PRINCIPAL NAZI ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE COMMISSION OF WAR CRIMES

THE NAZI PARTY

(Part III)

Draft for the Use of the War Crimes Staff

6 September 1945
III. MAJOR PARTY OFFICES

Introductory Note: Criteria of Responsibility

Execution of the Nazis' over-all plan of political conquest and domination was the work of the various offices, agencies, and organizations incorporated in, or associated with, the Nazi Party. This included the major Party offices on the national, regional, and local levels, such as the Reichsleitung, the Gauleitung, the Kreisleitung, etc.; the Party formations, e.g., the SA, the SS, the HJ (Hitler Youth), etc.; the affiliated associations, e.g., the German Labor Front; and, to a lesser degree, the supervised organizations, e.g., the German Students' Society, etc.

Many of these agencies were implicated in a double sense. For one thing, they guaranteed the continued presence of certain principles of control and were therefore vitally responsible for the existence and operation of the over-all plan. In addition, they were either organized or used to translate specific parts of the over-all plan into action. By the same token, all voluntary members of these offices, agencies, or organizations will have to account for themselves on two levels of responsibility. Because of their membership in offices, agencies, or organizations charged with the perpetration of specific crimes, they are implicated ipso facto. Secondly, given sufficient evidence, they
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may be held responsible for active participation in the commission of specific crimes committed by these offices, agencies, and organizations, or of parts thereof.

On the other hand, while there is prima facie evidence of guilt against each voluntary member of such offices, agencies, and organizations, responsibility may differ depending on the functional position of the incumbent within the Nazi hierarchy. Functional responsibilities varied in accordance with the following characteristics peculiar to the structure of the Nazi Party and movement:

   a. Its hierarchical system
   b. Its theory of the sovereignty of office
   c. Its emphasis on departmentalization
   d. The heterogeneity of functions within a single command
   e. The ambiguity of Party affiliation

   a. Hierarchical system. Responsibility for the planning and executing of policies within the Nazi movement descended in a strictly hierarchical pattern. The highest and most comprehensive responsibilities were carried by offices nearest to the summit of the Nazi pyramid, whereas functions declined in degree and scope with growing distance from the Reich leadership. By the same token, over-all policies were
most likely to be formulated at the top, with the offices on the lower level confining themselves to the execution of such policies. In fact, with the exception of the office of the Führer, no responsibility exercised by any one office was total or original. All authority was derived from the Führer and remained subject to recall by him. In evaluating the criminal responsibility of any office or officeholder, thus, consideration must be given to his position within the Nazi hierarchy. Reichsleiter and Gauleiter, naturally, carried higher responsibility than local and block leaders.

b. Sovereignty of office. Within the Party hierarchy certain offices maintained a higher degree of responsibility than others by virtue of the scope of their jurisdiction. This applies in particular to the so-called "Hoheitsträger" of the Party (bearers of sovereignty), i.e., those other than the Führer, the Gauleiter, the Kreisleiter, the Ortsgruppenleiter, the Zellenleiter, and the Blockleiter. They constituted the spine of the Party structure (die Grundpfeiler der Partei). They were, within their region of jurisdiction (the so-called Hoheitsgebiet), not only the superiors of all political leaders of the Party, of all Party officials, and of all leaders of affiliated organizations; they also constituted the supreme political authority as such. Consequently,
their responsibility for political acts committed in their Hoheitsgebiet should be rated higher than that of other Party officials working within the same area.

c. Departmentalization. In accordance with the hierarchical structure of the Nazi Party, responsibility for planning or executing policies was, in general, not shared. Party leaders and officials operating on the same functional level, e.g., Gauleiter, Kreisleiter, etc., would not arrive at political conclusions as a matter of common agreement but independently. Co-operative planning was rare. Concerted action, wherever apparent, would not necessarily be the result of decisions commonly arrived at, but of executive orders handed down from higher places. It has been reported (by Karl Hermann Frank, former State Minister in the Protectorate, interrogated on 29 May 1945) that a Führerbefehl (Führer's order), issued in the course of the war, established the functional isolation of all major offices in vital matters. This Führerbefehl prohibited under threat of severe penalties any office of the Party, armed forces, or government which had been entrusted with the execution of a confidential matter from communicating the contents to an office not officially involved in the same issue. This, however, does not exclude the possibility that the highest Party officials, including the Gauleiter, were kept informed of major decisions in the
political or military field. Nor does it clear the incumbent from the responsibility which he carries by reason of his membership in the particular office, agency, or organization.

