I. G. itself were quietly forgotten; the truth was buried in the archives.

It is these U.S. connections in Wall Street that concern us. Without the capital supplied by Wall Street, there would have been no I. G. Farben in the first place and almost certainly no Adolf Hitler and World War II.

German bankers on the Farben *Aufsichtsrat* (the supervisory Board of Directors)¹ in the late 1920s included the Hamburg banker Max Warburg, whose brother Paul Warburg was a founder of the Federal Reserve System in the United States. Not coincidentally, Paul Warburg was also on the board of American I. G., Farben's wholly owned U.S. subsidiary. In addition to Max Warburg and Hermann Schmitz, the guiding hand in the creation of the Farben empire, the early Farben *Vorstand* included Carl Bosch, Fritz ter Meer, Kurt Oppenheim and George von Schnitzler.² All except Max Warburg were charged as "war criminals" after World War II.

In 1928 the American holdings of I. G. Farben (*i.e.*, the Bayer Company, General Aniline Works, Agfa Ansco, and Winthrop Chemical Company) were organized into a Swiss holding company, i. G. Chemic (Inter-nationale Gesellschaft für Chemische Unternehmungen A. G.), controlled by I. G. Farben in Germany. In the following year these American firms merged to become American I. G. Chemical Corporation, later renamed General Aniline & Film. Hermann Schmitz, the organizer of I. G. Farben in 1925, became a prominent early Nazi and supporter of Hitler, as well as chairman of the Swiss I. G. Chemic and president of American I. G. The Farben complex both in Germany and the United States then developed into an integral part of the formation and operation of the Nazi state machine, the Wehrmacht and the S.S.

I. G. Farben is of peculiar interest in the formation of the Nazi state because Farben directors materially helped Hitler and the Nazis to power in 1933. We have

photographic evidence (see page 60) that I.G. Farben contributed 400,000 RM to Hitler's political "slush fund." It was this secret fund which financed the Nazi seizure of control in March 1933. Many years earlier Farben had obtained Wall Street funds for the 1925 cartelization and expansion in Germany and \$30 million for American I. G. in 1929, and had Wall Street directors on the Farben board. It has to be noted that these funds were raised and directors appointed years before Hitler was promoted as the German dictator.

The Economic Power of I. G. Farben

Qualified observers have argued that Germany could not have gone to war in 1939 without I. G. Farben. Between 1927 and the beginning of World War II, I.G. Farben doubled in size, an expansion made possible in great part by American technical assistance and by American bond issues, such as the one for \$30 million offered by National City Bank. By 1939 I. G. acquired a participation and managerial influence in some 380 other German firms and over 500 foreign firms. The Farben empire owned its own coal mines, its own electric power plants, iron and steel units, banks, research units, and numerous commercial enterprises. There were over 2,000 cartel agreements between I. G. and foreign firms — including Standard Oil of New Jersey, DuPont, Alcoa, Dow Chemical, and others in the United States. The full story of I.G. Farben and its world-wide activities before World War II can never be known, as key German records were destroyed in 1945 in anticipation of Allied victory. However, one post-war investigation by the U.S. War Department concluded that:

Without I. G.'s immense productive facilities, its intense research, and vast international affiliations, Germany's prosecution of the war would have been unthinkable and impossible; Farben not only directed its energies toward arming Germany, but concentrated on weakening her intended victims, and this double-barreled attempt to expand the German industrial potential for war and to restrict that of the rest of the world was not conceived and executed "in the normal course of business." The proof is overwhelming that I. G. Farben officials had full prior knowledge of Germany's plan for world conquest and of each specific aggressive act later undertaken³

Directors of Farben firms (*i.e.*, the "I. G. Farben officials" referred to in the investigation) included not only Germans but also prominent American financiers. This 1945 U.S. War Department report concluded that I.G.'s assignment from Hitler in the prewar period was to make Germany self-sufficient in rubber, gasoline, lubricating oils, magnesium, fibers, tanning agents, fats, and explosives. To fulfill this critical assignment, vast sums were spent by I.G. on processes to extract these war materials from indigenous German raw materials - in particular the plentiful German coal resources. Where these processes could not be developed in Germany, they were acquired from abroad under cartel arrangements. For example, the process for iso-octane, essential for aviation fuels, was obtained from the United States,

