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**Albert Speer**

**Inside the Third Reich**

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Author: Albert Speer

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## Description

From '46 to '66, while serving a prison sentence handed down from the Nuremberg War Crimes tribunal, Albert Speer penned 1200 manuscript pages of personal memoirs. Titled *Erinnerungen* (Recollections) upon their '69 publication in German, his personal history was translated into English & published a year later as *Inside the 3rd Reich*. Long after initial publication, his memoir continues to provide one of the most detailed & fascinating portrayals of life within Hitler's inner circles, the rise & fall of the 3rd German empire & of Hitler himself. He chronicles his entire life, but most of the book focuses on 1933-45, when he figured prominently in Hitler's government & the German war effort as Inspector General of Buildings for the Renovation of the Federal Capital & later as Minister of Arms & Munitions. His recollections of both duties foreground the impossibility of reconciling Hitler's idealistic, imperialistic ambitions with both architectural & military reality. Throughout, this book remains true to its author's intentions. Insightfully, he reveals many of the "premises which almost inevitably led to the disasters" of the 3rd Reich as well as "what comes from one man's holding unrestricted power in his hands."--Bertina Loeffler (edited)

## Insightful reviews

djcb: Enjoyed this book in which [Albert Speer](#) tells his story of how, as a young architect, he got sucked into the Nazi-party by Hitler's charisma in the early 1930s. The Führer seems particularly impressed by him, and he quickly rises to be one of the top nazis.

At first, he's to build the gigantic buildings to glorify national-socialism. This never gets very far, as the war starts; instead, Speer becomes the minister of Armaments, and as such, become part of the Nazi party inner circle.

I've read quite a few books about WW2, but this one is unique in that it gives somewhat of an inside-view in what went on at the highest levels. Hitler's is shown as increasingly irrational and radical (esp. after the Stalingrad debacle), ultimately losing touch with reality, yet always maintaining some of his magic (at least for Speer); the other top-nazis are shown as rather cynical, self-enriching and power-hungry, always scheming to influence Hitler; esp. Goering, Himmler and Borman. What a snakepit! You do get the feeling that the decision making went *really* bad, and Speer gives us the feeling that if Hitler c.s. had listened to him a bit more, Germany could at least have held out quite a bit longer. He also claims (with some justification) that the war would have been finished a lot sooner without him. Compared with those other men, Speer portrays himself as relatively benevolent...

So, what about Speer's own role? As one of very few of the top-nazis, he actually admitted guilt and has taken full responsibility for him being part of the regime, during the Nuremberg trials. However, he claims not to have known about the holocaust (he does blame himself for not asking...), although he does mention the use of forced laborers (many of which died) in the weapons programs he led. *Ich habe es nicht gewußt* seems... unlikely, and there's some evidence against this claim. What is known is that he prevented the Hitler-ordered destruction of German infrastructure during the last months of the war (at considerable personal risk). Speer

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spent 20 years in the Spandau prison in Berlin, was released in 1966 and died in 1981.

Erik Graff: When I was a boy most of us admired the Nazis for their aesthetic: the rallies, the marches, the uniforms, the insignia. My own admiration was somewhat qualified by the fact that Mom grew up under German occupation in Norway and Dad served in North Africa and Sicily. In any case, they were fascinating. The first grownup book I ever read was probably *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*.

Albert Speer, along with Hitler himself, a closet decorator, was substantially responsible for the much-admired Nazi aesthetic. He was also responsible for running slave labor camps towards the end of the war and served twenty years imprisonment--his term being relatively short as he was one of the few repentant war criminals.

Since the USA in the absence of the USSR is now the most prominent aggressor state on the planet and since the foremost charges promulgated by this country and its allies at the trials that convicted Speer and his cronies were "Participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of a crime against peace & planning, initiating and waging wars of aggression and other crimes against peace", I recommend that everyone read this book, particularly those considering enlistment in the armed forces or work with the Department of Defense, the CIA, the NSA, the DEA or related agencies.

