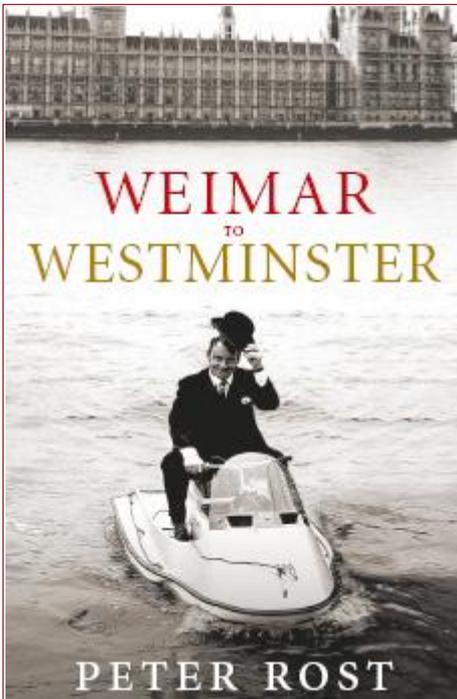




## ADVANCE INFORMATION SHEET



**Title:**  
Weimar to Westminster

**Author:**  
Peter Rost

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### About the Book

This is an important book, a frank and revealing story. It should be read by those who want to believe our Parliamentary system of democracy is not irretrievably broken. It reassures us that Britain remains one of the world's most tolerant, liberal, law-abiding and democratic societies.

Peter Rost is not the first German-born British M.P., but as a Berliner, he was the first to go to school under the Nazi regime and obliged to conform, aged six, by participating in the Hitler Youth.

With a Jewish father and a blond 'Aryan' mother, his parents' marriage no longer had legal status under the Nazis.

The family joined the flood of refugees to England in 1937. Despite being an outsider during the war and the disadvantages of a disrupted education, Peter Rost managed to get to university, become a financial journalist and a Member of the London Stock Exchange, before becoming a Member of Parliament.

His story shows that the now dissolved, discredited Parliament contained Members who were honest, dedicated, hard working and unselfish in their pursuit of the public good, and that it was a small minority that shamed and damaged our most vital institution.

A leading member of the Energy Select Committee, he refused the easy role of lobby fodder, speaking and voting according to his conscience. Often challenging the dictat of the Whips, he tried to resist the short termism of the Treasury and political expediency. He illustrated how the system should be reformed to strengthen the power of back benchers.

The book provides a stark warning that we should not lose faith in our system of Government, just because a handful of Members abused their power and privilege; and shows how the system can be creditably reformed.

### About the Author

Born in Berlin in 1930 with a Jewish father and 'Aryan' mother, Peter Rost emigrated to Britain with his sister and parents in 1937. An Honours Graduate in Geography at Birmingham University, after a disruptive education at eight schools and National Service in the RAF, he joined the editorial staff of the Investors' Chronicle. He became a Member of the London Stock Exchange and in 1970 won the Labour held Parliamentary seat of South East Derbyshire for the Conservatives. Later redistributed as Erewash, he held the seat until his retirement at the 1992 General Election.

Apart from his special promotion of Natural Medicine and a contribution to the restoration of British-German relations, he applied himself to the promotion of wider share ownership and was an early advocate of privatising our State industries to spread their ownership in a real capital owning democracy.

His principal contribution to the political agenda was his relentless campaign, well ahead of his time, to promote renewable and more efficient energy production and its less wasteful use. A voice in the wilderness in the 1970s, his advocacy has now come to the forefront of public policies and debate.

Married to his wife Hilary for 50 years, with four children and numerous grandchildren, Peter spends most of his time now in the South of France, tending his vegetable patch and taking Rex, the Irish Terrier for long walks.

*"When in Parliament together I always looked to Peter Rost - as readers of this book now can - for a brisk, clear and honest account. In a world of posturing and sanctimonious politicians, Peter has been a breath of fresh air."*

**Matthew Parris**