... in fact entirely [from] the Americans and has become known to us in detail in its separate stages through our agreements with them [Standard Oil of New Jersey] and is being used very extensively by us.⁴

The process for manufacturing tetra-ethyl lead? essential for aviation gasoline, was

obtained by I. G. Farben from the United States, and in 1939 I.G. was sold \$20 million of high-grade aviation gasoline by Standard Oil of New Jersey. Even before Germany manufactured tetra-ethyl lead by the American process it was able to "borrow" 500 tons from the Ethyl Corporation. This loan of vital tetra-ethyl lead was not repaid and I.G. forfeited the \$1 million security. Further, I.G. purchased large stocks of magnesium from Dow Chemical for incendiary bombs and stockpiled explosives, stabilizers, phosphorus, and cyanides from the outside world.

In 1939, out of 43 major products manufactured by I.G., 28 were of "primary concern" to the German armed forces. Farben's ultimate control of the German war economy, acquired during the 1920s and 1930s with Wall Street assistance, can best be assessed by examining the percentage of German war material output produced by Farben plants in 1945. Farben at that time produced 100 percent of German synthetic rubber, 95 percent of German poison gas (including all the Zyklon B gas used in the concentration camps), 90 percent of German plastics, 88 percent of German magnesium, 84 percent of German explosives, 70 percent of German gunpowder, 46 percent of German high octane (aviation) gasoline, and 33 percent of German synthetic gasoline.⁵ (See Chart 2-1 and Table 2-1.)

Table 2-1: German Army (Wehrmacht) Dependence on I.G. Farben Production (1943):

Product	Total German Production	Percent Produced by I.G. Farben
Synthetic Rubber	118,600 tons	100
Methanol	251,000 tons	100
Lubricating Oil	60,000 tons	100
Dyestuffs	31,670 tons	98
Poison Gas	—	95
Nickel	2,000 tons	95
Plastics	57,000 tons	90
Magnesium	27,400 tons	88
Explosives	221,000 tons	84
Gunpowder	210,000 tons	70
High Octane (Aviation) Gasoline	650,000 tons	46
Sulfuric Acid	707,000 tons	35

Chart 2-1: German Army (Wehrmacht) Dependence on I.G. Farben Production (1943)

Dr. von Schnitzler, of the I.G. Farben *Aufsichtsrat*, made the following pertinent statement in 1943:

It is no exaggeration to say that without the services of German chemistry performed under the Four Year Plan the prosecution of modern war would have been unthinkable.⁶

Unfortunately, when we probe the technical origins of the more important of these military materials — quite apart from financial Support for Hitler — we find links to American industry and to American businessmen. There were numerous Farben arrangements with American firms, including cartel marketing arrangements, patent agreements, and technical exchanges as exemplified in the Standard Oil-Ethyl technology transfers mentioned above. These arrangements were used by I.G. to advance Nazi policy abroad, to collect strategic information, and to consolidate a world-wide chemical cartel.

One of the more horrifying aspects of I.G. Farben's cartel was the invention, production, and distribution of the Zyklon B gas, used in Nazi concentration camps. Zyklon B was pure Prussic acid, a lethal poison produced by I.G. Farben Leverkusen and sold from the Bayer sales office through Degesch, an independent license holder. Sales of Zyklon B amounted to almost three-quarters of Degesch business; enough gas to kill 200 million humans was produced and sold by I.G. Farben. The Kilgore Committee report of 1942 makes it clear that the I.G. Farben directors had precise knowledge of the Nazi concentration camps and the use of I.G. chemicals. This prior knowledge becomes significant when we later consider the role of the American directors in I.G.'s American subsidiary. The 1945 interrogation of I.G. Farben director von Schnitzler reads:

Q. What did you do when they told you that I.G. chemicals was [*sic*] being used to kill, to murder people held in concentration camps?

A. I was horrified.

Q. Did you do anything about it?

A. I kept it for me [to myself] because it was too terrible I asked Muller-Cunradi is it known to you and Ambros and other directors in Auschwitz that the gases and chemicals are being used to murder people.

Q. What did he say?

A. Yes: it is known to all I.G. directors in Auschwitz.⁷

There was no attempt by I.G. Farben to halt production of the gases — a rather ineffective way for von Schnitzler to express any concern for human life, "because it was too terrible."