This practice of segregating functional responsibilities led to extensive duplication of operations within the Nazi hierarchy, a duplication much of which was part of a deliberate policy of checking and counter-checking the activities of Party officials. On the other hand, it facilitated a high degree of specialization. Because of this, responsibility for specific crimes can (and should) be traced back to these Party offices and organizations to which such functions were definitely relegated, e.g., the Propaganda Department for incitement to illegal actions, the staff of Reichsleiter Rosenberg for the pillaging of cultural objects in occupied countries, etc.

d. **Heterogeneity of Responsibilities.** A number of offices and organizations within the Nazi movement did not constitute an organic entity within which each unit shared the responsibility for an over-all purpose. They presented instead a conglomeration of the most heterogeneous functions haphazardly and arbitrarily assembled with no unifying element in evidence other than that of the person heading the office or organization. The Party Chancellery, for instance,
had a vital subdivision like the Sachbearbeiter für innere Parteiangelegenheiten (Official in Charge of Internal Party Affairs) and next to it another subdivision, unrelated and politically far less significant, the Hauptarchiv der NSDAP (Main Archives of the Party). The heterogeneity of functions assembled in individual offices was the inevitable weakness of a system in which individual office-holders by hook or crook tried to increase their authority through an accumulation of the most diverse responsibilities under their jurisdiction, notwithstanding the possibility of duplication with the programs of other offices. This fact, again, does not free the heads of the less important offices from the responsibility of having belonged to an organization engaged in the perpetration of specific war crimes, but it may have a bearing on the degree of their individual responsibility.

e. Party Affiliation. Membership in organizations affiliated with, supervised, or otherwise controlled by the Party did not require membership in the Party proper. While the leadership of these organizations was supplied by the Party, the members were frequently members by compulsion, and their activities often negligible from a political viewpoint. The function of the leadership, in turn, was restricted to the specific functions allotted to the organization, which varied in accordance with the importance of the purpose and

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program. Consequently, crimes committed by Party-affiliated or controlled organizations should be traced back to the leadership of these organizations in accordance with the functions assigned to them, rather than to the members.

A. The Führer

The Führer held supreme authority within the Party. According to Party doctrine, "the will of the Führer is supreme law within the Party" (Der Wille des Führers ist oberstes Gesetz in der Partei).\(^1\) All authority within the Party and the movement originated with that of the Führer. The "Führergewalt," i.e., the authority of the Führer, was the only legitimate source of all political power exercised within and without the Party and movement.\(^2\)

The rise of the Party to political supremacy resulted in the elevation of the Führer of the Party to the highest office of the State. This development found its legal sanction in the Law Concerning the Head of State of the German Reich (Gesetz über das Staatsoberhaupt des Deutschen Reiches) of 1 August 1934\(^3\) which united the office of the Reich President with that of the Reich Chancellor. Through this

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1 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943.
2 Cf. Ernst Rudolf Huber, Verfassung, p. 118; cf. also chapter on Leadership Principle, pp. 8 ff.
3 RGFL. part I p. 747
law, according to the Party Manual, "Party and State leadership were placed in the same hands." From then on, the Führer was responsible "solely to his conscience and to the German people."

The significance of this merger lay in the following considerations. First, the occupation of the three supreme offices by the same officeholder did not amount to a mere accumulation of their functions; it created a new office altogether. Nazi interpreters of constitutional law explained the amalgamation of the offices of chancellor and president in the person of the Führer as follows: "This is not a superficial grouping together of various offices, functions, and powers....It is not a union of offices but a unity of office. The Führer does not unite the old offices of Chancellor and President side by side within himself, but he fills a new, unified office...The Führer unites in himself all the sovereign authority of the Reich; all public authority of the State as well as in the movement is derived from the authority of the Führer. We must speak not of the State's authority but of the Führer's authority if we wish to designate correctly the character of the political authority within the Reich. The State does not hold political

4 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943
5 Ibid.
authority as an impersonal unit but receives it from the Führer as the executor of the national will. The authority of the Führer is complete and all-embracing; it unites in itself all the means of political direction; it extends into all fields of national life; it embraces the entire people."

