

NAZI

WAR CRIMINALS

Compiled and edited by

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Part One

Nazi War Criminals - General

Adolf Hitler (20 Apr 1889 - 30 Apr 1945)

Austrian-born German politician and the leader of the National Socialist German Workers Party (German: *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei*, abbreviated NSDAP), commonly known as the Nazi Party.

Hitler was Chancellor of Germany from 1933 to 1945; and from 1934, he was also the head of state as *Führer und Reichskanzler*, ruling the country as absolute dictator of Germany.

In 1939, in a speech to the *Reichstag*, Hitler said:

"If international finance Jewry in and outside Europe should succeed in thrusting the nations once again into a world war, then the result will not be the Bolshevisation of the earth and with it the victory of Jewry, but the destruction of the Jewish race in Europe."

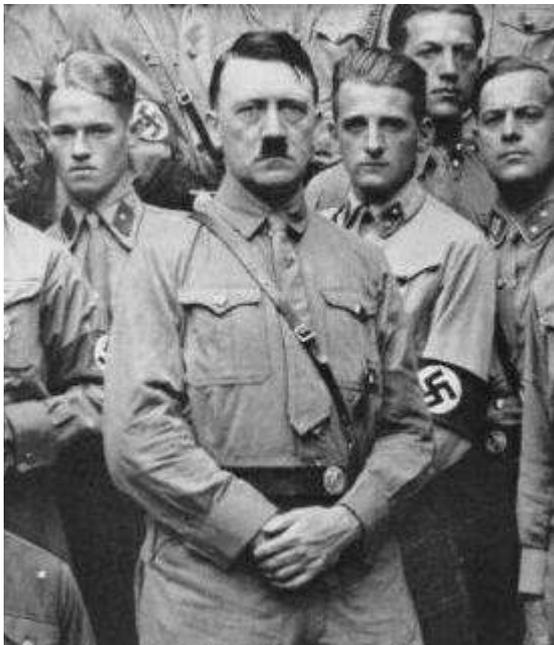
The view of most historians is that the decision to proceed with the extermination of the Jews was taken at some point in late 1941,

(Hitler committed suicide in the Berlin Bunker, 30 Apr 1945)



Hitler and Von Hindenburg

The Early days of the Party







Braun with Hitler at his Alpine retreat in the Alps near the Austrian border

These pictures are stills from a private home movie made by Eva Braun's sister, Gretl Fegelein, early to mid 1940s

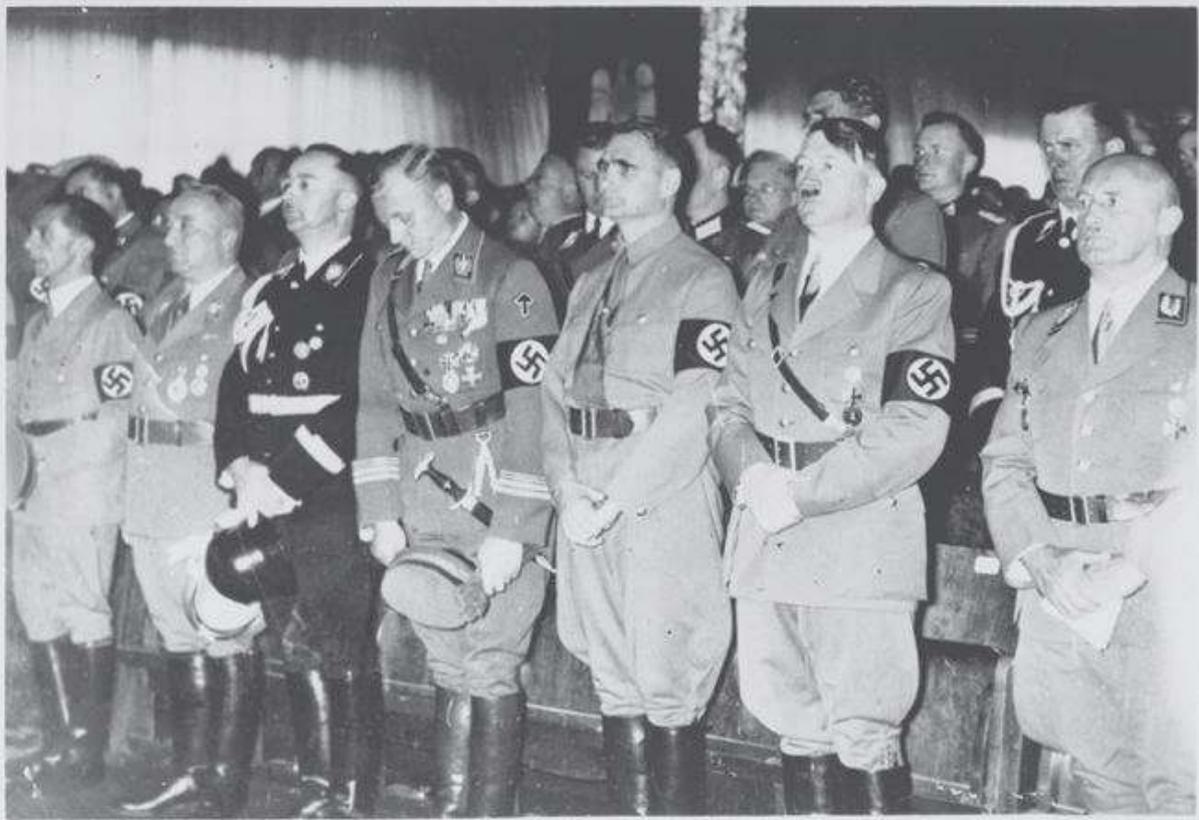




Neville Chamberlain and Adolf Hitler

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09 Jun 1938



Adolf Hitler and Nazi officials at the opening ceremonies of the Party congress in Nuremberg

Left to right: Joseph Goebbels, Robert Ley, Heinrich Himmler, Victor Lutze,
Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler and Julius Streicher

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Note - Victor Lutze - he was born in Bevergen, Germany, 28 Dec 1890.

He joined the German Army in 1912 and fought in the First World War.

After the war Lutz joined the police force. A member of the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) and the Prussian State Council he was appointed police president of Hanover in 1933.

When Ernst Roehm was murdered during the Night of the Long Knives Lutz became leader of the emasculated Sturm Abteilung (SA).

Lutze remained as police president of Hanover until he was killed, in a car crash on the autobahn, 02 May 1943.

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Karl Brandt (08 Jan 1904 - 02 Jun 1948)

Brandt headed the administration of the Nazi euthanasia program from 1939, and he was selected the personal physician of Adolf Hitler in August 1944.