The Berlin N.W. 7 office of I.G. Farben was the key Nazi overseas espionage center. The unit operated under Farben director Max Ilgner, nephew of I.G. Farben president Hermann Schmitz. Max Ilgner and Hermann Schmitz were on the board of American I.G., with fellow directors Henry Ford of Ford Motor Company, Paul Warburg of Bank of Manhattan, and Charles E. Mitchell of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 VOWI employees were ordered into the Wehrmacht but in fact continued to perform the same work as when nominally under I.G. Farben. One of the more prominent of these Farben intelligence workers in N.W. 7 was Prince

Bernhard of the Netherlands, who joined Farben in the early 1930s after completion of an 18-month period of service in the black-uniformed S.S.⁸

The U.S. arm of the VOWI intelligence network was Chemnyco, Inc. According to the War Department,

*Utilizing normal business contacts Chemnyco was able to transmit to Germany tremendous amounts of material ranging from photographs and blueprints to detailed descriptions of whole industrial plants.*⁹

Chemnyco's vice president in New York was Rudolph Ilgner, an American citizen and brother of American I. G. Farben director Max Ilgner. In brief, Farben operated VOWI, the Nazi foreign intelligence operation, before World War II and the VOWI operation was associated with prominent members of the Wall Street Establishment through American I.G. and Chemnyco.

The U.S. War Department also accused I.G. Farben and its American associates of spearheading Nazi psychological and economic warfare programs through dissemination of propaganda via Farben agents abroad, and of providing foreign exchange for this Nazi propaganda. Farben's cartel arrangements promoted Nazi economic warfare — the outstanding example being the voluntary Standard Oil of New Jersey restriction on development of synthetic rubber in the United States at the behest of I. G. Farben. As the War Department report puts it:

*The story in short is that because of Standard Oil's determination to maintain an absolute monopoly of synthetic rubber developments in the United States, it fully accomplished I.G.'s purpose of preventing United States production by dissuading American rubber companies from undertaking independent research in developing synthetic rubber processes.*¹⁰

In 1945 Dr. Oskar Loehr, deputy head of the I.G. "Tea Buro," confirmed that I. G. Farben and Standard Oil of New Jersey operated a "preconceived plan" to suppress development of the synthetic rubber industry in the United States, to the advantage of the German Wehrmacht and to the disadvantage of the United States in World War II.

Dr. Loehr's testimony reads (in part) as follows:

Q. Is it true that while the delay in divulging the buna [synthetic rubber] processes to American rubber companies was taking place, Chemnyco and Jasco were in the meantime keeping I.G. well informed in regard to synthetic rubber development in the U.S.?

A. Yes.

Q. So that at all times I.G. was fully aware of the state of the development of the American synthetic rubber industry?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you present at the Hague meeting when Mr. Howard [of Standard

Oil] went there in 1939?

A. No.

Q. Who was present?

A. Mr. Ringer, who was accompanied by Dr. Brown of Ludwigshafen. Did they tell you about the negotiations?

A. Yes, as far as they were on the buna part of it.

Q. Is it true that Mr. Howard told I.G. at this meeting that the developments in the U.S. had reached such a stage that it would no longer be possible for him to keep the information in regard to the buna processes from the American companies?

A. Mr. Ringer reported it.

Q. Was it at that meeting that for the first time Mr. Howard told I.G. the American rubber companies might have to be informed of the processes and he assured I.G. that Standard Oil would control the synthetic rubber industry in the U.S.? Is that right?

A. That is right. That is the knowledge I got through Mr. Ringer.

Q. So that in all these arrangements since the beginning of the development of the synthetic rubber industry the suppression of the synthetic rubber industry in the U.S. was part of a preconceived plan between I.G. on the one hand and Mr. Howard of Standard Oil on the other?

A. That is a conclusion that must be drawn from the previous facts.¹¹

I.G. Farben was pre-war Germany's largest earner of foreign exchange, and this foreign exchange enabled Germany to purchase strategic raw materials, military equipment, and technical processes, and to finance its overseas programs of espionage, propaganda, and varied military and political activities preceding World War II. Acting on behalf of the Nazi state, Farben broadened its own horizon to a world scale which maintained close relations with the Nazi regime and the Wehrmaecht. A liaison office, the *Vermittlungsstelle W*, was established to maintain communications between I.G. Farben and the German Ministry of War:

