

International Military Tribunal Defendants

Defendant	In Their Own Words	Conspiracy	Charge: Crimes Against the Peace	Charge: War Crimes	Charge: Crimes Against Humanity	Position in government and result of trial
 Martin Borman				guilty	guilty	Member of the Nazi Party and the SA (as of 1925). Head of the Reich Chancellery and Hitler's personal secretary (as of 1941). Tried in absentia and sentenced to death by hanging. His skeleton was found in Berlin in 1972 showing signs of suicide by cyanide poisoning.
 Karl Dönitz	"Politicians brought the Nazis to power and started the war. They are the ones who brought about these disgusting crimes, and now we have to sit there in the dock with them and share the blame!" (5/27/46)		guilty	guilty		Supreme commander of the German Navy from 1943. Named as Hitler's successor and became Head of the Reich after Hitler's suicide. Sentenced to and served 10 years in prison. Released from prison in 1956. Died in 1980.
 Hans Frank	"Don't let anybody tell you that they had no idea. Everybody sensed there was something horribly wrong with the system." (11/29/45) "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." (4/17/46)			guilty	guilty	Member of the Nazi Party and SA (after 1923). Chief Nazi jurist and founder of the Reich Legal Office of the Nazi Party in 1930. Governor General of Poland (1939-1945). Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.
 Wilhelm Frick	"Hitler didn't want to do things my way. I wanted things done legally. After all, I am a lawyer." (4/24/46)... "The mass murders were certainly not thought of as a consequence of the Nuremberg Laws, [though] it may have turned out that way."		guilty	guilty	guilty	Minister of the Interior and Protector of Bohemia and Moravia from 1943. Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.
 Hans Fritzsche	"I have been tricked and trapped by the Himmler murder machine, even when I tried to put a check on it...Let us explain our position to the world, so that at least we won't die under this awful burden of shame." (11/21/45) "I have the feeling I am drowning in filth....I am choking in it."--(2/21/46, after watching film of atrocities).					Plenipotentiary for the Political Organization of the Greater German Radio and head of the Radio Division under Goebbels at the Reich Propaganda Ministry. Acquitted of all charges. Later convicted by a German court. Freed in 1950.

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 Walther Funk	"I signed the laws for the aryanization of Jewish property. Whether that makes me legally guilty or not, is another matter. But it makes me morally guilty, there is no doubt about that. I should have listened to my wife at the end. She said we'd be better off dropping the whole minister business and moving into a three-bedroom flat." (7/8/46)		guilty	guilty	guilty	Minister of Economics, President of the Reichsbank, Chief Plenipotentiary for Economics. Sentenced to life in prison and released in 1957 due to illness. Died in 1960.
 Hermann Göring	"I joined the Party precisely because it was revolutionary, not because of the ideological stuff." (12/11/45)... "The whole conspiracy idea is cockeyed. We had orders to obey the head of state. We weren't a band of criminals meeting in the woods in the dead of night to plan mass murders... The four real conspirators are missing: The Fuhrer, Himmler, Bormann, and Goebbels." (1/5/46)... "This is a political trial by the victors and it will be a good thing when Germany realizes that..." (6/13/46)	guilty	guilty	guilty	guilty	Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe, President of the Reichstag, Prime Minister of Prussia, Second Deputy of the Reich. Signed the July 1941 order authorizing the SS to implement the "Final Solution." Sentenced to death by hanging but committed suicide the day before his scheduled execution.
 Rudolf Hess	"It is just incomprehensible how those things [atrocities] came about... Every genius has the demon in him. You can't blame him [Hitler]--it is just in him... It is all very tragic. But at least I have the satisfaction of knowing that I tried to do something to end the war." (12/16/45)	guilty	guilty			Hitler's deputy minister and head of the Nazi Party Chancellery until 1941 when he flew to England in an unauthorized attempt to seek peace. Spent the remainder of the war in British captivity. Involved in the euthanasia and other murder training. Sentenced to life in prison. He committed suicide in prison at the age of 93 in 1987.
 Alfred Jodl	"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 lived by all my life." (11/1/45)	guilty	guilty	guilty	guilty	Chief of Operation Staff of the High Command of the Armed Forces (Wehrmacht). Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.
 Ernest Kaltenbrunner	"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?" (4/11/46)... "I have only done my duty as an intelligence organ, and I refuse to serve as an ersatz for Himmler."			guilty	guilty	Chief of the SS Central Office for Reich Security (RSHA) after Heydrich's death in 1942. Played an instrumental role in implementing the euthanasia program and the Final Solution. Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.

