

# Libertarian Review

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## Inside the Third Reich Spandau: The Secret Diaries

HISTORY

By Albert Speer

Reviewed by James J. Martin / *Inside*, Macmillan, 1970 / \$2.25 / *Spandau*, Macmillan, 1975 / \$13.95

Albert Speer is the third generation of a family of first rank Mannheim architects, born in 1905. He joined the National Socialist German Workers Party late (1931), at a time of widespread desperation in Germany. (It was not the inflation of 1923 that caused the extreme political upheaval during the Weimar regime; it was the deflation and massive unemployment of 1930-32.)

With the advent of the forces of Adolf Hitler to power in 1933, Speer's career vaulted upward at a phenomenal rate. He became Hitler's personal architect and had a major impact on public construction in the Third Reich. "Der Fuehrer" was an amateur designer himself, and the rapport between the two was remarkable. The impressive number of photographs showing Speer at Hitler's side on various occasions is not the only testimony in support of this relationship, for sure.

Speer, who was never a soldier and was unacquainted with military logistics and technology, made his way into the closest echelon of Hitler's wartime advisers as a result of the death of Fritz Todt in an airplane accident in February, 1942. Todt was undoubtedly the organizational genius of the practical side of Nazi Germany. Although he held only one ministerial title, he directly controlled the work done by four other departments that were of actual ministerial rank. Speer inherited only two of Todt's jobs, the Ministry of Arms and Munitions, as well as the direction of the immense skilled labor corps

devoted to special projects, previously known as Organization Todt.

The important part of Speer's first book, *Inside the Third Reich*, concerns what he is willing to tell—or what his various publishers will print—about the state of German industrial production war and otherwise, 1942-45. Speer's reminiscences were originally published by the German firm of Ullstein under the title *Erinnerungen* [Recollections]; this was one of the publishers put out of business by the Nazis, and brought back to Germany in the



wagons of the "liberators." It must have been flavorful revenge for them to publish Speer.

Speer's conquerors could have made much mileage out of his books in the first decade or so of the Cold War; now, much that they contain is anticlimactic. It is of course impossible to estimate how many times his manuscript was bleached by

editors, but knowing the history and leaning of our Establishment publishers, it is safe to say that the chances of Speer's uncropped views reaching print under their auspices is in the class with those of an asteroid striking the absolute center of a large contemporary American city.

It is evident from the interview with Speer published in the *New York Times* on August 23, 1970, that the American edition contains added material attributed to him. When an original work or document is republished with elisions or the substitution of things that it did not originally contain, that are not by the original author, that are not called to public attention, and that alter the meaning, impact, or effect substantially or profoundly, it is customary to call this product a forgery. This sounds like a borderline case.

Despite Hitler Germany's reputation as a totalitarian land, as late as October, 1943, at least 6 million of its industrial labor force were still engaged in turning out consumer goods for the civilian market. Speer's plea to get 1.5 million German workers transferred to war production and for consumer goods production to be transferred to French factories got nowhere, mainly because of the apathy toward Speer's program on the part of both employers and the National Socialist regime. Nor was Speer able to convince the top leadership that their labor force could have been much enlarged by utilizing German women in industrial production. It was Speer's reiterated assertion that with coordination and cooperation on all levels, the size of the German armed forces and the total of war production could both have been doubled over what was achieved at any time in the first four years of the war.

According to Speer, not only was research and work on such things as an atom bomb, and, to a greater extent, jet engines and rockets of various

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# A Word to Our Readers

## PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

"I wish to announce the sale of Libertarian Review to Mr. Charles Koch of Wichita, Kansas, an arrangement long under discussion and now concluded effective with the next issue.

"As the masthead will indicate, the editorial offices have been moved to New York. Chuck Hamilton, president of Free Life Editions, will become publisher. Roy A. Childs, Jr., has been named editor, with Walter Grinder and Leonard P. Liggio as associate editors. I will continue as a consultant to the publication and as a corporate director.

"This move bodes well both for LR and for the libertarian movement. LR will now operate for the first time by a full-time editorial and administrative staff and should soon manage to resume a monthly publishing schedule. I look forward as eagerly as each reader to the expected improvement in the quality of a journal which has been close to my heart for the past five years, and whose continuance I regard as vital to a healthy libertarian movement. I wish the new owners and management the very best success and pledge them my support and assistance in every way."