As Major General Reich Commissioner for Health and Sanitation he was involved in criminal human experimentation, along with his deputy Werner Heyde and others. After World War II Brandt was convicted of crimes against humanity and executed by hanging.

Brandt was tried along with twenty-two others at the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, Germany. The trial was officially titled *United States of America v. Karl Brandt et al.*, but is more commonly referred to as the "Doctors' Trial".

The trial began on 09 December 1946, and Brandt was charged with four counts (picture right):



- 1) Conspiracy to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity as described in counts 2 and 3.

- 2) War crimes: performing medical experiments, without the subjects' consent, on prisoners of war and civilians of occupied countries, in the course of which experiments the defendants committed murders, brutalities,



- cruelities, tortures, atrocities, and other inhuman acts. Also planning and performing the mass murder of prisoners of war and civilians of occupied countries, stigmatized as aged, insane, incurably ill, deformed, and so on, by gas, lethal injections, and diverse other means in nursing homes, hospitals, and asylums during the Euthanasia Program and participating in the mass murder of concentration camp inmates.
- 3) Crimes against humanity: committing crimes described under count 2 also on German nationals.
- 4) Membership in a criminal organization, the SS. The charges against him included special responsibility for, and participation in, Freezing, Malaria, LOST Gas, Sulfanilamide, Bone, Muscle and Nerve Regeneration and Bone Transplantation, Sea-Water, Epidemic Jaundice, Sterilization, and Typhus Experiments.

On 19 August 1947 a judgment of guilty on counts 2, 3, and 4 was given.

Brandt and six others were sentenced to death by hanging (carried out at Landsberg Prison, 02 Jun 1948), nine were given prison terms of fifteen years to life, and seven were found not guilty.

(Brandt was executed, 02 Jun 1948, Landsberg Prison)



Adolf Hitler and Herman Goering at Karl Brandt's wedding



Brandt and Hitler

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Adolf Eichmann (19 Mar 1906 - 31 May 1962)

Adolf Eichmann, "The architect of the Holocaust", was a German Nazi and *SS-Obersturmbannführer* (equivalent to Lieutenant Colonel).

He was head of the Department for Jewish Affairs in the Gestapo from 1941 to 1945 and was chief of operations in the deportation of three million Jews to extermination camps.

By 1935 Eichmann was already working in the Jewish section, where he was investigating possible "solutions to the Jewish question." He was even sent to Palestine to discuss the viability of large scale immigration to the Middle East with Arab leaders. However, British authorities forced him to leave.

Because of his organizational talents and ideological reliability, he was charged by *Obergruppenführer* (General) Reinhard Heydrich with the task of facilitating and managing the logistics of mass deportation of Jews to ghettos and extermination camps in German-occupied Eastern Europe.

Adolf Eichmann oversaw the maltreatment, deportation to concentration camps, and murder especially by the use of gas chambers of millions of Jews; and Eichmann's efficient organization rounded up and transported millions to their deaths at camps such as Auschwitz, Chelmno, Treblinka, Sobibor, and Belsec.

With the takeover of Austria in March 1938, Eichmann was sent to Vienna to promote Jewish emigration. He set up the *Zentralstelle fuer juedische Auswanderung* [Center for Jewish Emigration], which was so successful that similar offices were soon established in Prague and Berlin.

In 1939 Eichmann returned to Berlin, where he assumed the directorship of Section IV B4, Jewish affairs and evacuation, in the Reich Security Main Office.

It was Eichmann who organized the Wannsee Conference of January 1942, which focused on issues related to the "final solution of the Jewish question." From this point Eichmann assumed the leading role in the deportation of European Jews to the death camps, as well as in the plunder of their property.

But only in Budapest after March 1944 did Eichmann become a public personality, working in the open and playing a leading role in the massacre of Hungarian Jewry.

In August 1944 Eichmann could report to Himmler that approximately four million Jews had died in the death camps, and that another two million had been killed by mobile extermination units.

At the end of the War II, Eichmann was captured by the U.S. Army, who did not know who he really was.

Early in 1946, Eichman escaped from U.S. custody and hid in Altensalzkoth, an obscure hamlet on the Lüneburg Heath, for a few years. In 1948 he obtained a landing permit for Argentina, but only went there in 1950.



During the 1950s, many Jews, and other victims of the Holocaust, sought for Eichmann and other notorious Nazis. Among them was the Jewish Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal. In 1954, Wiesenthal received a postcard from an associate living in Buenos Aires, saying that Eichmann was in Argentina.

With this and other information collected by Wiesenthal, Israel had solid leads about Eichmann's whereabouts. However, Isser Harel, the head of the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad, later claimed in an unpublished manuscript that Wiesenthal *"had no role whatsoever in Eichmann's apprehension, but in fact had endangered the entire Eichmann operation and aborted the planned capture of Auschwitz doctor Josef Mengele."*

Adolf Eichmann changed his name, but never changed those of his wife and four children. It was this that led to his final capture by the Israeli secret services.

(Eichmann was executed, 31 May 1962, Ramleh Prison, Israel)

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Editor's note: Adolf Eichmann appears to have led an invisible life/career, and it is interesting that there are very few photos of Eichmann from the Nazi/Holocaust period; and there are no photos in which both Hitler and Eichmann appear.

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Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels (29 Oct 1897 - 01 May 1945)

Goebbels was a German politician and Reich Minister of Propaganda in Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945.

As one of Adolf Hitler's closest associates and most devout followers, he was known for his zealous oratory and anti-Semitism.

He was the chief architect of the Kristallnacht attack on the German Jews, which many historians consider to be the beginning of the "Final Solution", leading towards the genocide of the Holocaust.

The hegemonic ambitions of the Propaganda Ministry were shown by the divisions Goebbels established: press, radio, film, theater, music, literature, and publishing.

In each of these, a *Reichskammer* (*Reich Chamber*) was established, co-opting leading figures from the field (usually not known Nazis) to head each Chamber, and requiring them to supervise the purge of Jews, socialists and liberals, as well as practitioners of "degenerate" art forms such as abstract art and atonal music.

The respected composer Richard Strauss, for example, became head of the *Reich Music Chamber*.

Goebbels' orders were backed by the threat of force. Consequently, many prominent Jews in the arts and the mass media emigrated in large numbers rather than risk the fists of the SA and the gates of the concentration camp, as did many socialists and liberals.

(Goebbels committed suicide in the Berlin Bunker, 01 May 1945)



The Goebbels Family

Picture below was taken in 1933



Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-02306A
Foto: o. Ang. | 22. Januar 1933



Goebbels, Leni Riefenstahl, and Hitler

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Reinhard Heydrich (7 Mar 1904 - 04 Jun 1942)

Heydrich was SS-Obergruppenführer (General) and General der Polizei, chief of the Reich Main Security Office (including the SD, Gestapo and Kripo) and Stellvertretender Reichsprotektor (Deputy Reich-Protector) of Bohemia and Moravia.

