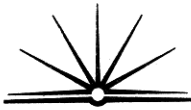


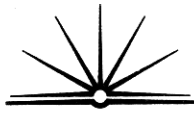
(ii) Speer played a major role in the Nazi war effort, and was hugely successful as minister for armaments and munitions.

After many architectural commissions until 1941, Speer was promoted to minister of armaments and munitions on 8 February 1942. Before Speer came to power, the situation of war production was ineffective. This was due to the former minister Fritz Todt, who was unable to produce the increasing capacity of armaments and munitions necessary for the



war effort. On much part, this was result of the role of the representatives of the Armed Forces, who had an inbuilt prejudice to mass production. As a result, ~~B~~ Todt's weapons were custom made and superior, but the system was very ~~and~~ ineffective.

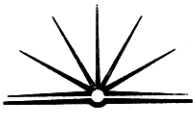
As soon as Speer came to power, he focused solely on improving the war production. Speer was extremely successful, an increased numbers of many armaments. For example the number of combat aircraft rose from 11,000 in 1942 to 38,000 by 1944, to counter bombings from the enemy. The number of tanks produced increased from 2,800 in 1942 to 17,300 by 1944, and Speer produced six times the ~~than~~ amount of ammunition than Todt had. Speer ~~great~~ created enough equipment to support 225 infantry divisions, and there were only 150. Hitler was so impressed by Speer's success that, in July



1943, promoted him to "Reich Minister for Armaments and War Production" - making Speer the second most powerful man in Germany.

Speer was so successful because he immediately focused on increasing production. Speer initially only had a workforce of 2.7 million, but through the use of Germans and imported slave labour, increased this to 14 million by 1944.

Speer was also so achieving because he built up around himself a very efficient system to oversee ~~at~~ the industry. Where Todt had had 3 main committees, Speer had 13. At any one time there were 40 key chairmen who would report personally to Speer, allowing ~~to~~ him to intervene ~~at once~~ immediately if necessary.



Speer's role in the Nazi war effort from 1941 was of great significance. Speer was extremely successful in increasing armaments production and stabilising the German war economy. Speer's success came from his great leadership skills, by organising around him an effective system to watch over the industry.