Robert D. Kephart

• The Winter catalog for *Audio-Forum* is now available. *Audio-Forum* will be happy to send a copy to any interested LR reader: send 25 cents in coin or stamps for postage and handling, to *Audio-Forum*, 901 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

• *Menckiana* is a quarterly publication, issued since 1962 from the Mencken Room of Baltimore's famed Enoch Pratt Free Library, devoted to the rambunctious

world of H. L. Mencken, the influence of his work on his contemporaries, and the significance of his ideas in today's world. Each issue contains one or more previously unpublished item by or about Mencken. Annual subscriptions to *Menckiana* are only \$3.00 each. To take advantage of this unique publication, mail your check, made out to the Enoch Pratt Free Library, to: *Menckiana*, 400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

• Los Angeles Radio station KPFK, owned and operated by the Pacifica Foundation, has begun broadcasting a new fifteen minute commentary, "*Libertarian Viewpoint*," heard every Friday. The program is produced by Charles Barr, and directed by William Susel, who has been active in the Libertarian Party. One program, broadcast January 21, 1977, featured a discussion between Diane Alexander, author, lecturer and anthropologist, and William Susel, dealt with the Carter administration, and how it is likely to differ from the regimes of Nixon and Ford. For information on "*Libertarian Viewpoint*," write to: William Susel, 12248 Spring Trail, San Fernando, CA 91342.

• Prolific LR associate editor *Tibor Machan* has just published an introductory textbook for philosophy, entitled *Introduction to Philosophical Inquiries*, published by Allyn and Bacon, Inc., in Boston, MA. ■

**Dominic Armentano** teaches economics at the University of Hartford, in Hartford, Connecticut, and is the author of *The Myths of Antitrust*, published by Arlington House. He is a frequent contributor to Libertarian publications. **Bruce Bartlett** is a graduate student in history at Georgetown University, and has worked for several Congressmen on Capitol Hill. **Dr. Peter Breggin** is a noted psychiatrist, and author of two novels, *After the Good War* and *The Crazy from the Sane*. He has written widely on the relationship between psychiatry and the State, and is a leading opponent of coercive psychosurgery. His essays and reviews have appeared in a number of significant publications. **David Brudnoy** is a syndicated columnist, TV and radio personality, and a freelance writer. He writes on films and books for various journals, and is the editor of *The Conservative Alternative*. **Roy A. Childs, Jr.** is a Research Associate for the *Center for Libertarian Studies*, and author of numerous articles and reviews in libertarian publications. Beginning with the May/June issue, he will serve as editor of *Libertarian Review*. **Richard Ebeling** is a graduate student in economics at New York University, studying under Profs. Ludwig Lachmann and Israel Kirzner. He is the editor of the Occasional Papers series of the Center for Libertarian Studies. **Walter E. Grinder** is the executive director of the *Center for Libertarian Studies* and an associate editor of LR. He has written widely on issues relating to history and economics, contributed the introduction to *Free Life Editions'* reprint of Albert Jay Nock's *Our Enemy the State*, and is working on a study of State capitalism. He has also edited a collection of essays by Prof. Ludwig Lachmann, the Austrian economist, which is scheduled to appear soon. **Ken E. Grubbs** is the youthful (28) editorial page editor of the *Santa Ana Register*, and a frequent

radio personality. **Regina Hugo** is a freelance writer living in the state of Washington. Her review of Suzanne Langer's masterwork *Mind: An Essay in Human Feeling* appeared in an earlier issue of *Libertarian Review*. **Leonard Liggio** teaches history in the American Studies Program at SUNY, Long Island, is on the board of directors of the Center for Libertarian Studies, and is co-editor, with James Martin, of *Watershed of Empire*, a collection of essays on New Deal foreign policy published by *Ralph Myles*. **James J. Martin** is a leading revisionist historian, the author of *Revisionist Viewpoints*, *Men Against the State*, and the monumental study *American Liberalism and World Politics 1931-1941*. Dr. Martin is primarily responsible for bringing back to print a host of individualist classics, including works by Stirner, Spooner, Tucker, and many others, and is currently at work on a study of U.S.-Soviet relations during World War II. **R. C. Orem** is the author of *A Montessori Handbook* and a freelance writer. **Tom G. Palmer** was until recently on the national staff of the *Libertarian Party* and the national director of the Young Libertarian Alliance. He is currently pursuing studies at St. Johns College. **Eric Scott Royce** works for the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation and is the editor/publisher of *Southern Libertarian Review*. **George H. Smith** is the author of *Atheism: The Case Against God*, and is a frequent lecturer and contributor to libertarian publications. He is also the director of the *Forum for Philosophical Studies*. **Steven Utley** is a freelance writer and reviewer whose fiction has appeared in *Galaxy* and other magazines. His first book (ed. with George W. Proctor), *Lone Star Universe*, an anthology of speculative fiction and fantasy by Texas writers, has just been published by Heidelberg Publishers. ■

## Contributors IN THIS ISSUE

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