In August 1940, he was appointed and served as President of Interpol (the international law enforcement agency).

Heydrich chaired the 1942 Wannsee Conference, which discussed plans for the deportation and extermination of all Jews in German-occupied territory.

Heydrich had earned a reputation for ruthlessness and brutality that eclipsed even Hitler's.

As chief of all police forces, Himmler was technically responsible to Wilhelm Frick, the minister of the Interior, but in practice answered only to Hitler. Himmler's police forces were independent and they obeyed no government laws. Rather than protecting the citizens of the Reich, the role of the police had become that of protecting the Reich from its citizens. Heydrich's ruthless efficiency in this department earned him the nicknames "the blonde beast" and "Himmler's evil genius".

Heydrich and Himmler had an odd but practical working relationship. Although Himmler was the boss, Heydrich was the true force behind the SD and Gestapo. While they personally disliked each other, the two men formed a solid partnership and became a force to be reckoned within the Party. Their thirst for power took them beyond the periphery of the SD and SS.

Heydrich was attacked in Prague by British-trained Czech agents on 27 May 1942, who had been sent to assassinate him. Heydrich's car had a bomb thrown at it.

He died on 04 June, not of his wounds, but from gangrene.

(Assassination - Heydrich was attacked in Prague, 27 May 1942, and died 04 Jun 1942)



Right - Heydrich and Himmler





SS-Gruppenführer Heydrich (center) in Oslo, Norway, Sep 1941



Heydrich (left) and Karl Hermann Frank, c. 1942



The car in which Heydrich was mortally wounded showing the tank grenade damage

Editor's note: It is interesting that that there are very few photos of Heydrich from the Nazi/Holocaust period; and there are even less photos in which both Hitler and Heydrich appear.

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Heinrich Himmler (07 Oct 1900 - 23 May 1945)

Himmler was Reichsführer of the SS, a military commander, and a leading member of the Nazi Party.

As Chief of the German Police and later the Minister of the Interior, Himmler oversaw all internal and external police and security forces, including the Gestapo.

As head of the SS, Himmler had ultimate responsibility of internal security in Nazi Germany (as demonstrated in the Night of the Long Knives), and he was associated with helping to organise the Final Solution through Reinhard Heydrich and thus had had a major input into the organisation of the Holocaust.

Himmler was in charge of Germany's concentration camps (in 1933 he set up the first camp at Dachau) and Eastern Europe's death camps. It was Himmler who made sure that the 'cattle' trains ran on time and that each camp was run on solid "business lines" so that they paid for themselves and, where possible, made profits.



In contrast to Hitler, Himmler inspected concentration camps; and as a result of these inspections, the Nazis searched for a new and more expedient way to kill, which culminated in the use of the gas chambers.

Himmler wanted to breed a master race of Nordic Aryans in Germany. His experience as a chicken farmer had taught him the rudiments of animal breeding which he proposed to apply to humans. He believed that he could engineer the German populace, through eugenic selective breeding, to be entirely "Nordic" in appearance within several decades of the end of the war.

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Heydrich and Himmler had an odd but practical working relationship. Although Himmler was the boss, Heydrich was the true force behind the SD and Gestapo. While they personally disliked each other, the two men formed a solid partnership and became a force to be reckoned within the Party. Their thirst for power took them beyond the periphery of the SD and SS.

Himmler allegedly committed suicide during his interrogation by the British on 23 May 1945. He used a cyanide capsule that he had kept hidden in his mouth while eating a sandwich.

Himmler's daughter claimed that that her father had not committed suicide.



(Himmler committed suicide, 23 May 1945)



Himmler presents a painting to Hitler, as a birthday gift, April 1939

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Dr Josef Mengele (16 Mar 1911 - 7 Feb 1979)

German SS officer and a physician in the Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Mengele gained infamy for being one of the SS physicians who supervised the selection of arriving transports of prisoners, determining who was to be killed, and who was to become a forced labourer. He also performed experiments on camp inmates, which earned him the appellation, "Angel of Death".

Mengele evaded capture and died of natural causes in 1979.

(Mengele died 07 Feb 1979, almost 68 years of age, of a stroke while swimming in the sea at Brazil)



Dr Josef Mengele, Rudolf Hoess (1st Commandant at Auschwitz, 01 May 1940 - 01 Dec 1943), and Josef Kramer (in charge of the gas chambers at the Auschwitz, May 1944 - Dec 1944)

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Part Two

Nazi War Criminals - Nuremberg

The first of the Nuremberg trials was the trial of the Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal (IMT), which tried 22 of the most important captured leaders of Nazi Germany. This trial was held from 20 Nov 1945 to 01 Oct 1946.

The prosecution divided the indictment against the accused into four counts, and which would be proved by the presented evidence:

- Count 1: Conspiracy to Wage Aggressive War - prosecuted by the United States.
- Count 2: Crimes against Peace - prosecuted by Great Britain.
- Count 3: War Crimes - prosecuted jointly by USSR and France.
- Count 4: Crimes against Humanity - prosecuted jointly by USSR and France.



The Defendants at Nuremberg

Front row, from left to right: Hermann Göring, Rudolf Hess, Joachim von Ribbentrop, Wilhelm Keitel, Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Alfred Rosenberg, Hans Frank, Wilhelm Frick, Julius Streicher, Walther Funk, Hjalmar Schacht.

Back row from left to right: Karl Dönitz, Erich Raeder, Baldur von Schirach, Fritz Sauckel, Alfred Jodl, Franz von Papen, Arthur Seyss-Inquart, Albert Speer, Konstantin van Neurath, Hans Fritzsche.

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Martin Bormann (17 Jun 1900 - 01 May 1945)

Bormann became head of the Nazi Party Chancellery (*Parteikanzlei*), and was the private secretary to Adolf Hitler.

Over time, Bormann gained Hitler's trust, and he developed immense power within the Third Reich by controlling access to the Führer, and by regulating the interaction of those closest to him.

Tried in Absentia and Found Guilty of Nuremburg Indictments: 3 and 4

Bormann was missing at the time of the Nuremburg trials; however, he was tried in absentia, and was given the death sentence.

It was later discovered that Bormann had died on 01 May 1945 in an attempt to flee Berlin.

Bormann's Death

After Hitler had committed suicide, Bormann, in the company of Ludwig Stumpfegger (Hitler's personal surgeon from 1944), and Artur Axmann (Nazi leader of the Hitler Youth (*Reichsjugendführer*) from 1940 to the end of the war in 1945), had fled the bunker in an attempt to break out of Berlin.



