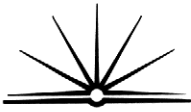
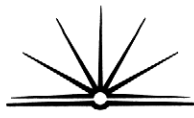


(i) Albert Speer joined the Nazi party in December 1930 as he was attracted to the renunciation of Versailles, coming from his nationalist, upper class background. Yet, he claimed to care little for ideology. As an architect, his plans to open his own private practice was thwarted by the Great Depression. He moved to Berlin and joined the NSKK (Motorists' Association of the National Socialist Party). This opened up unexpected opportunities for Speer as he came under the direction of district leader, Karl Hanke. When Hanke was promoted to position of secretary to Josef Goebbels' Speer was given the task of redecorating the Ministry of Propaganda. In 1933 he collaborated with Nazi architect Paul Ludwig Troost to refurbish the Chancellery building. It was at this time that Speer was

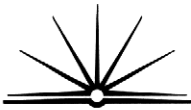


noticed by Hitler. Recognising a "young, unmarried architect who could carry the party's ideology and his own architectural ideas past his lifetime", ~~Hitler~~ Speer soon became part of Hitler's inner circle.

It was the death of Troost that elevated Speer's career as he became Hitler's official architect. Of significant importance was Speer's design of the Nuremberg Rally site. It was the first major construction undertaken by Speer and also one which highlights the importance of Speer's architecture as Nazi propaganda. The aim of the rally site was to foster a sense of nationalism and unity to convey the Nazi ideal of the Volksgemeinschaft. Also, the militaristic aspirations of the



party were highlighted in the designs and helped prepare Germany for war. The design and construction of 'Germania' also had propaganda purposes and the use of stone conveyed the image of the 'Thousand Year Reich', yet the construction also gave Speer greater responsibilities. He headed the 'Resettlement Division' which saw the removal of Berlin's Jews from the city. Thus, Speer's architecture became intertwined with Nazi racial policy despite Speer's claim that he did not care for Nazi ideology. The organisational triumph of the construction of the new Chancellery building in 1938 advanced Speer's position in the Nazi party, and he was no longer simply considered as an architect, but as a Nazi member

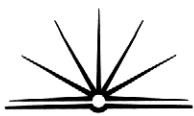


capable of great leadership.

Following the death of Fritz Todt in 1942, Speer became minister for Armaments. His organisational skill was highlighted in his ability to increase war production significantly. He remained loyal to Hitler despite confirming Todt's assessment that the war was lost in 1942. However, he did oppose Hitler's 'fanatical' scorched earth policy in 1945, in an attempt to preserve the industrial empire he had created.

(b) (ii)

Joachim Fest describes Speer as a "technocrat", an image Speer himself asserted in his autobiography published after his release from Spandau Prison. It was an image that was seemingly supported by



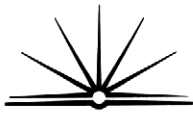
his achievements as Minister of Armaments.

Speer's sole objective was to create an efficient Nazi war machine. When he received the position in 1942, Germany's industry was corrupt, haphazard and chaotic. Speer immediately decreed that each factory was to produce only one weapon and that only industry experts were in charge. He cut through the rivalry of the armed forces by coordinating the armaments production for the army, navy and airforce.

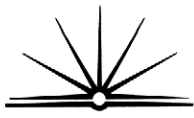
His success was evident in the first 6 months following his appointment. Tank production increased by 25% and ~~the~~ ammunition 97%.

These figures continued increasing and by 1943 ~~overall~~ armaments production had increased by 130%.

Speer proved to be a valuable commodity to the Nazi war effort.



The implementation of total war in 1943 brought Speer in greater contact with the Nazi party's ideology. To Speer, total war meant subordinating all for the wartime economy so that production could increase allowing ~~the~~ military objectives to be reached. This included the employment of women in the workforce. Hitler rejected this idea based on his view of German women as "future mothers to the superior (Aryan) race." Speer claimed that Hitler undermined ~~the~~ the war effort by clinging to ideology, yet during the war 50% of women returned to the workforce and they consisted of 47% of the workforce. Speer also utilised slave labour to maximise war production. This led historian Hugh Trevor Roper to describe him as



the "real criminal of Nazi Germany", yet Test claims that this "amorality" was necessary to ensure Speer's successful contribution to the Nazi war effort.

Indeed, Speer, it could be said, "was unaware of the importance" of anything other than the German war effort.

When he visited Mauthausen concentration camp in March 1943 he commented on the "wasteful" use of construction material for prisoners' shelter. On a later tour of Camp Dora he was shocked by the appalling living conditions and high death rate because of the effect that would have on efficient production. Speer stayed true to his "amoral technocrat" description.

Yet of his denial of having knowledge of the 'Final Solution' that is debated.



As part of the German war effort, racial policy was implemented to "remove the Jewish thread" from Germany and occupied Europe. Citta Sereny claims that ~~he could~~ "there was no way" ~~to~~ ~~conclude~~ that he was unaware of the plan. Historian Van der Vord points to the evidence provided by the Walters' Chronicle to indicate Speer had direct involvement in evicting 75,000 Jewish tenants from Berlin and was thus involved in the Nazi racial policy. Yet, it cannot be proved whether this was another example of efficiency his organisational efficiency and determination to carry out Hitler's wishes effectively, or a genuine reaction to his own ideological beliefs. Either way, Speer was ruthlessly efficient in contributing to the German war effort and was a considerably valued Nazi leader.