Secondly, the establishment of the office of Führer und Reichskanzler as an office sui generis, modeled on the authoritarian and totalitarian powers of Führer of the Party, modified constitutional provisions which restricted the functions of the Reich President and of the Reich Chancellor. It practically eliminated the principle of separation of powers. The Führer und Reichskanzler became the Chief Legislator, the Chief Executive, and the Chief Justice of the German Reich. The Führer issued statutes, decrees, and edicts. The Führer appointed the civil service. The Führer instituted the independent courts, assigned specific responsibilities to them, and protected their sphere of activity. In cases of emergency, he prosecuted, sentenced,
and executed the criminal. This procedure was followed in the case of the Roehm putsch.

In defense of this last action Hitler stated on 13 July 1934: "If anyone reproaches me and asks me why I did not resort to the regular courts of justice -- I became the Supreme Justice of the German people." In the language of Nazi constitutional lawyers:

"All legislative power is derived from the will of the Führer...."

"Administrative sovereignty is once more immediately and unalterably that of the Führer...."

"The Führer.... is the Supreme Justice of the people (der oberste Gerichtsherr des Volkes)...."

Thirdly, the amalgamation of the office of Reich President and Reich Chancellor made the Führer, ex officio, supreme commander of the Armed Forces. In keeping with the expansive nature of his office, the Führer arrogated to himself "in person" the High Command of the Armed Forces (Decree Concerning the Command of the Armed Forces, 4 February 1938). This measure constituted the first important one in a series of inroads which ended with the domination of the armed forces by the Nazi Party. Further steps along the same line were the creation in 1940 of the Wahrmaachtführungstab (Armed Forces

10 My New Order, p. 275
11 Huber, Verfassung, pp. 123, 149, 151
Operational Staff), a Nazified version of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Hitler's assumption in 1941 of the High Command of the Army; the introduction in 1943 of the Nationalsozialistische Führungsoffiziere (National Socialist Guidance Officers); the gradual placing under Party auspices of important offices of the armed forces, e.g., part of Wehrwirtschafts und Rüstungsamt (Economic and Armament Office) under the Speer Ministry and part of the Intelligence and Espionage Offices (Abwehr) under the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Main Security Office) of the SS; and the subordination in 1944 of the Ersatzheer (Replacement Army) under the command of Himmler. The gradual eclipse of the General Staff and the growing scope of Hitler's discretion, not only in matters of administration, but of strategy and tactics as well, has been described, with little evidence of fundamental disagreement, by a number of high German generals, including Guderian, Warlimont, Rundstedt, and Goering.12

The omnipotence of the Führer, as head of Party, government, and armed forces, was sanctioned, officially, by the resolution of the Reichstag of 26 April 1942.13 This act reaffirmed the right of the Führer "claimed by him" to do

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12 Cf. interrogations of these men, and also Semi-Weekly Intelligence Summary of 12th Army Group, esp. No. 9, 8 June 1945.
13 RGBl 1942, part I, p. 247
everything which serves or contributes to the attainment of victory. 14 This right implied complete subordination to the Führer of categories of officials who previously, by constitutional privilege or bureaucratic tradition, were removed from the discretion of the executive office, e.g., the judges and the officers of the Armed Forces. According to the resolution,

"In his capacity as Führer of the nation, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, as Head of the Government and Supreme Bearer of the Executive Authority, as Chief Judge, and as Führer of the Party, the Führer must therefore -- without being bound by existing legal principle -- be able at any time, if necessary, to urge any German to fulfill his obligations with all means which appear to him as appropriate." 15

This right included, specifically, the power to remove from office anyone, i.e., a soldier or an officer, a high or low official or judge, an important or subordinate Party official, a manual laborer or a salaried employee. Thus,

"In the case of dereliction of these duties he must, after a conscientious investigation, be able, without regard to so-called 'well-acquired' rights, to impose the fitting punishment -- in particular, without introducing the prescribed procedure, to remove any man from his office, his rank, and his position." 16

14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 Ibid.
Actually, this resolution merely epitomized a state of affairs which began after 1933. However, it contains the most authentic definition of the practically unlimited powers of the Führer.