The aim of this work is the building up o.[a tight organ izatton for armament in the I.G. which could be inserted without difficulty in the existing organization of the I.G. and the individual plants. In the case of war, I.G. will be treated by the authorities concerned with armament questions as one big plant which, in its task for the armament, as far as it is possible to do so from the technical point of view, will regulate itself without any organizational influence from outside (the work in this direction was in principle agreed upon with the Ministry of War Wehrwirtschaftsamt) and from this office with the Ministry of Economy. To the field of the work of the Vermittlungsstelle W belongs, besides the organizational set-up and long-range planning, the continuous collaboration with regard to the armament

*and technical questions with the authorities of the Reich and with the plants of the I.G.*¹²

Unfortunately the files of the *Vermittlungsstelle* offices were destroyed prior to the end of the war, although it is known from other sources that from 1934 onwards a complex network of transactions evolved between I.G. and the Wehrmacht. In 1934 I. G. Farben began to mobilize for war, and each I.G. plant prepared its war production plans and submitted the plans to the Ministries of War and Economics. By 1935-6 war games were being held at I.G. Farben plants and wartime technical procedures rehearsed.¹³ These war games were described by Dr. Struss, head of the Secretariat of I.G.'s Technical Committee:

It is true that since 1934 or 1935, soon after the establishment of the Vermittlungsstelle W in the different works, theoretical war plant games had been arranged to examine how the effect of bombing on certain factories would materialize. It was particularly taken into consideration what would happen if 100- or 500-kilogram bombs would fall on a certain factory and what would be the result of it. It is also right that the word Kriegsspiele was used for it.

The Kriegsspiele were prepared by Mr. Ritter and Dr. Eckell, later on partly by Dr. von Brunning by personal order on Dr. Krauch's own initiative or by order of the Air Force, it is not known to me. The tasks were partly given by the Vermittlung-sstelle W and partly by officers of the Air Force. A number of officers of all groups of the Wehrmacht (Navy, Air Force, and Army) participated in these Kriegsspiele.

*The places which were hit by bombs were marked in a map of the plant so that it could be ascertained which parts of the plant were damaged, for example a gas meter or an important pipe line. As soon as the raid finished, the management of the plant ascertained the damages and reported which part of the plant had to stop working; they further reported what time would be required in order to repair the damages. In a following meeting the consequences of the Kriegsspiele were described and it was ascertained that in the case of Leuna [plant] the damages involved were considerably high; especially it was found out that alterations of the pipe lines were to be made at considerable cost.*¹⁴

Consequently, throughout the 1930s I. G. Farben did more than just comply with orders from the Nazi regime. Farben was an initiator and operator for the Nazi plans for world conquest. Farben acted as a research and intelligence organization for the German Army and voluntarily initiated Wehrmacht projects. In fact the Army only rarely had to approach Farben; it is estimated that about 40 to 50 percent of Farben projects for the Army were initiated by Farben itself. In brief, in the words of Dr. von Schnitzler:

Thus, in acting as it had done, I.G. contracted a great responsibility and constituted a substantial aid in the chemical domain and decisive help to Hitler's foreign policy, which led to war and to the ruin of Germany. Thus, I must conclude that I.G. is largely responsible for Hitler's policy,

Polishing I. G. Farben's Public Image

This miserable picture of pre-war military preparation was known abroad and had to be sold — or disguised — to the American public in order to facilitate Wall Street fund-raising and technical assistance on behalf of I. G. Farben in the United States. A prominent New York public relations firm was chosen for the job of selling the I.G. Farben combine to America. The most notable public relations firm in the late 1920s and 1930s was Ivy Lee & T.J. Ross of New York. Ivy Lee had previously undertaken a public relations campaign for the Rockefellers, to spruce up the Rockefeller name among the American public. The firm had also produced a syncophantic book entitled *USSR*, undertaking the same clean-up task for the Soviet Union — even while Soviet labor camps were in full blast in the late 20s and early 30s.

From 1929 onwards Ivy Lee became public relations counsel for I. G. Farben in the United States. In 1934 Ivy Lee presented testimony to the House Un-American Activities Committee on this work for Farben.¹⁵ Lee testified that I.G. Farben was affiliated with the American Farben firm and "The American I.G. is a holding company with directors such people as Edsel Ford, Walter Teagle, one of the officers of the City Bank " Lee explained that he was paid \$25,000 per year under a contract made with Max Ilgner of I.G. Farben. His job was to counter criticism levelled at I.G. Farben within the United States. The advice given by Ivy Lee to Farben on this problem was acceptable enough:

In the first place, I have told them that they could never in the world get the American people reconciled to their treatment of the Jews: that that was just foreign to the American mentality and could never be justified in the American public opinion, and there was no use trying.

