



In 1941 Albert Speer became involved in the Nazi war effort with the title of "minister for armaments and munitions".

In 1942 however, his power greatly increased with his title being expanded to "minister for armaments and war-production".

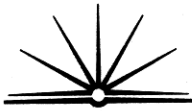
With this power came responsibility for the production of factories and labour.

Under Speer's control production of equipment for the German war effort increased significantly to the point that Speer himself believed that if it had not been for him the war would have been lost in 1942-43. However, this increase of

production came at a great human cost.

Speer though was solely concerned with the ways in which he could produce more and rarely did he question the circumstances that the ~~the~~ slave labourers were forced to work in.

There were tails of kindness on Speer's

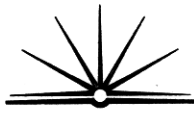


behalf, because he did recognize that for production to effectively occur workers must be in reasonable environment. These acts of kindness though were rare and more often than not labours experience excruciatingly painful conditions.

The Dora plan is an example of such cruelty. A system of underground factories that produced artillery, these factories had poor ventilation, sanitation and workers were literally worked to death.

Many of the workers in Speers factories had been imported from other countries. It was illegal to have workers in factories that were producing weapons that may be used against their own country, but nevertheless Speer continued to use such workers.

While production under his control increased significantly, Speer claimed



to be unaware of Hitler's final solution, the holocaust. Serving Hitler with unwavering support it seems unlikely that Speer had no knowledge of the extermination of Jews occurring in concentration ~~meeting~~ camps.

Many historians now believe that not only was Speer aware of the final solution but an active contributor. Speer himself however claims to have never questioned the treatment of Jews and that knew nothing of it.

Speer however, is believed to have been present at the Poser Meeting where Hitler's intentions of eradicating the Jews was expressed. Speer has also been seen as contributing to the final solution due to the harsh treatment of Jews in his factories.

In 1945 though, Speer maintained his innocence in the final solution, however,



pleaded guilty to the crimes ~~against~~ that he contributed to while serving the Nazi's. Speer had a considerable impact in the Nazi war effort. However to say that he was unaware of the importance of anything else may be argued.