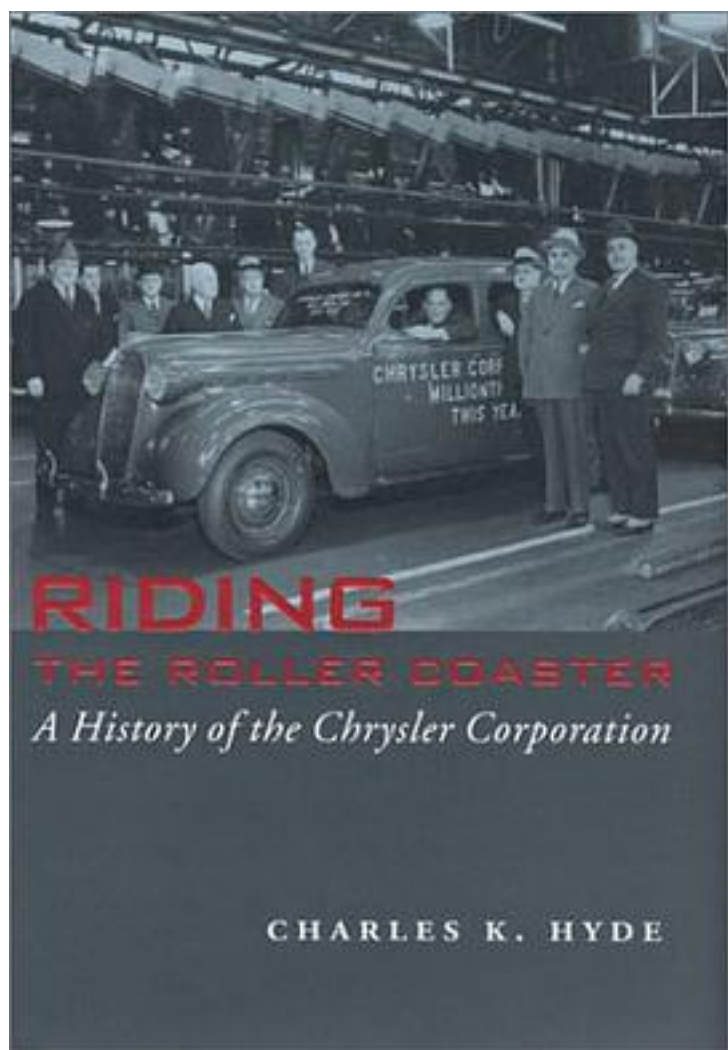


# Riding the Roller Coaster



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出版者:Wayne State Univ Pr

出版时间:2003-3

装帧:HRD

isbn:9780814330913

The first comprehensive history of the Chrysler Corporation, this book is intended for readers interested in the history of automobiles and of American business, and for fans and critics of Chrysler's products. From the Chrysler Six of 1924, to the front-wheel-drive vehicles of the 70s and 80s, to the minivan, Chrysler boasts an impressive list of technological "firsts." But even though the company has catered well to a variety of consumers, it has come to the brink of financial ruin more than once in its seventy-five-year history. How Chrysler achieved monumental success and then managed colossal failure and sharp recovery is explained in *Riding the Roller Coaster*, a lively, unprecedented look at a major force in the American automobile industry since 1925. Charles Hyde tells the intriguing story behind Chrysler--its products, people, and performance over time--with particular focus on the company's management. He offers a lens through which the reader can view the U.S. auto industry from the perspective of the smallest of the automakers who, along with Ford and General Motors, make up the "Big Three." The book covers Walter P. Chrysler's life and automotive career before 1925, when he founded the Chrysler Corporation, and traces the company's history to 1998, when it merged with Daimler-Benz. Chrysler made a late entrance into the industry in 1925 when it emerged from Chalmers and Maxwell, and further grew when it absorbed Dodge Brothers and American Motors Corporation. The author follows this journey, explaining the company's leadership in automotive engineering, its styling successes and failures, its changing management, and its activities from auto racing to defense production to real estate. Throughout, the colorful personalities of its leaders--including Chrysler himself and Lee Iacocca--emerge as strong forces in the company's development, imparting a risk-taking mentality that gave the company its verve.

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