*In the second place, anything that savored of Nazi propaganda in this country was a mistake and ought not to be under. taken. Our people regard it as meddling with American affairs, and it was bad business.*¹⁶

The initial payment of \$4,500 to Ivy Lee under this contract was made by Hermann Schmitz, chairman of I.G. Farben in Germany. It was deposited in the New York Trust Company under the name of I. G. Chemic (or the "Swiss I.G.," as Ivy Lee termed it). However, the second and major payment of \$14,450 was made by William von Rath of the American I.G. and also deposited by Ivy Lee in New York Trust Company, for the credit of his personal account. (The firm account was at the Chase Bank.) This point about the origin of the funds is 'important when we consider the identity of directors of American I.G., because payment by American I.G. meant that the bulk of the Nazi propaganda funds were not of German origin. *They were American funds earned in the U.S. and under control of American directors, although used for Nazi propaganda in the United States.*

In other words, most of the Nazi propaganda funds handled by Ivy Lee were *not* imported from Germany.

The use to which these American funds were put was brought out under questioning by the House Un-American Activities Committee:

Mr. DICKSTEIN. As I understand you, you testified that you received no propaganda at all, and that you had nothing to do with the distribution of propaganda in this country?

Mr. LEE. I did not testify I received none Mr. Dickstein.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. I will eliminate that part of the question, then.

Mr. LEE. I testified that I disseminated none whatever.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. Have you received or has your firm received any propaganda literature from Germany at any time?

Mr. LEE. Yes, sir.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. And when was that?

Mr. LEE. Oh, we have received — it is a question of what you call propaganda. We have received an immense amount of literature.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. You do not know what that literature was and what it contained?

Mr. LEE. We have received books and pamphlets and newspaper clippings and documents, world without end.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. I assume someone in your office would go over them and see what they were?

Mr. LEE. Yes, sir.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. And then after you found out what they were, I assume you kept copies of them?

Mr. LEE. In some cases, yes; and in some, no. A great many of them, of course, were in German, and I had what my son sent me. He said they were interesting and significant, and those I had translated or excerpts of them made.¹⁷

Finally, Ivy Lee employed Burnham Carter to study American newspaper reports on Germany and prepare suitable pro-Nazi replies. It should be noted that this German literature was not Farben literature, it was official Hitler literature:

Mr. DICKSTEIN. In other words, you receive this material that deals with German conditions today: You examine it and you advise them. It has nothing to do with the German Government, although the material, the literature, is official literature of the Hitler regime. That is correct, is it not?

Mr. LEE. Well, a good deal of the literature was not official.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. It was not I.G. literature, was it?

Mr. LEE. No; I.G. sent it to me.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. Can you show us one scrap of paper that came in here that had anything to do with the I.G.?

Mr. LEE. Oh, yes. They issue a good deal of literature. But I do not want to beg the question. There is no question whatever that under their authority I have received an immense amount of material that came from official and unofficial sources.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. Exactly. In other words, the material that was sent here by the I.G. was material spread — we would call it propaganda t by authority of the German Government. But the distinction that you make in your statement is, as I take it, that the German Government did not send it to you directly; that it was sent to you by the I.G.

Mr. LEE. Right.

Mr. DICKSTEIN. And it had nothing to do with their business relations just now.

Mr. LEE. That is correct.

The American I.G. Farben

Who were the prominent Wall Street establishment financiers who directed the activities of American I.G., the I.G. Farben affiliate in the United States promoting Nazi propaganda?

American I.G. Farben directors included some of the more prominent members of Wall Street. German interests re-entered the United States after World War I, and successfully overcame barriers designed to keep I.G. out of the American market. Neither seizure of German patents, establishment of the Chemical Foundation, nor high tariff walls were a major problem.

