

Albert Speer

a) Albert Speer was born in Germany 1905. In Speer's memoirs, Speer wrote that he was born at midday during a storm as the church bells rang. It was later proved by weather reports that there was no storm that day nor was the church with bells built by that period.

Albert Speer was born into a wealthy family, unaffected by the great depression. Albert Speer experienced a cold, loveless relationship with his parents as they were more committed to work rather than spend time with their children. The only affection Speer was shown was from his Jewish-nanny that serviced Speer's parents. Speer was talented at mathematics during his school career and wanted to be a mathematician but was persuaded to become an architect by his father.

Once Albert Speer left school he attended a Architecture course at the university of Berlin, where he would study for a number of years. Whilst at university Speer attended political meetings for a new party called "The Nazi party". Here Albert Speer begins his relationship with Adolf Hitler and was excited when Hitler said "Come to lunch."

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b) History presents us with a balanced interpretation of Albert Speer through his involvement in the Nazi party and his relationship with Adolf Hitler. Hitler employed Speer because he believed that Speer "Had the ability to design objects from his point of view and mind." When Hitler appointed Speer as designer of the Nazi party Speer made his mark on history by designing objects such as the cathedral of light, Nuremberg rally, the giant eagle featuring the Nazi symbol was Speer's most famous piece of artwork. In 1944 Albert Speer was appointed Head of Armaments and was responsible for the production of weapons, artillery, transportation. However towards the end of the war Speer's relationship with Hitler ends after Speer opposed and disobeyed Hitler's orders about the scorched earth policy. It is believed Speer's last encounter with Hitler was cold and emotionless.

At the end of the war when Nazi officials (including Speer) were tried at Nuremberg, the details of the Holocaust were released and here we see Albert Speer escape the death penalty by using his intellect and ability to persuade the judges whilst on trial. At first Speer claimed he knew nothing of the "Holocaust and final solution" and used a very important speech "I knew nothing of what happened in those concentration camps, I could of, I should of, But I didn't!" Albert Speer escaped the death penalty and was sentenced to serve 20 years in Spandau prison for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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When Albert Speer was released from Pison he published his memoirs revealing his life and involvement in the Nazi party were he was again persuasive until his death in 1985. Shortly after Speer's death the real truth was released about Albert Speer. A document told of how Albert Speer knew exactly about the "holocaust" and the "final solution" and stated that he signed specific documents regarding Jewish extermination in Concentration Camps. A question that was repeatedly asked was if Albert Speer held such a high presence within the Nazi party and socialised with Nazi officials, how did he not at least gain a hint of knowledge of "the holocaust" and "the final solution". Albert Speer's reputation was destroyed and his explanation of his input in the Nazi party is thought to be a lie. And that is how history presents us with a balanced interpretation of Albert Speer.