

# The Growth Of Modern Germany

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Parochial and Plain Sermons  
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why enlightenment culture sparked the industrial revolution during the late eighteenth century innovations in europe triggered the industrial revolution and the sustained economic progress that spread across the globe while much has been made of the details of the industrial revolution what remains a mystery is why it took place at all why did this revolution begin in the west and not elsewhere and why did it continue leading to today s unprecedented prosperity in this groundbreaking book celebrated economic historian joel mokyr argues that a culture of growth specific to early modern europe and the european enlightenment laid the foundations for the scientific advances and pioneering inventions that would instigate explosive technological and economic development bringing together economics the history of science and technology and models of cultural evolution mokyr demonstrates that culture the beliefs values and preferences in society that are capable of changing behavior was a deciding factor in societal transformations mokyr looks at the period 1500 1700 to show that a politically fragmented europe fostered a competitive market for ideas and a willingness to investigate the secrets of nature at the same time a transnational community of brilliant thinkers known as the republic of letters freely circulated and distributed ideas and writings this political fragmentation and the supportive intellectual environment explain how the industrial revolution

happened in europe but not china despite similar levels of technology and intellectual activity in europe heterodox and creative thinkers could find sanctuary in other countries and spread their thinking across borders in contrast china s version of the enlightenment remained controlled by the ruling elite combining ideas from economics and cultural evolution a culture of growth provides startling reasons for why the foundations of our modern economy were laid in the mere two centuries between columbus and newton

report and background papers of a regional seminar alternative patterns of development and life styles in asia and the pacific jointly convened by un economic and social commission for asia and the pacific and unep bangkok 14 18 august 1979

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