Picture below - Ribbentrop, Hitler, and Bormann (noted by red arrow)

Eventually they were walking along railway tracks to Lehrter station; and at this point, Axmann decided to go alone in the opposite direction of Bormann, and Stumpfegger.

After encountering a Red Army patrol, Axmann doubled back and found the bodies of Bormann and Stumpfegger near the railway switching yard with "moonlight clearly illuminating their faces".

He did not check the bodies, so he did not know how they had died. Axmann testified to this at his later Nuremberg de-Nazification trial.



In 1965, a retired postal worker, Albert Krumnow, stated that around 08 May 1945 the Soviets had ordered him and his colleagues to bury two bodies found near the railway bridge near Lehrter station. One was "a member of the Wehrmacht" and the other was "an SS doctor"

The hunt for Bormann lasted 26 years without success, with international investigators and journalists searching for Bormann from Paraguay to Moscow, and from Norway to Egypt.



Picture - Keitel, Goering, Hitler, and Bormann

Then in December 1972, during construction work near the Lehrter Station (near to where Bormann's diary had been found in a discarded leather jacket in 1945, and close to the spot where Axmann said he had seen Bormann's body in the moonlight of 01 May 1945) two skeletons were unearthed.

After extensive forensic examination, using the dental records of Bormann's dentist (Hugo Blaschke, who was also Hitler's dentist), the shorter of the two skeletons was identified as that of Bormann, Consequently, the West German authorities officially declared him as dead.

Nevertheless, the controversy continued regarding the identity of Bormann's skeleton. Then, in 1998 the German authorities ordered a genetic test on Bormann's skull using DNA from a relative of Bormann.

The test positively identified the skull as that of Bormann. And later, Bormann's remains were cremated and Bormann's son scattered the ashes in the Baltic Sea.

(Bormann died, 01 May 1945, in an attempt to flee Berlin)

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Karl Donitz (16 Sep 1891 - 24 Dec 1980)

Donitz was a German naval Commander who served in the Imperial German Navy during World War I, and commanded the German submarine fleet during World War II. Eventually he was given control of the entire German Navy (*Kriegsmarine*).

As head of U-boats from 1939, Donitz came close to defeating Britain in the Atlantic.

He succeeded Hitler as Reich president in April 1945.

At the Nuremburg trials, Dönitz's war crimes were cited as:

- Waging unrestricted submarine warfare against neutral shipping.
- Permitting Hitler's Commando Order (a secret order issued by Adolf Hitler stating that all Allied commandos, encountered by German forces in Europe and Africa, should be killed immediately, even if in uniform or if they attempt to surrender) issued on 18 October 1942 to remain in full force when he became commander-in-chief of the Navy, and to that extent he was responsible for that crime. Donitz's defence had been that the Order excluded men captured in naval warfare, and that the order had not been acted upon by any men under his command.
- That he knew that 12,000 involuntary foreign workers were working in the shipyards as additional labour and did nothing to stop it.
- That in 1945 Hitler asked Donitz whether the Geneva Convention should be denounced. Hitler's motives were twofold: 1) that reprisals could be taken against Western Allied prisoners of war (as was suggested by several leading Nazis after the Bombing of Dresden in February 1945), and 2) it would deter German forces from surrendering to the Western Allies (as was happening on the Eastern front where the Geneva Convention was in abeyance). Instead of arguing that they should never be denounced, Donitz suggested that it was not currently expedient to do so. The court found against him on this issue; however, as the Convention was not denounced by Germany, and British prisoners in camps under the jurisdiction of Donitz were treated strictly according to the Convention, the Court considered this a mitigating circumstance.



Moreover, at the Trials, Donitz was convicted of waging aggressive war and of breaking the laws of war; but not of war crimes; or for unrestricted submarine warfare, in consequence of US Fleet-Admiral Nimitz admitting that he used the same tactics.

Found Guilty of Nuremburg Indictments: 2 and 3

Dönitz was found guilty and was imprisoned for 10 years in Spandau Prison. He was released on 1 October 1956, and he retired to the small village of Aumühle in Schleswig-Holstein in northern West Germany.

(Dönitz died at Aumühle of a heart attack, 24 Dec 1980)

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Hans Frank (23 May 1900 - 16 Oct 1946)

Governor-general of Nazi-occupied Poland. also known as the "Jew butcher of Cracow".

During the trial he renewed the faith of his childhood, Roman Catholicism, and claimed to have a series of religious experiences.

Frank voluntarily surrendered 43 volumes of his personal diaries to the Allies, which were then used against him as evidence of his guilt.

Frank confessed to some of the charges put against him and viewed his own execution as a form of atonement for his sins.

Although on the witness stand he expressed remorse, during the trial, he vacillated between penitence for his crimes and blaming the Allies, especially the Soviets, for an equal share of wartime atrocities.



"Don't let anybody tell you that they had no idea. Everybody sensed there was something horribly wrong with the system." (29 Nov 1945)

"Hitler has disgraced Germany for all time! He betrayed and disgraced the people that loved him! ...I will be the first to admit my guilt." (17 Apr 1946)

Found Guilty of Nuremburg Indictments: 3 and 4

(Frank was executed by hanging, 16 Oct 1946)





Picture - Hitler and Frank

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Wilhelm Frick (12 Mar 1877 - 16 Oct 1946)

Minister of the Interior.

Frick was tried before the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, where he was the only defendant besides Rudolf Hess who refused to testify on his own behalf.

His role in formulating the Enabling Act as Minister of the Interior, the later Nuremberg Laws (as co-author with Wilhelm Stuckart) and as controller of German concentration camps led to his conviction for planning, initiating and waging wars of aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Frick was accused of being one of the highest persons responsible for the existence of the concentration camps.

"Hitler didn't want to do things my way. I wanted things done legally. After all, I am a lawyer. ... The mass murders were certainly not thought of as a consequence of the Nuremberg Laws, [though] it may have turned out that way." (24 Apr 1946)



Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: 2, 3, and 4

(Frick was executed by hanging, 16 Oct 1946)





Bundesarchiv, Bild 121-0032
Foto: o. Ang. | 1938 Herbst

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Hans Georg Fritzsche (21 Apr, 1900 - 27 Sep 1953)

Fritzsche was a senior German Nazi official, who ended the war as *Ministerialdirektor* at the Propagandaministerium.

He was charged with conspiracy to commit crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity; and was tried before the International Military Tribunal.

It was unclear to attendees why he was charged, and rumours abounded that he was only in the dock as a stand-in for Goebbels.

Found Guilty of Nuremburg Indictments: Not Guilty

Fritzsche was acquitted.

