

(a) Albert Speer was born in 1905 and at school excelled in maths. It was not surprising then when he chose ~~to~~ a career in architecture and in 1925, studying under Professor Tessershow, ~~at~~ he became a student at the University of Berlin. In 1927 he ~~to~~ received his architectural licence & became an assistant of Tessershow. However, it was the year of 1930 which was to change Speer's life forever.

In 1930, Speer was invited to a Nazi student rally ~~to~~ at which Hitler was speaking. Speer claims he was in such awe of Hitler, ~~after the meeting~~ his charisma & magnetic personality. In 1931, he became a member of the Nazi party & in 1932, he became head of his district in the Nazi Party Motorist Associations under his boss, Hinke. It was Hinke ~~which~~ who proposed the

idea of allowing Speer to redesign
Goebbels Ministry of Propaganda and
in 1933, Speer was asked to do the
decorations for the Nuremberg Rally
& the May Day Rally. In 1934, ~~to~~ with
Hitler's first architect, Troost, Speer was
invited to refurbish & design the new
chancellery for Hitler and it was at
this time where Hitler and Speer met
for the first time. It might have been the
fact that "Hitler saw in the architect...
an unconsciously idealised self-image" (Kershaw)
or it might have been Speer's talent & appeal
but when Troost died, in ~~1934~~ ¹⁹³⁵, Speer was
elected First Architect of the Third Reich.

He was asked to again do the Nuremberg
Rally where Speer created an amazing
effect of having 2400 searchlights being
carried into the darkness. He ~~at~~ was
also asked to redesign the bleachers

at the Zeppelin Field and it was here
~~there~~ that he put forward the 'theory
of ruin value', ~~is, the theory of~~

In 1937, Hitler asked Speer to design
Germania, the ~~new~~ 'new Berlin' which
was to ~~be~~ give an almighty &
powerful feeling. However, this ~~the~~
involved the resettlement of 50000
apartment blocks, 23000 of them
being Jewish. It was the first time
Speer was involved in the Nazis anti-
semitic policies.

Although, in 1938, Speer was asked to
again redesign Hitler's chancellery,
work halted at the start of WWII.
Speer, from 1939-1942, was put in
charge of the building coordination
of the army, airforce & navy, however,
in 1942, with the death of the Ammements

Minister, Speer became Minister for
Armaments & Munitions. It was at
this stage of his life that Speer
found himself fully & utterly involved
with the Nazi Party, ~~and it was also~~
~~the time which~~

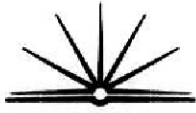
Speer reorganised war production &
by 1943, the output/worker increased
by 60%. Tanks, artillery & gun
productivity rose 25%, 97% & 28% respectively
& with the Zentral Planung, he coordinated
the production of all three sections of the
army. It ~~was~~ was here, Speer became a household name.

At the Nuremberg trials, he pleaded his
case which saw him receive 20 yrs in
jail & Speer was the only Nazi official
to not receive the death penalty.

(b) History can never be interpreted completely objectively. Too many factors are taken into consideration which see the subjective point of view of someone be taken into account. Speer, however, does have many different 'sides' which can be taken into account when studying him. ~~The~~

The question of whether Speer was a 'penitent Nazi' or 'Hitler's willing servant' will forever be debated with no one answer being resolved. There are many arguments for and against which prove both theories.

Architecture and Speer ~~is~~ are inseparable, in that, it was due to his ability as an architect, that Speer met Hitler in the first place and it was Hitler which allowed Speer to have immense glory for



his architectural skills. ~~He was~~ Speer has been recorded saying "For the commission to do a great building, I would have sold my soul." This certainly proves the theory of him being Hitler's willing servant however, it was ~~pe~~ almost purposely done by Speer to achieve fame & glory rather than him wanting to please Hitler for the good of the Nazi party.

Speer was purely into self-aggrandisement and this is seen with Germania. Speer was willing to ~~g~~ partake in the anti-semitic policies if it meant he could achieve & build this wonderful ~~new~~ city. It wasn't that he necessarily agreed with the policies, rather, he wanted the fame.

Whether or not Speer knew about the

Final Solution is another controversial topic. ~~this~~ This debate has been ^{one of the} ~~the~~ most confusing when defining whether he was a penitent Nazi or a willing servant. At his prosecution, Speer claimed, 'I knew about the Nazi's anti-semitic policies & I knew that Jews were being evacuated from Germany.' By declaring this, and also declaring he tried to kill Hitler when Hitler announced the Scorching Earth Policy, saw Speer receive much respect for identifying his wrongs & trying to solve them.

Later years & more information however show another side. Golshagen produced a transcript which mentioned Speer at a meeting where Himmler discussed the Final Solution, and the Walter Chronicles, ~~is~~ a diary of Speer's daily activities

between 1939-1944, ~~sets~~ were realised to have been tampered with, leaving out those parts which reflected badly on Speer. Whether Speer knew about this ~~was~~ is still uncertain. His visit to Dnepropetrovsk in 1941, a mere month after the killing of 1000's of Jews, means he must have known about the final solution. "I did not ask questions ... for I did not want to know what was happening there [Auschwitz] (Speer). It has been said "he lived in a world between knowing and not knowing" (Severyn)

However, his expertise in organisational skills in terms of war productions allows the brilliance of Speer to be seen.

"If it wasn't for Speer, Hitler would not have had the power to stage his fight until the finish" (Bullock)

However, the figures of the increase in war production were in fact written by Speer himself and his use of POW's & foreign labourers again hinder his innocence.

History does present two sides to Speer, however I think it is not that history is not giving us ~~it~~ innocent interpretations of Speer, rather he was ~~it~~ more guilty than he was charged.