On the strength of the above, it is possible to state that the office of the Führer was ultimately responsible for all major political and military decisions adopted within and outside the Party. This includes:

Legislative acts, e.g., the Nuremberg Laws of September 1935, which codified the exclusion of Jews from German citizenship.

The declaration and launching of aggressive wars.

The decree of 1 March 1942, which ordered the grand-scale pillaging of cultural treasures in occupied territories as part of "the systematic spiritual battle" against Jews, Freemasons, and other ideological opponents of the Third Reich.17

The Sonderbefehl (special order) of 1942 to level the village of Lidice even with the ground, to shoot the men, to send the women to concentration camps and the children to special educational establishments.18

17 Copy of decree available in War Crimes Office.
18 Quoted in interrogation of Karl Hermann Frank, former State Secretary in Bohemia-Moravia.
The order of 18 October 1942 demanding the summary execution of Allied troops encountered during commando operations.

The supplementary order of 10 October 1944 extending the order of 1942 to include all Allied sabotage groups captured in the battle area. 19

B. Die Kanzlei des Führers der NSDAP (The Chancellery of the Führer): (Former address: Berlin W8 Volksstrasse 4).

Chief of this office was Reichsleiter Philipp Bouhler.

The Chancellery of the Führer assists the Führer in matters involving his person and such patriarchal powers as were attributed to him -- e.g., sovereign authority over the

19 Copies of these orders have been filed with the War Crimes Office. Their issuance is, in addition, substantiated by Dr. Kurt Behmke, a witness interrogated at HQ Third Army, Judge Advocate Section, APO 403; reference number of originating office 3 JA = 150; own file reference number I C B #3. Evidence, also, of the execution of these orders is filed with the War Crimes Office -- namely, the killing of members of the "Eagle Mission" (OSS) by the Gestapo; killing of members of the "Daves Mission" in Slovakia, OSS document #J/GC/507 (Accession #GCTS - 9); killing by SS and by armed forces of Allied fliers who parachuted into Yugoslavia, OSS A 48725 (FF 2841); OSS #012013; also report of the "Ginny" case, #100; see also State Department cables, files 6-23; 12-207 through 12-213, regarding killing of American military personnel after capture by German armed forces, quoting, inter alia, War Department, #675013, also E 91022; also killing of American PW's in concentration camp Mauthausen, WCC dissemination, Index 155, Witness: Zigmund Josef Marchol, 26 June 1945; further, the shooting of Allied PW's during Rundstedt offensive, OSS XL 11097.
life and death of Party members. The Chancellery of the Führer was in charge of all Party matters brought directly to the attention of the Führer, provided that they did not fall under the jurisdiction of another Party office. 20

To discharge the above duties the Chancellery of the Führer was sub-divided into six so-called Hauptämter (Main Offices), namely:

**Hauptamt I:** Personal Affairs of the Führer (Persönliche Angelegenheiten des Führers)

**Hauptamt II:** Affairs of Party, State, and armed forces (Angelegenheiten aus Partei, Staat und Wehrmacht)

**Hauptamt III:** Pardons (Gnadenangelegenheiten)

**Hauptamt IV:** Economic and Social Affairs (Angelegenheiten wirtschaftlicher und sozialer Art)

**Hauptamt V:** Personnel and Administrative Affairs (Personal und Verwaltungsangelegenheiten der Dienststelle)

**Hauptamt VI:** Affairs concerning Science, Education, and Literature (Angelegenheiten aus Wissenschaft, Erziehung und Schrifttum)

Hauptamt I was also known as the Party Adjutancy (Parteiaadjutantur). The Adjutants (Die persönlichen Adjutanten des Führers) were, in 1943-44:

20. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 153
One of the major functions of these adjutants is presumed to have been that of personal service to the Führer. It is known that in addition, some of them enjoyed the confidence of the Führer in political matters as well. However, their function must not be confused with that of the staff which regularly assembled at the Führer’s headquarters (Führerhauptquartier), where matters concerning the conduct of the war were discussed and decided.