Mofoty: I want to keep my distance from a work like this because although I feel Speer is mostly an honest narrator, his clear, somewhat banal account of the Third Reich, Hitler, and his own activities read like a generic memoir, somehow perverting the madness of the time—the destruction, inhuman cruelty, and the quest for absolute power. By giving us this account, Speer affirms that for the most part the atrocities of the the Third Reich were carried out by otherwise normal, almost boring men, like himself, who were tasked with a mission and carried it out to the best of their abilities. (Speer affirms this view on page 344, when he talks of an article in *The Observer* that spoke of him as the leader of a highly efficient, impersonal technocracy.) My fear is that this is not a sufficiently emotional account to teach us anything. It gives us an inside look, yes, but it is so self absorbed that we lose the broader view of the war's effects. We miss the sufferings of millions because we are tangled in Speer's account of day-to-day travels, power struggles within the regime, and the stubborn madness of Hitler.[return][return]Could this memoir be anything else? Should it be? Probably not. I just can't help but feel that Speer's last sacrifice should be to accept alienation, where his memoirs, like his architecture, become lost to that time.

Debra: i've got learn this booklet such a lot of instances the pages are actually falling out. one in all my favorite books of all time. A needs to prepared for a person who has each wondered, "How cld they've got permit that happen?" A unflinching, interesting glance contained in the global of a intelligent, loving guy who came upon himself stuck up within the Nazi conflict machine. It calls for that you simply wonder for those who cld have acted any another way below an identical circunstances...and if you happen to take not anything else clear of the booklet - that's enough. there have been once or twice whilst I felt like Speer was once justifying his activities as Minister of Armements. there has been a suppose of "I was once rather

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attempting to shop people" that I occasionally felt used to be an try to justify his actions. However, for the main half Speer squarely shoulders the load and the blame for the atrocities that happened on his watch. i've got frequently questioned if it used to be no longer this related angle that spared his existence on the Nuremberg trials. This e-book is a grim reminder that we must not ever say, "Never."

Anton Klink: even if Albert Speer wasn't one of the absolute innermost circle of Hitler trustees (maybe simply Bormann, Göring, Goebbels, Himmler, Doenitz and some others might be counted between those), he used to be however the top rating 3rd Reich authentic to open up so commonly in a ebook after the war. Starting out as Hitler's favorite architect and the legit architect of the 3rd Reich, he then moved directly to develop into the Armaments and Munitions Reich Minister and therefore loved Hitler's complete aid for many of the war. during this publication he info his meteoric upward thrust contained in the 3rd Reich yet greater than his personal story, it's the tale of Hitler as obvious by way of Speer. similar to numerous others, Speer was once mesmerized via Hitler. In hindsight he reveals Hitler's speeches banal, his peculiarities eccentric and his actual positive aspects unappealing, but he confesses he by no means observed any of that during Hitler's presence and was once in its place spellbound, inspired, emboldened and every thing that fired up the Nazis on the time. Although it's been greater than 10 years on the grounds that I learn the book, a lot of quite a few information and bits of data I learn from the e-book are nonetheless clean in my mind. total i discovered the e-book super enlightening and a treasure trove of inside of information regarding the 3rd Reich and Hitler in particular. a few of the factoids I learn within the book, i've got but to come across in different resources detailing the 3rd Reich, so for someone attracted to the 3rd Reich on greater than only a informal level, this booklet is very recommended.

KOMET: In 1989, in the course of my Peace Corps service, I stumbled on the e-book "INSIDE THE 3rd REICH" really suddenly and will now not place it down. I learn it for hours nonstop. The tale that Speer relates right here of his lifestyles and occupation within the 3rd Reich, first as Hitler's architect, and later because the Minister for Armaments and struggle construction (1942-1945) is gripping and compelling. You get a real, tangible experience of what the folks (e.g. Goering, Hess, Himmler, Goebbels, Bormann, etc.) have been like who performed key roles in Nazi Germany. This memoir doesn't learn like a dry retelling of ancient events. you're feeling your self a witness to an unfolding drama of deceit, treachery, genocide, and warfare within the center of the 3rd Reich. All of those occasions could seem brilliant as Speer describes them. yet they happened, and in interpreting "INSIDE THE 3rd REICH", you notice the way it was once that Germany was once led down the trail to destruction via its political leadership.

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