He was later tried by a West German denazification court and was sentenced to nine years imprisonment.

He was finally acquitted because it became evident to the tribunal that he had never pushed for the extermination of the Jews, and on two instances he had attempted to stop the publication of the anti-Semitic newspaper *Der Stürmer*.

He was released in September 1950.

(Fritzsche died of cancer, 27 Sep 1953)



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Walther Funk (18 Aug 1890 - 31 May 1960)

Funk was a prominent Nazi official. He served as Minister for Economic Affairs in Nazi Germany from 1937 to 1945

At the Nuremberg Trials Funk was accused of conspiracy to commit crimes against peace; planning, initiating and waging wars of aggression; war-crimes and crimes against humanity, he argued that, despite his titles, he had very little power in the regime.

Göring described Funk as "an insignificant subordinate," but documentary evidence and his wartime biography *Walther Funk, A Life for Economy* were used against him during the trial, leading to his conviction on counts 2, 3 and 4 of the indictment and his sentence of life imprisonment.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: 2, 3, and 4

Funk was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

He was imprisoned at Spandau Prison along with other senior Nazis.

Because of ill health, he was released on 16 May 1957. Funk made a last-minute call on Rudolf Hess, Albert Speer, and Baldur von Schirach.

He died three years later.

(Funk died at Düsseldorf, 31 May 1960)

Porsche, Funk, and Hitler



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Hermann Göring (12 Jan 1893 - 15 Oct 1946)

Göring was the WWI flying ace who headed the Luftwaffe, but who bungled the air strategy against Britain.

Göring was President of the German Reichstag and also a minister of the Third Reich, under Adolf Hitler.

In the Second World War, he was the Commander-in-Chief of the German air force.

Göring was responsible for the creation of the concentration camps, and the Gestapo (Nazi secret police). In 1941, he gave Reinhard Heydrich the order to arrange the "Final Solution" to kill millions of Jews.

He was the most rapacious empire-builder of the regime, with huge powers over the economy. Moreover, Göring stole art from all over occupied Europe.

Göring claimed that he was not anti-Semitic; however, Albert Speer reported that in the prison yard at Nuremberg, after someone made a remark about Jewish survivors in Hungary, he had overheard Göring say, "So, there are still some there? I thought we had knocked off all of them. Somebody slipped up again."

Despite his claims of non-involvement, he was confronted with orders he had signed for the murder of Jews and prisoners of war.



At the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal, Göring was found guilty on all four counts: conspiracy to commit crimes alleged in other counts, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: All 4

(Göring committed suicide, 15 Oct 1946, using a cyanide pill, hours before his scheduled execution)



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Rudolf Hess (26 Apr 1894 - 17 Aug 1987)

Deputy to the Führer from 1933.

In May 1941, Hess flew to Scotland and tried to persuade the British Government to make peace. Hess believed he was obeying supernatural powers and claimed that he had come on a mission to end the war.

The bewildered British and embarrassed Germans were united in regarding Hess as insane.

At the International Military Tribunal, he was found guilty on two of four counts: crimes against peace (planning and preparation of aggressive war) and conspiracy with other German leaders to commit crimes.

He was found not guilty of war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: 1 and 2

At the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal, Hess was found guilty, and sentenced to life imprisonment at Spandau prison, Berlin.

(Hess hanged himself in Spandau prison, Berlin, 17 Aug 1987 - he was 92 years old)



Report of Rudolf Hess' Death

"Nearly every day for four decades, the prisoner took a stroll through a tiny garden inside West Berlin's forbidding Spandau fortress. He was never without a keeper and his gait had slowed to a shuffle over the years, but he rarely missed the opportunity for fresh air. Last Monday a guard left him alone briefly in a small cottage at the garden's edge. A few minutes later the guard returned to find the sole inmate of Spandau slumped over, an electrical cord wound tightly around his neck. Rushed to the nearby British Military Hospital, the old man was pronounced dead at 4:10 p.m. An autopsy showed that he had died of asphyxiation.

"Two days later authorities revealed that a farewell note in a trouser pocket had confirmed what many had already surmised: Rudolph Hess, the last surviving member of Nazi Germany's high command,

had finally escaped his captors by taking his own life at the age of 93." (Time Magazine, Monday, 31 Aug 1987)

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Alfred Jodl (10 May 1890 - 16 Oct 1946)

Alfred Jod was a German military commander, attaining the position of Chief of the Operations Staff of the Armed Forces High Command (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, or OKW) during World War II, acting as deputy to Wilhelm Keitel.

"The indictment knocked me on the head. First of all, I had no idea at all about 90 per cent of the accusations in it. The crimes are horrible beyond belief, if they are true. Secondly, I don't see how they can fail to recognize a soldier's obligation to obey orders. That's the code I've live by all my life." (01 January 1945)

"The order to kill the escaped British fliers - there was absolutely no justification for that. From then on, I knew what kind of a man Hitler was." (06 April 46)

Before the International Military Tribunal at the Nuremberg Trials. Jodl was accused of conspiracy to commit crimes against peace; planning, initiating and waging wars of aggression; war crimes; and crimes against humanity.

The principal charges against him related to his signature of the Commando Order and the Commissar Order, both of which ordered that certain prisoners were to be summarily executed. Additional charges at his trial included unlawful deportation and abetting execution.

Presented as evidence was his signature on an order that transferred Danish citizens, including Jews and other civilians, to concentration camps. Although he denied his role in the crime, the court sustained his complicity based on the given evidence.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: All 4

(Jodl was executed by hanging 16 Oct 1946)



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Ernst Kaltenbrunner (4 Oct 1903 - 16 Oct 1946)

Kaltenbrunner was Chief of RSHA and Chief of Security Police.

Was a senior Austrian official during World War II, holding the offices of Chief of the RSHA (an organization which included the Gestapo, the SD, and the Criminal Police), Chief of Security Police, and President of Interpol from 1943 to 1945. He was the highest-ranking SS leader to face trial at the first Nuremberg Trials, having the full rank of *Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei und Waffen-SS*.

"When I saw the newspaper headline 'GAS CHAMBER EXPERT CAPTURED' and an American lieutenant explained it to me, I was pale in amazement. How can they say such things about me? ... I have only done my duty as an intelligence organ, and I refuse to serve as an ersatz [substitute or replacement] for Himmler." (11 April 46)

At the Nuremberg Trials, Kaltenbrunner was charged with conspiracy to commit crimes against peace, war-crimes and crimes against humanity.