By 1925, General Dyestuff Corporation was established as the exclusive selling agent for products manufactured by Gasselli Dyestuff (renamed General Aniline Works, Inc., in 1929) and imported from Germany. The stock of General Aniline Works was transferred in 1929 to American I.G. Chemical Corporation and later in 1939 to General Aniline & Film Corporation, into which American I.G. and General Aniline Works were merged. American I.G. and its successor, General Aniline & Film, is the unit through which control of I.G.'s enterprises in the U.S. was maintained. The stock authorization of American I.G. was 3,000,000 common A

shares and 3,000,000 common B shares. In return for stock interests in General Aniline Works and Agfa-Ansco Corporation, I.G. Farben in Germany received all the B shares and 400,000 A shares. Thirty million dollars of convertible bonds were sold to the American public and guaranteed as to principal and interest by the German I.G. Farben, which received an option to purchase an additional 1,000,000 A shares.

Table 2-2: The Directors of American I.G. at 1930:

American I.G.		
Director	Citizenship	Other Major Associations
Carl BOSCH	German	FORD MOTOR CO. A-G

Edsel B. FORD	U.S.	FORD MOTOR CO. DETROIT
Max ILGNER	German	Directed I.G. FARBEN N.W.7 (INTELLIGENCE) office. Guilty at Nuremberg War Crimes Trials.
F. Ter MEER	German	Guilty at Nuremberg War Crimes Trials
H.A. METZ	U.S.	Director of I.G. Farben Germany and BANK OF MANHATTAN (U.S.)
C.E. MITCHELL	U.S.	Director of FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF N.Y. and NATIONAL CITY BANK
Herman SCHMITZ	German	On boards of I.G. Farben (President) (Germany) Deutsche Bank (Germany) and BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS. Guilty at Nuremberg War Crimes Trials.
Walter TEAGLE	U.S.	Director FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK and STANDARD OIL OF NEW JERSEY
W.H. von RATH	Naturalized	Director of GERMAN GENERAL U.S. ELECTRIC (A.E.G.)
Paul M. WARBURG	U.S.	First member of the FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK and BANK OF MANHATTAN
W.E. WEISS	U.S.	Sterling Products

Source: Moody's Manual of Investments; 1930, p. 2149.

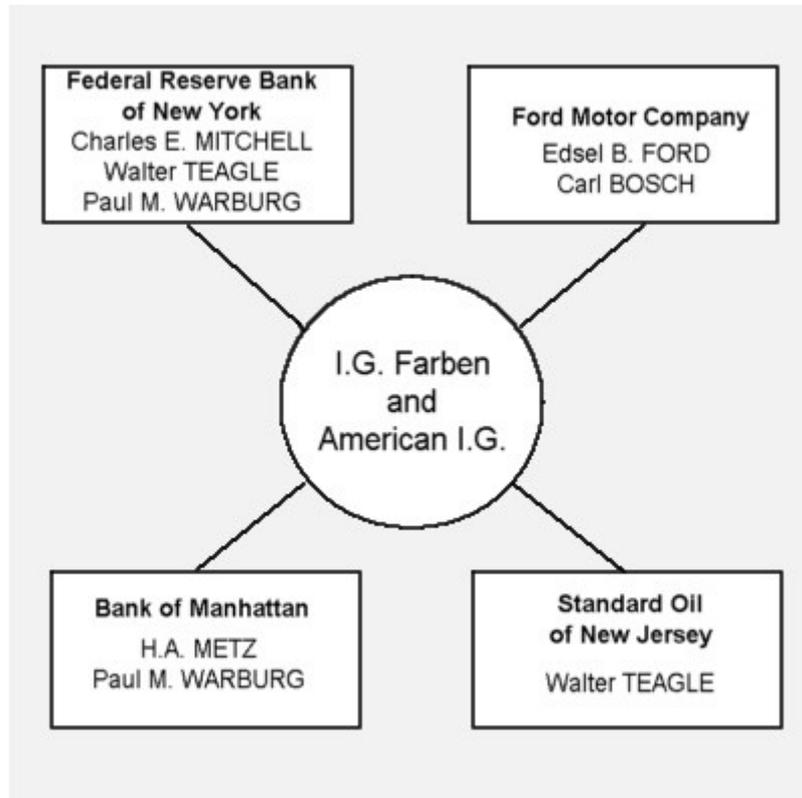
Note: Walter DUISBERG (U.S.), W. GRIEF (U.S.), and Adolf KUTTROFF (U.S.) were also Directors of American I.G. Farben at this period.

