



(ii) Albert Speer, when he became Minister for Armaments and Munitions in 1942, was given a ruined economy and a failing industry. He was required to increase production while still using the same raw materials percentage. Although this seems an impossible task, he achieved it, and ~~was~~ managed to increase Germany's ~~and~~ overall production by almost 500%.

Speer used prisoners captured during the war for ~~the~~ hard labour. This more increased production whilst also saving money. He also brought women into the production line, ~~def~~ going against ^{Nazi} ~~German~~ policy about women belonging in the home. He managed to use Germany's resources to their fullest potential, despite the government being reluctant to make the German people make sacrifices through increased tax, which would lower living standards.

Hitler's idea was that he would take each country so fast that he would be able to regroup and then be on to the next country before they were ready, using a policy of "lightning attacks" to gain land. Germany was reliant on imported iron, copper and



other raw materials for its production, and was not able to gain enough conquered material before it became a war of attrition. Despite this though, Speer was able to ~~was~~ prolong the ~~war~~ war by at least two years, using forced labour and women in work.

When it came to the end of the war, it was Speer whose direct actions against Hitler's orders saved Germany for future generations. His refusal to destroy ^{the} industry he had worked so hard to build meant that Germany had a way to ~~was~~ survive when it was finally subdued.

Speer's involvement in the execution of Jews was never proved, and he stated that he had no knowledge of it, despite being in control of the camps where ~~the~~ the executions occurred. It is possible that besides prolonging the World War, he also played a major part in the Holocaust, ~~despite~~ even if it could not be proven.