The most notable witness in this trial was Rudolf Hoess, the camp commander of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Kaltenbrunner's close control over the RSHA meant that direct knowledge of and responsibility for the following crimes was ascribed to him:

- Mass murders of civilians of occupied countries by *Einsatzgruppen*
- Screening of prisoner of war camps and executing racial and political undesirables
- The taking of recaptured prisoners of war to concentration camps, where in some cases they were executed
- Establishing concentration camps and committing racial and political undesirables to concentration and annihilation camps for slave labor and mass murder
- Deportation of citizens of occupied countries for forced labor and disciplining of forced labor
- The execution of captured commandos and paratroopers and protection of civilians who lynched Allied fliers
- The taking of civilians of occupied countries to Germany for secret trial and punishment
- Punishment of citizens of occupied territories under special criminal procedure and by summary methods
- The execution and confinement of people in concentration camps for crimes allegedly committed by their relatives
- Seizure and spoliation of public and private property
- Murder of prisoners in SIPO and SD prisons
- Persecution of Jews
- Persecution of the churches
- Torture of gypsies

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: 3 and 4

(Kaltenbrunner was executed by hanging 16 Oct 1946)





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Wilhelm Keitel (22 Sep 1882 - 16 Oct 1946)

Keitel was a German field marshal (*Generalfeldmarschall*). As head of the *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht* (High Command of the Armed Forces) and de facto war minister, he was one of Germany's most senior military leaders during World War II.

He advised Hitler against invasion of France and Operation Barbarossa.

However, Keitel was uncritical of the killings of political prisoners and other war crimes.

Keitel testified that he knew many of Hitler's orders were illegal (for instance, he described the Night and Fog Decree as "the worst of all" the orders he'd been given), but he claimed that he was merely following orders in conformity to "the leader principle" (*Führerprinzip*).

The IMT rejected this defence and convicted him on all charges. Because of his signature on orders which called for soldiers and political prisoners to be killed or disappeared, he was sentenced to death.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: All 4

(Executed by hanging 16 Oct 1946)



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Gustav Krupp Von Bohlen Und Halbach (07 Aug 1870 - 16 Jan 1950)

Krupp ran the German Friedrich Krupp AG heavy industry conglomerate from 1909 to 1941.

He was indicted for prosecution at the 1945 Nuremberg trials; however, the charges were dropped because of his failing health.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: Charges dropped because of failing health

(Krupp died in Blühnbach, Austria, 16 Jan 1950)



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Konstantin Von Neurath (02 Feb 1873 - 14 Aug 1956)

Neurath was a German diplomat, Foreign Minister of Germany (1932-1938) and *Reichsprotektor* (Governor) of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (1939-1941). Neurath remained titular Protector until 1943.

Konstantin von Neurath's chief defense strategy was predicated on the fact that his successor and fellow defendant Joachim von Ribbentrop was more culpable for the atrocities committed in the Nazi state.

The International Military Tribunal acknowledged the fact that von Neurath's crimes against humanity were mostly conducted during his short tenure as protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, especially in quelling Czech resistance and the summary execution of several university students.



The tribunal came to the consensus that von Neurath, though a willing and active participant in war crimes, held no such prominent position during the height of the Third Reich's tyranny and was therefore only a minor adherent to the atrocities committed.

Found Guilty of Nuremburg Indictments: All 4

Neurath was found guilty on all four counts and was sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment. He was held as a war criminal in Spandau Prison, Berlin, until 1954, when he was released due to ill health, having suffered a heart attack.

(Neurath died in Enzweihingen, 14 Aug 1956)



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Franz von Papen (29 Oct 1879 - 02 May 1969)

Franz Joseph Hermann Michael Maria von Papen zu Königen was a German nobleman, Catholic monarchist politician, General Staff officer, and diplomat, who served as Chancellor of Germany in 1932 and as Vice-Chancellor in 1933 - 1934. He was a member of the Catholic Centre Party of Germany until 1932.

von Papen was one of the people who said that they could control Adolf Hitler when he becomes Chancellor of Germany.

von Papen succeeded in bringing Adolf Hitler to power and was appointed vice chancellor in the new cabinet.

Although Hitler soon eliminated his conservative allies from the cabinet, Papen continued to serve the Hitler regime, even after several of his close associates were "permanently removed" in the "blood purge" of June, 1934.

As German minister to Vienna, von Papen helped to prepare the German annexation of Austria (1938). From 1939 to 1944 he was ambassador to Turkey.

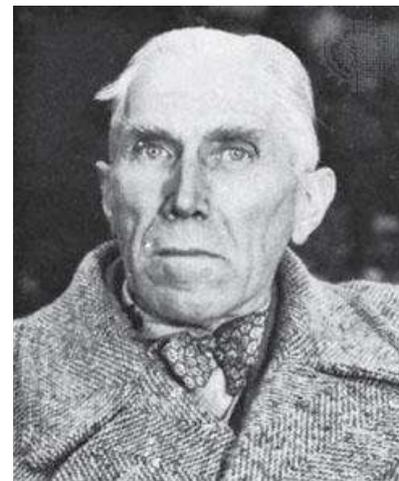
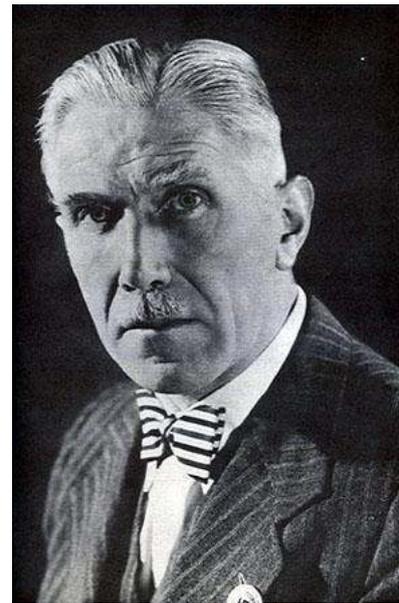
The court acquitted him, stating that he had, in the court's view, committed a number of "political immoralities," but that these actions were not punishable under the "conspiracy to commit crimes against peace" charged in Papen's indictment.

He was later sentenced to eight years in prison by a West German denazification court, but was released on appeal in 1949.

Found Guilty of Nuremburg Indictments: Not Guilty

He was acquitted (1946) by the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal. However, a sentence of eight years hard labour that was imposed in 1947 by a German "denazification" court was rescinded in 1949.

(von Papen died in Obersasbach, West Germany, 02 May 1969, at the age of 89)



von Papen, Hitler, Goebbels



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Erich Raeder (24 Apr 1876 - 06 Nov 1960)

Raeder was a naval leader in Germany before and during World War II. Raeder attained the highest possible naval rank - that of *Großadmiral* (Grand Admiral) - in 1939, becoming the first person to hold that rank since Alfred von Tirpitz. Raeder led the *Kriegsmarine* (German Navy) for the first half of the war, but resigned in 1943 and was replaced by Karl Dönitz.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: 2, 3, and 4

Raeder was found guilty at the Nuremberg Trials, and was sentenced to life in prison.

