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2). Albert Speer was an intelligent, artistic student who was studying architecture. It was at an art meeting in which Hitler addressed that he said he was, "captivated by the magic of his words." Following this meeting, Speer joined the Nazi Party. Due to his wealth, Speer started off as a taxi driver, for the party. One of the only members with a car, Speer drove Nazi officials around getting to know each one quite well.

Performing minor architect work, for example renovating Henke's house, it wasn't long before Speer became ~~a~~ well known as the young architect.

His first proper job came from Goebbels where he was asked to design ~~a few~~ rallies at Nuremberg ~~+~~ + May Day rallies.

He designed a Cathedral of light + amazed the public along with Hitler. At the Paris

World exhibition, Speer designed ~~an~~ a large eagle holding a wreathed Swastika. This won first place along with the impressed Führer.

With the death of ~~Friedrich Traut~~ Hitler's favourite architect, Speer was asked to perform his first major job for the Führer.

Rebuilding the chancellery, within a time limit of 12 months. Starting ~~an~~ in February 1937, Speer managed to complete it by 1938, proving to Hitler his great organisational skills.

Hitler + Speer developed a close friendship as they consistently worked together in the creation of a new capital, transforming Berlin into Germania.

~~Basically, allowed~~ Given full permission by the Führer to do whatever he pleased, Speer began work on Germania. In order to make space, Speer had to demolish 52000 flat, 32000 of which were owned by Jews.



This was seen as the beginning of the journey for the Jewish which ended in extermination camps.

Speer was denied ability to use women for work so instead looked toward ~~for~~ slave labour as he needed all the help he could get with his new role of Armaments minister, following the death of Goebbels.

As armaments minister in 1942 + later Minister of armaments + munitions, Speer increased the production rate significantly, contributing so highly to the war effort that it was believed, "because of Speer Germany was able to continue the war for an extra two years."

~~Speer was one of the~~

Speer was allowed to see Hitler directly, whenever he liked. They formed a close friendship + Speer believed that, "if Hitler had any friends, I was one of them!" Due to his illness,

Speer spent time away from Hitler + upon returning, witnessed the extreme danger Germany was in. Speer was certain that Germany was to lose the war in a matter of days.

Hitler explained to his friend his ideas of a 'scorched earth policy'. Disgusted with the thought, Speer set out to stop these intentions. It was the actions that followed that enabled Speer to miss the death penalty at the Nuremberg trials. Speer tried to maintain as many bridges, roads, etc, enabling ~~the~~ a future for the German people. This proved that Speer was working more for ~~the~~ Germany than the Nazi party.

The events that followed German defeat have been debated in history for many years. The Nuremberg failed to punish Speer in the same manner as his colleagues.

There are many debates around the issue, but for Speer, he saw himself as the penitent Nazi. Before dying, he called a journalist + said, "I have worked for the Führer, been imprisoned for 20 years + written a book, I think I've done just fine."



b). Albert Speer is an important historical personality as his innocence has been topic of many historical debates. Some people see him as, 'the Good Nazi' whereas others see him as a manipulator + fake. History has presented us with a balanced interpretation of Speer, but has left it up to we historians to decide what we feel is truth.

At the Nuremberg Trials, Speer was the only Nazi to show any remorse for what had happened. He explained that he had no idea of the final solution but was willing to accept blame.

Being such a good friend of Hitler's, it is questioned as to why he would not know of the plans.

Facts were brought up at the trials such as, during a meeting, Speer addressed the ~~crowd~~ Nazi crowd followed by Himmler. Himmler's

speech was explaining the answer to the Jewish problem, and the extermination plans. In response to this, Speer explained that he was too busy to stay around + left for lunch before Himmler spoke.

Speer was trying to explain ~~to us that~~ during the trials, that although all these things were happening around him, he was too much in his work to realise. This ~~is~~ idea can be supported as it is well known how dedicated to his work he was. However, not everything he said adds up. For example, Speer ~~explain~~ cleared many flats whilst building the chancellery + Germania. Within these flats lived Jewish people. Speer ordered the clearing + deportation of the residence without notification to the Jews. Also during fierce fighting, Speer removed Jewish families + put them in camps in order to house shelter Aryan individuals whose houses had



been bombed. This information however was not present during the Nuremberg trials.

Speer asked Hitler for female workers to help in the production of munitions. As this was against the Nazi regime, Speer had to look elsewhere for workers. Speer got Sauckel to organise slave labour from the prisoners ~~of~~ in camps + defeated countries to help with work. To defend this, Speer argues that he simply asked for more workers + did not know where they came from.

In response to the Final Solution of the Jews, Speer explains that nobody informed him as it was not in his line of work. This seems strange as Speer was well involved in the Nazi party + had a close relationship to the Führer.

On studying this personality, we are provided



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with factual information + evidence on ~~how~~ Speer the events of Speer's life + work.

It is the way in which we use this information in deciding for ourselves what whether we believe ~~of~~ him. There is a balance in the interpretation of arguments, for example there is an even amount of people who believe he is the 'good Nazi', + the same for those who believe he is lying.

The extent of a balanced interpretation is not extreme as we still do question the reliability of this personality. However, through study + opinion, we are able to decipher for ourselves what we believe the true outcome of this personality is.