A Political History of GDP

# PHILIPP LEPENIES

TRANSLATED BY JEREMY GAINES

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS | NEW YORK

## **CONTENTS**

#### Introduction ix

### 1. WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: A SHORT PRIMER ON GDP 1

2. WILLIAM PETTY AND POLITICAL ARITHMETIC: THE ORIGINS OF GDP 9

3. THE FRUSTRATIONS OF COLIN CLARK: ENGLAND 31

4. SIMON KUZNETS AND THE POLITICS OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT: THE UNITED STATES 57

5. WAR, KIDNAPPING, AND DATA THEFT: GERMANY 97

6. THE ULTIMATE TRIUMPH OF GROSS
NATIONAL PRODUCT 123
CONCLUSION 147

Notes 157

Index 175