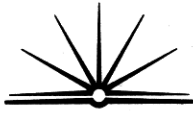


ii) The role of Albert Speer in the Nazi war effort from 1941 onwards was incalculable. He, almost single handedly, transformed an economy rife with inefficiencies and turmoil into a Nazi war machine.

In 1942, when Speer was announced as the Minister for Armaments, he immediately went about rectifying the mistakes made by ~~the~~ Goering in his management of the 4 Year Plan. Speer said that Goering's 'decisions' were based on sudden inspirations. The economy was in no fit state to conduct a war with. First and foremost, Speer believed that the central bureaucracy needed a well defined plan of attack on war. This way the economy could be adjusted accordingly. However, until the defeat of the Blitzkrieg tactics in 1942 in Russia, the German generals were convinced that they need not adopt a long term strategy.

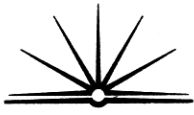


The result was a steady stream of short term orders, far too many item models and general confusion and bottlenecks in the production process. Speer, utilizing his 'great gifts for organizing' (Hitler) soon overcame these problems by designing a program inspired by the work of Walter Rathenau, the Jewish man who had managed the WWI economy.

Speer established 18 committees, each designated to deal with the production and supervision of a single item.

These groups consisted of military officers and technicians. A primary example was Porsche being in charge of tanks.

Also, Speer made sure that factories modernized their production processes and make use of the assembly-line method. He was also a staunch advocate of free enterprise in dealing with individual factories. Though he



formulate centralized supervision, he basically left businessmen to do their own thing as long as they fulfilled their quota.

The results of Speer's reorganisation was felt almost immediately. In 1943, war production had doubled, and at its peak, production tripled in 1944. Initially, in 1941, Germany was producing an atrocious amount of munitions; 25% of those produced in 1918. Speer changed this.

Using his supreme talents as an organiser, Speer was able to enhance the German war effort by making the economy fit for battle.