Raeder was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Nuremberg Trials, for waging a war of aggression, a charge arising from his planning of the German invasion of Norway.

The sentence was later reduced and, due to ill health, he was released on 26 September 1955 at 11:35 am.

After his release he settled down at the *Uhlandstrasse* in Lippstadt, Westphalia. He later wrote an autobiography, *Mein Leben*, in 1957.

(Raeder died in Kiel, 06 Nov 1960)



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Joachim Ribbentrop (30 Apr 1893 - 16 Oct 1946)

Ribbentrop was Foreign Minister of Germany from 1938 until 1945. He was praised by Hitler as "a second Bismarck", but despised by the majority of Hitler's loyal subordinates.

Prosecutors presented evidence that Ribbentrop was actively involved in the planning of German aggression and the deportation of Jews to death camps, as well as his advocacy of the killing of American and British airmen shot down over Germany.

Ribbentrop was the first of the 10 persons to be executed on 16 October 1946 at Nuremburg.

Found Guilty of Nuremburg Indictments: All 4

(Ribbentrop was executed by hanging, 16 October 1946)

Historian Giles MacDonogh records that: *"The hangman botched the execution and the rope throttled the former foreign minister for twenty minutes before he expired."*





Ribbentrop is on the far right



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Alfred Rosenberg (12 Jan 1893 - 16 Oct 1946)

Rosenberg was an early and intellectually influential member of the Nazi Party. Rosenberg was first introduced to Adolf Hitler by Dietrich Eckart; he later held several important posts in the Nazi government.

He is considered one of the main authors of key Nazi ideological creeds, including its racial theory, persecution of the Jews, *Lebensraum*, abrogation of the Treaty of Versailles, and opposition to "degenerate" modern art. He is also known for his rejection of Christianity, having played an important role in the development of Positive Christianity, which he intended to be transitional to a new Nazi faith.

Rosenberg's ideological views on race and anti-Semitism, in *The Myth of the 20th Century*, were instrumental in shaping the "final solution".

From 1941 Rosenberg was the minister for the Reich's newly acquired eastern provinces.

Throughout the trial, it was agreed that Rosenberg had a decisive role in shaping Nazi philosophy and ideology; such examples include: his book, *Myth of the Twentieth Century*, which was published in 1930, where he incited hatred against "Liberal Imperialism" and "Bolshevik Marxism"; furthering the influence of the "Lebensraum" idea in Germany during the war; facilitating the persecution of Christian churches and the Jews in general; and opposition to the Versailles Treaty during the war.



While in prison, he continued to defend National Socialism as "the most noble idea".

Found Guilty of Nuremburg Indictments: All 4

(Rosenberg was executed by hanging 16 Oct 1946)



Back row to Hitler's left - Rosenberg

Rosenberg and Hermann Göring were born on the same day (12 January 1893), and had Göring not committed suicide the night before his execution, they would also have died the same day.

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Fritz Sauckel (27 Oct 1894 - 16 Oct 1946)

Chief of Slave Labour Recruitment

Sauckel organized the systematic enslavement of millions from lands occupied by Nazi Germany.

He was General Plenipotentiary for Labour Deployment from 1942 until the end of the war

Sauckel defended the *Arbeitseinsatz* as "nothing to do with exploitation. It is an economic process for supplying labour".

Arbeitseinsatz (labour intake) was forced labour (Zwangsarbeit) during World War II when German men were called up for military service and German authorities rounded up labourers from the occupied territories to fill in the vacancies.

He denied that it was slave labour or that it was common to deliberately work people to death (extermination by labour) or to mistreat them.

"I was given this assignment which I could not refuse - and besides, I did everything possible to treat [the foreign slave labourers] well." (23 Feb 46)

Found Guilty of Nuremburg Indictments: 2 and 4

(Sauckel was executed by hanging, 16 Oct 1946)



Editor's note: it is interesting that there are no photos in which both Hitler and Sauckel appear.

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Hjalmar Horace Greeley Schacht (22 Jan 1877 - 03 Jun 1970)

Schacht was a German economist, banker, liberal politician, and co-founder of the German Democratic Party. He served as the Currency Commissioner and President of the Reichsbank under the Weimar Republic.

He was a fierce critic of his country's post-World War I reparation obligations.

Schachte became a supporter of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, and served in Hitler's government as President of the Reichsbank and Minister of Economics. As such, Schacht helped implement Hitler's policies of redevelopment, reindustrialization, and rearmament.

He was forced out of the government by disagreements with Hitler and other prominent Nazis by 1939, and had no role during World War II.

Schacht became a fringe member of the German Resistance to Hitler and was imprisoned by the Nazis after the 20 July plot. After the war, he was tried at Nuremberg but acquitted.

In 1953, he founded his own bank, and advised developing countries on economic development.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: Not Guilty

(Schacht died in Munich, Germany, 03 Jun 1970)



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Baldur Von Schirach (09 May 1907 - 08 Aug 1974)

Schirach was a Nazi youth leader, who was later convicted of being a war criminal.

Schirach was the head of the *Hitler-Jugend* (HJ, Hitler Youth) and Gauleiter and Reichsstatthalter ("Reich Governor") of Vienna.

At the trial Schirach was one of only two men to denounce Hitler (the other was Albert Speer). And he said that he did not know about the extermination camps.

He also provided evidence that he had protested to Martin Bormann about the inhumane treatment of the Jews.

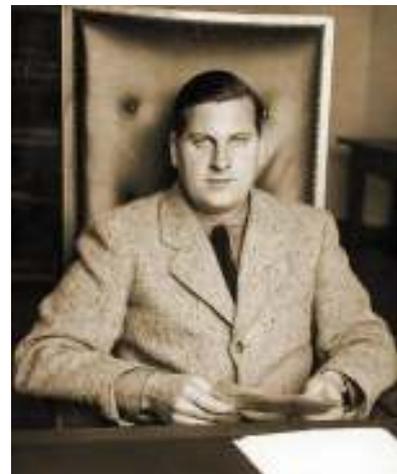
Also, it was revealed by Schirach at Nuremberg that the roots of his anti-Semitism could be found in the readings of Henry Ford's *The International Jew*.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictment: 4

Schirach was found guilty and was sentenced to 20 years in Spandau prison, Berlin.

He served his term and was released on 30 September 1966. He retired quietly to southern Germany. Schirach published his memoirs, *Ich glaubte an Hitler* ("I believed in Hitler").

