

## PREFACE

THIS book is not concerned with German films merely for their own sake; rather, it aims at increasing our knowledge of pre-Hitler Germany in a specific way.

It is my contention that through an analysis of the German films deep psychological dispositions predominant in Germany from 1918 to 1933 can be exposed—dispositions which influenced the course of events during that time and which will have to be reckoned with in the post-Hitler era.

I have reason to believe that the use made here of films as a medium of research can profitably be extended to studies of current mass behavior in the United States and elsewhere. I also believe that studies of this kind may help in the planning of films—not to mention other media of communication—which will effectively implement the cultural aims of the United Nations.

I am most indebted to Miss Iris Barry, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, New York, to whom my book literally owes its existence; she not only suggested this study, but assisted generously and in many ways towards its realization. I am grateful to the Rockefeller Foundation, which enabled me to embark upon my enterprise, and to Mr. John Marshall of that office for his continued interest in its progress. I wish to express my deep gratitude to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, which honored me twice with a fellowship, and to Mr. Henry Allen Moe, Secretary General of this Foundation, who never tired of furthering my endeavors. Among those to whom I am very indebted for continual advice and help in the organization of the material and in matters of style, I expressly name Miss Barbara Deming, former analyst of the Library of Congress Film Project; and Miss Margaret Miller, Miss Ruth Olson and Mr. Arthur Rosenheimer, Jr., staff members of the Museum of Modern Art. Sincere thanks are also due to the Librarian of the Museum of Modern Art, Mr. Bernard Karpel, and the members of the Library staff; they patiently and expertly lent me a helping hand whenever I needed it and made me feel at home in this Library,

with its invaluable facilities for studies of the film. Finally, I wish to thank my wife, though whatever I may say to thank her is insufficient. As always, she has helped me in the preparation of this book, and as always I have benefited greatly from her faculty of perceiving the essential and penetrating to its core.

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May, 1946  
New York City