

Albert Speer's rise to prominence was a combination of luck, talent and personality. His luck with the quick rise due to deaths of his ~~pe~~ superiors, combined with the talent he had to accomplish these jobs ~~with~~ with results above expectations meant his rise to prominence was quick and successful, but was stopped with the end of the Second World War. He again rose to prominence however due to his personality and intelligence with the ~~total~~ label of "The good Nazi", and the subsequent literature written about him.

He was born in April 1905 to a wealthy family and suffered from a lack of love and caring from his family, he applied himself at school and did well.

He wanted to study Maths at University but was convinced to do Architecture by his father, also an architect. He again did quite well and found himself as a teaching assistant

at a university in the early twenties. He was persuaded by his students to attend a speech by Hitler. Although Speer described himself as apolitical, he was so enamoured and awed by Hitler that he joined the ~~the~~ NSDAP soon after.

His role within the party at first was not as an architect, but as a taxi, driving other members around to meetings as he was one of only a few ~~that~~ who owned a car.

His big break came when he was employed to redesign Goebbels' offices, so impressed was Goebbels that he recommended him to Hitler.

Speer then became assistant to the Nazis' chief architect Troost. One job where he impressed Hitler was his redesign of Hitler's balcony, which impressed Hitler. When Troost died, Speer became the Chief architect of the Third Reich and was a favourite of Hitler's, sharing similar interests as an architect, one of Hitler's



passions. He was successful as an architect designing many new buildings, most famously the Nuremberg parade ground where he designed the "Cathedral of lights".

Once again he found himself rising in prominence with his appointment as Minister for Armaments after the former minister died. ~~in place~~ ~~and~~ ~~and~~ ~~by~~ ~~and~~ He was quite successful in this appointment and raised production during the war greatly, perhaps even extending the war for Germany for another year. He had to completely reorganise the structure of the ministry and the way it was run. He also introduced slave labour. As the war began to end, Speer defied the orders of Hitler for the "Scorched Earth" policy, aimed at destroying much of the German industry. It is still under debate whether he did this out of love for Germany or whether he was ~~trying~~ trying to save face for the

inevitable war trial.

Once he was called to the stand, he, unlike the rest of the Germans on trial, pleaded guilty and expressed regret for his actions ~~with~~ while still denying knowledge of the Holocaust.

He then spent the next 20 years in Spandau prison writing his memoirs.

Once he was released his book was published and furthered his public image as the good Nazi. He became the scrutiny ~~target~~ for many authors who either believed or disbelieved his story. Many who interviewed him were charmed by his personality.

However, it came to light through documents found that Speer must have known about the Holocaust, although many believed this to be the case there was no evidence to back this up. He died still denying this knowledge. His rise to prominence, within



the third Reich as well as his prominence as a historical figure were punctuated and controlled by his talent and intelligence.

DA Albert Speer as a study in history has many sides to the story. Differing authors' views, evidence, and his own account certainly give us a varied ~~to~~ view of his personality and contribution to history, but because of this the interpretation of him is still under debate. ~~However, even with~~ Therefore, interpretations of him consider first his role in the Nazi party, what he says he did, the evidence present, as well as the presentation of himself in interviews. It is balanced in that there are many ways of interpretation, and unbalanced as some interpret these factors either to softly or harshly.

and Dan Vander Kat

Authors such as Bullock / admire his intelligence and ~~the~~ what he was able to achieve, although negative in some aspects, paint him in a picture of being guilty for knowing about things like the Holocaust and forced labour, but doing nothing about him.

Sereny interviewed Speer many times and many believe that she was charmed by Speer and that her interpretation was therefore too lenient on him. She does however condemn his actions and says that he believed he knew, but stayed away whenever things such as the Holocaust were being discussed in order to deny knowledge of such things. Her interpretation has also changed as new evidence came to light. His own interpretation of his story is extremely unbalanced in his own favour, lying as it turns out, throughout his book and glorifying himself while still appearing humble and modest. All his actions have been studied,



scrutinised and commented on.

On the opposite scale to Speer, Schmidt does not attempt to hide the discontent he finds within Speer's own account.

Schmidt ~~fully~~ describes Speer as a technician who was so involved with his own self-improvement and rise to power, that he was able to turn a blind eye to what occurred while he was minister of Armaments.

Speer, through ~~his~~ the debate over his guilt, innocence and rise to prominence, has had a balanced interpretation of his life because there are so many sides to the story which have been presented, all varied in their judgement and response of Speer and his actions.