The management of American I.G. (later General Aniline) was dominated by I.G. or former I.G. officials. (See Table 9.9..) Hermann Schmitz served as president from 1929 to 1936 and was then succeeded by his brother, Dietrich A. Schmitz, a naturalized American citizen, until 1941. Hermann Schmitz, who was also a director of the bank for International Settlements, the "apex" of the international financial control system. He remained as chairman of the board of directors from 1936 to 1939.

The original board of directors included nine members who were, or had been, members of the board of I.G. Farben in Germany (Hermann Schmitz, Carl Bosch, Max Ilgner,

Fritz ter Meer, and Wilfred Grief), or had been previously employed by I.G. Farben in Germany (Walter Duisberg, Adolph Kuttroff, W.H. von Rath, Herman A. Metz). Herman A. Metz was an American citizen, a staunch Democrat in politics and a former comptroller of the City of New York. A tenth, W.E. Weiss, had been under contract to I.G.

Directors of American I.G. were not only prominent in Wall Street and American industry but more significantly were drawn from a few highly influential institutions:



The remaining four members of the American I.G. board were prominent American citizens and members of the Wall Street financial elite: C.E. Mitchell, chairman of National City Bank and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; Edsel B. Ford, president of Ford Motor Company; W.C. Teagle, another director of Standard Oil of New Jersey; and, Paul Warburg, first member of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and chairman of the Bank of Manhattan Company.

Directors of American I.G. were not only prominent in Wall Street and American industry but more significantly were drawn from a few highly influential institutions. (See chart above.)

Between 1929 and 1939 there were changes in the make-up of the board of American I.G. The number of directors varied from time to time, although a majority always had I.G. backgrounds or connections, and the board never had less than four American directors. In 1939 — presumably looking ahead to World War II — an effort was made to give the board a more American complexion, but despite the resignation of Hermann Schmitz, Carl Bosch, and Walter Duisberg, and the appointment of seven new directors, seven members still belonged to the I.G. group. This I.G. predominance increased during 1940 and 1941 as American directors, including Edsel Ford, realized the political unhealthiness of I.G. and resigned.

Several basic observations can be made from this evidence. First, the board of American I.G. had three directors from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the most influential of the various Federal Reserve Banks. American I.G. also had interlocks with Standard Oil of New Jersey, Ford Motor Company, Bank of Manhattan (later to become the Chase Manhattan), and A.E.G. (German General Electric). Second, three members of the board of this American I.G. were found guilty at Nuremburg War Crimes Trials. These were the German, not the American, members. Among these Germans was Max Ilgner, director of the I.G. Farben N.W. 7 office in Berlin, *i.e.*, the Nazi pre-war intelligence office. If the directors of a corporation are collectively responsible for the activities of the corporation, then the American directors should also have been placed on trial at Nuremburg, along with the German directors — that is, if the purpose of the trials was to determine war guilt. Of course, if the purpose of the trials had been to divert attention away from the U.S. involvement in Hitler's rise to power, they succeeded very well in such an objective.

Footnotes:

¹German firms have a two-tier board of directors. The *Aufsichtsrat* concerns itself with overall supervision, including financial policy, while the *Vorstand* is concerned with day-to-day management.

²Taken from *Der Farben-Konzern 1928*, (Hoppenstedt, Berlin: 1928), pp. 4-5.

³*Elimination of German Resources*, p. 943.

⁴*Ibid*, p. 945.

⁵*New York Times*, October 21, 1945, Section 1, pp. 1, 12.

⁶*Ibid*, p. 947.

⁷*Elimination of German Resources*.

⁸Bernhard is today better known for his role as chairman of the secretive, so-called Bilderberger meetings. See U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Special Committee on Un-American Activities, *Investigation of Nazi Propaganda Activities and Investigation of Certain other Propaganda Activities*. 73rd Congress, 2nd Session, Hearings No. 73-DC-4. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1934), Volume VIII, p. 7525.

⁹*Ibid* p. 949.

¹⁰*Ibid* p. 952.

¹¹*Ibid* p. 1293.

¹²Ibid p. 954.

¹³Ibid p. 954.

¹⁴Ibid, pp. 954-5.

¹⁵U.S. Congress. House of Representatives, Special Committee on Un-American Activities, *Investigation of Nazi Propaganda Activities and Investigation of Certain Other Propaganda Activities, op. cit.*

¹⁶Ibid, p. 178.

¹⁷Ibid, p. 183.

¹⁸Ibid, p. 188.