(Schirach died in Kröv, 08 Aug 1974)



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Arthur Seyss-Inquart (22 Jul 1892 - 16 Oct 1946)

Seyss-Inquart was a prominent lawyer and later Nazi official in pre-Anschluss Austria, the Third Reich and for wartime Germany in Poland and the Netherlands.

At the Nuremberg Trials, Seyss-Inquart faced charges of conspiracy to commit crimes against peace; planning, initiating and waging wars of aggression; war crimes; and crimes against humanity.

"The southern German has the imagination and emotionality to subscribe to a fanatic ideology, but he is ordinarily inhibited from excesses by his natural humaneness. The Prussian does not have the imagination to conceive in terms of abstract racial and political theories, but when he is told to do something, he does it." (04 Apr 46?)



Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: 2, 3, and 4

(Seyss-Inquart was executed by hanging, 16 Oct 1946)





Vienna 1938

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Albert Speer (19 Mar 1905 - 01 Sep 1981)

Speer was a German architect who was, for part of World War II, Minister of Armaments and War Production for the Third Reich.

Speer's choice as War Production Minister, in 1942, was inspirational. He increased output despite allied bombing, opposing Hitler's scorched-earth policy.

Speer was Adolf Hitler's chief architect before assuming ministerial office.

Speer escaped death at Nuremberg by accepting general responsibility, but claiming innocence regarding personal involvement in the Holocaust.

As "the Nazi who said sorry", he accepted responsibility at the Nuremberg trials and in his memoirs for crimes of the Nazi regime. His level of involvement in the persecution of the Jews and his level of knowledge of the Holocaust remain matters of dispute.

In *Inside the Third Reich*, he wrote that in mid-1944, he was told by Hanke (by then *Gauleiter* of Lower Silesia) that the minister should never accept an invitation to inspect a concentration camp in neighboring Upper Silesia, as "he had seen something there which he was not permitted to describe and moreover could not describe". Speer later concluded that Hanke must have been speaking of

Auschwitz, and blamed himself for not inquiring further of Hanke or seeking information from Himmler or Hitler

Speer always considered himself an outcast among his fellow prisoners for his acceptance of responsibility at Nuremberg.

Speer served his full sentence, and was released on the stroke of midnight as 01 October 1966 began.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictments: 3 and 4

Speer was found guilty and was sentenced to 20 years in Spandau prison, Berlin.

(While visiting London, Speer suffered a stroke and died, 01 Sep 1981)



Julius Streicher (12 Feb 1885 - 16 Oct 1946)

Streicher was a prominent Nazi prior to World War II. He was the founder and publisher of *Der Stürmer* newspaper, which became a central element of the Nazi propaganda machine.

His publishing firm also released three anti-Semitic books for children, including the 1938 *Der Giftpilz* ("The Toadstool" or "The Poison-Mushroom"), one of the most widespread pieces of propaganda, which purported to warn about insidious dangers Jews posed by using the metaphor of an attractive yet deadly mushroom.

"The Jews are making a mistake if they make a martyr out of me; you will see. I didn't create the problem; it existed for thousands of years. ...I am the only one in the world who clearly saw the Jewish menace as an historical problem." (16 Dec 45)

Julius Streicher was not a member of the military and did not take part in planning the Holocaust, or the invasion of other nations. Yet his pivotal role in inciting the extermination of Jews was significant enough, in the prosecutors' judgment, to include him in the indictment of Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal – which sat, ironically, in Nuremberg, where Streicher had once been an unchallenged authority. In essence, the prosecutors took the line that Streicher's incendiary speeches and articles made him an accessory to murder, and therefore as culpable as those who actually ordered the mass extermination of Jews (such as Hans Frank and Ernst Kaltenbrunner).

During his trial, Streicher displayed for the last time the flair for courtroom theatrics that had made him famous in the 1920s. He answered questions from his own defence attorney with diatribes against Jews, the Allies, and the court itself, and was frequently silenced by the court officers.

Found Guilty of Nuremberg Indictment: 4

(Streicher was executed by hanging, 16 Oct 1946)





Early 1930s



Munich, Germany - 09 November 1938

Top Nazi Party members march in remembrance of 1923 Beer Hall Putsch
(front, L-R) Friedrich Weber, Hermann Goering, Adolf Hitler, unident. (Martin Bormann?),
Julius Streicher;
(back, L-R) Albert Speer, Walter Schultze, Alfred Rosenberg and unidents.

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Appendix One

Legal Counsel for Defendants

* All individual defendants named in the indictment appeared before the Tribunal except: Robert Ley, who committed suicide 25 Oct 1945; Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, owing to serious illness; and Martin Bormann, who was not in custody and whom the Tribunal decided to try in absentia.

| Defendant | Legal Counsel |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| * Martin Bormann | Dr. Friedrich Bergold (tried in absentia) |
| Karl Doenitz | Flottenrichte Otto Kranzbuchler |
| Hans Frank | Dr. Alfred Seidl |
| Wilhelm Frick | Dr. Otto Pannenbecker |
| Hans Fritzsche | Dr. Heinz Fritz Dr. Alfred Schilf Associate |
| Walther Funk | Dr. Fritz Sauter |
| Hermann Wilhelm Göring | Dr. Otto Stahmer |
| Rudolf Hess | Dr. Gunther Von Rohrscheidt (To 5 February 1946) Dr. Alfred Seidl (From 5 February 1946) |
| Alfred Jodl | Prof. Dr. Franz Exner Prof. Dr. Hermann Jahreiss Associate |
| Ernst Kaltenbrunner | Dr. Kurt Kauffmann |
| Wilhelm Kietel | Dr. Otto Nelte |
| * Gustav Krupp Von Bohlen Und Halbach | Dr. Theodor Klefisch (To 15 November 1945) Dr. Walter Ballas Associate (To 15 November 1945) |
| * Robert Ley | Committed suicide 25 October 1945 |
| Konstantin Von Neurath | Dr. Otto Frelherr Von Ludinghausen |
| Franz Von Papen | Dr. Egon Kubuschok |
| Erich Raeder | Dr. Walter Siemers |
| Joachim Von Ribbentrop | Dr. Fritz Sauter (To 6 January 1946) Dr. Martin Horn (From 5 January 1946) |
| Alfred Rosenberg | Dr. Alfred Thoma |
| Fritz Sauckel | Dr. Robert Servatius |
| Hjalmar Schacht | Dr. Rudolf Dix Prof. Dr. Herbert Kraus Associate |
| Baldur Von Schirach | Dr. Fritz Sauter |
| Arthur Seyss-Inquart | Dr. Gustav Steinbauer |
| Albert Speer | Dr. Hans Flachsner |
| Julius Streicher | Dr. Hanns Marx |

End

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