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 Wilhelm Keitel	"We all believed so much in him [Hitler]--and we stand to take all the blame--and the shame! He gave us the orders. He kept saying that it was all his responsibility." (12/25/45)... "I will suffer more agony of conscience and self-reproach in this cell than anybody will ever know." (1/6/46)... "the only thing that is impossible is for me to there [in court] like a louse and lie." (4/6/46)		guilty	guilty	guilty	Wehrmacht Chief of the Armed Forces High Command (1938-1945) and general field marshal. Signed many orders affecting POWs and civilians in occupied territories. Signed Germany's unconditional surrender in 1945. Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.
 Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach						Nazi industrialist and C.E.O of Krupp A.G 1912-45. Determined to be medically unfit for trial. The prosecutors attempted to substitute his son Alfried (who ran Krupp for his father during most of the war) in the indictment, but the judges rejected this as being too close to trial.
 Robert Ley						Co-founder of the pro-Nazi and antisemitic newspaper <i>Westdeutscher Beobachter</i> . Head of the German Labor Front. As director of the Working Committee for the Protection of German Labor ordered arrest of all labor union leaders in May 1933. Committed suicide in October 1945 while awaiting trial.
 Konstantin von Neurath	"Hitler was a liar, of course--that became more and more clear. He simply had no respect for the truth. But nobody recognized it at first...He must have done his conspiring with his little gang of henchmen late at night. Sometimes he would call at 1, 2, or 3 in the morning." (12/15/45)	guilty	guilty	guilty	guilty	SS General. Served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and protector of occupied Bohemia and Moravia. Sentenced to 15 years in prison but released in 1954 due to illness. Died in 1956.
 Franz von Papen	"I think [Hitler] wanted the best for Germany at the beginning, but he became an unreasoning evil force with the flattery of his followers--Himmler, Goering, Ribbentrop, etc...I tried to persuade him he was wrong in his anti-Jewish policies many a time. He seemed to listen at first, but later on, I had no influence on him." (10/30/45)					Reich Chancellor and ambassador to Vienna and Turkey. Acquitted of all charges.

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 Erich Raeder	<p>"I have no illusion about this trial. Naturally, I will be hanged or shot. I flatter myself to think that I will be shot; at least I will request it. I have no desire to serve a prison sentence at my age." (5/20/46)</p>		guilty	guilty	guilty	Supreme Commander of the German Navy to 1943. Sentenced to life in prison but served 9 years before being released in 1955 due to illness. Died in 1960 at age 84.
 Joachim von Ribbentrop	<p>"We are only living shadows--the remains of a dead era--an era that died with Hitler. Whether a few of us live another 10 or 20 years, it makes no difference." (3/27/46)</p>		guilty	guilty	guilty	German Foreign Minister. Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.
 Alfred Rosenberg	<p>"I didn't say that the Jews are inferior. I didn't even maintain they are a race. I merely saw that the mixture of different cultures didn't work." (1/12/46)... "We let 50,000 Jewish intellectuals get across the border. Just as I wanted Lebensraum for Germany, I thought Jews should have a Lebensraum for themselves--outside of Germany." (12/15/45)</p>		guilty	guilty	guilty	Nazi racial ideologue and Reich Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories. Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.
 Fritz Sauckel	<p>"I was given this assignment which I could not refuse--and besides, I did everything possible to treat [the foreign slave laborers] well." (2/23/46)</p>		guilty		guilty	Reich Director of Labor from 1942-1945. Responsible for supplying the manpower for the German armaments and munitions production program. Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.
 Hjalmar Schacht	<p>"I have full confidence in the judges, and I am not afraid of the outcome. A few of the defendants are not guilty; most of them are sheer criminals." (10/23/45)... "All I wanted was to build up Germany industrially....The only thing they can accuse me of is breaking the Versailles Treaty." (11/1/45)</p>					Minister of Economics and President of the Reichsbank. Acquitted of all charges. Later convicted by a German court and sentenced to 8 years. Freed in 1950.

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 Baldur von Schirach	"I had no reason to be anti-Semitic...until someone made me read the American book, <i>The International Jew</i> , at the impressionable age of 17. You have no idea what a great influence this book had on the thinking of German youth...At the age of 18, I met Adolf Hitler. I must admit I was inspired by him...and became one of his staunchest supporters." (10/27/45)				guilty	Leader of the Hitler Youth and Gauleiter of Vienna. Sentenced to 20 years in prison but released in 1966.
 Arthur Seyss-Inquart	"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." (4/46)		guilty	guilty	guilty	Reich Governor of Austria, Deputy Governor to Hans Frank in Occupied Poland, Reichkommissar for the German occupied Netherlands. Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.
 Albert Speer	"I would like to sit down and write one final blast about the whole damn Nazi mess and mention names and details and let the German people see once and for all what rotten corruption, hypocrisy, and madness the whole system was based on! I would spare no one, including myself." (2/46)			guilty	guilty	Minister of Armaments (1942) and Reich Minister for Armaments and War Production (after 1943). Principal planner of the German war economy, responsible for construction of strategic roads and defenses and military hardware. Responsible for allocation of forced labor in the German war industry. Sentenced to and served 20 years in prison.
 Julius Streicher	"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." (12/16/45)...."I am the only one in the world who clearly saw the Jewish menace as an historical problem." (11/14/45)				guilty	Owner and publisher of the antisemitic newspaper <i>Der Sturmer</i> and the <i>Sturmer Verlag</i> (publishing house). Former director of the Central Committee for the Defense against Jewish Atrocity and Boycott Propaganda. Sentenced to death by hanging. Sentence carried out October 16, 1946.