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Abstract

This article analyses the French occupation policy in the West from the German point of view – was the most important factor for the German war effort. It shows that, in contrast to the conventional view, the German occupation policy was not based on exploiting occupied France – not in the early years of the occupation, but rather in the later years of the occupation funds. Although the war in the East and preparations for the invasion made it necessary for Germany to reduce wasteful spending of occupation funds and combat French inflation more consistently, its occupation policy did not shift radically but gradually between mid 1942 and the end of 1943. However, it was not Albert Speer's Armament Ministry, but other German institutions, especially the Reich Finance Ministry, which played a decisive role in this process. Without this policy Germany would not have been able to increase the French contribution to the German warfare all over Europe, especially on the Eastern front.



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Marcel Boldorf is a researcher at the Ruhr-university in Bochum. Previously, he has studied modern history, social and economic history, and comparative literature at the University of Saarland, followed by a doctoral degree in social and economic history at the University of Mannheim. From 1992–2004 he was academic assistant at the economic faculty of the University of Mannheim and between 2007–10 held appointments in Saarbrücken, Darmstadt, Munich, Berlin and Frankfurt (Oder). His main publications are *Europäische Leinenregionen im Wandel. Institutionelle Weichenstellungen in Schlesien und Irland 1750–1850* (Cologne 2006); *Sozialfürsorge in der SBZ/DDR 1945–1953. Ursachen, Ausmaß und*

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