The functions discharged by Hauptamt III were derived from the authority of the Führer as Chief Judge of the Party. As the Supreme bearer of sovereignty within the movement, he exercised the power of pardon in matters falling under the jurisdiction of Party courts. This right obviously was delegated to the Chancellery of the Führer, together with the authority to grant or to deny pardon for Party members irrespective of whether they were condemned by Party or public courts, whenever petitions to this effect were

21 Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944
22 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 152
"addressed by the people to the Führer." Exempt were such petitions as fell under the jurisdiction of other offices within the Reich Directorate of the Party. The Chancellery of the Führer, thus, must be held responsible for cases in which guilty persons escaped punishment for reasons of political expediency or in which, for the same reasons, pardon was denied.

The nature of the various affairs handled by the other offices is not known in detail. It must be presumed that cases in which the Führer personally dealt with issues arising in the fields of personnel, social affairs, economics, science, education (such as appointments, promotions, and awards) were cleared through the respective office of the Chancellery of the Führer. It should be noted, however, that action was presumably not taken unless Party members or Party affairs were involved. The Chancellery of the Führer (Kanzlei des Führers), therefore, must not be confused with the Reich Chancellery (Reichskanzlei) nor with the Presidential Chancellery (Praesidialkanzlei), both of which were State offices assisting the Führer in his capacity as Reich Chancellor and Head of State, respectively.

23 Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 182
C. The Partei-Kanzlei (Party Chancellery)

(Former address: Berlin W8 Wilhelmstrasse 63/64)

Chiefs of the Party Chancellery were Rudolf Hess, and after 1941, his Chief of Staff, Martin Bormann. The Partei-Kanzlei, according to official definition, was the office of the Führer in his capacity as leader of the Party. Historically, this office was the successor of what was formerly called the office of the Stellvertreter des Führers (Deputy of the Führer), a position held solely by Rudolf Hess and officially discontinued after the flight of the only incumbent.

The Stellvertreter des Führers was appointed after the Nazi rise to power to relieve the Führer in matters concerning the leadership of the Party. The choice fell upon the head of the Politische Zentralkommission (Central Political Committee) of the Party. His first task was "to reorient the Party and to mobilize new forces," primarily in order to replenish the ranks of the Party, which were thinned out through the absorption of leading Party men by the government machinery. In addition, the "formation and affiliated association of the Party needed a unified political command."26

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24 Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 181.
The function of reorientation devolved upon the Chief of Staff of the Stellvertreter, Martin Bormann. The Chief of Staff was empowered, upon order of the Stellvertreter, to issue political directives (Richtlinien) for formations and affiliated associations. Apart from these internal Party assignments it was declared to be the task of the staff to participate "decisively" in the legislative work as well as in the personnel matters of Federal agencies.

The legislative function was anchored in the "Law to Ensure the Unity of Party and State" (Gesetz zur Sicherung der Einheit von Partei und Staat) of 1 December 1933. Article 2 made the Stellvertreter des Führers a member of the Reich Cabinet, then the foremost legislative body. This step was interpreted and expanded in a decree of the Führer of 27 July 1934 in the following manner:

"To further the unity of Party and State, the Führer in his capacity as Chancellor of the Reich has decreed that the Party, more than before, be drafted for legislative work, that the Stellvertreter des Führers, Reich Minister Rudolf Hess, or delegates appointed by him, are given the right to participate in the drafting of bills prepared by each

27 RGBl. part I, p. 1016.
Laws signed by the Stellvertreter included the Law
Against Insidious Attacks Upon Party and State (Gesetz gegen
heimtückische Angriffe auf Partei und Staat) of 20 December 1934,
one of the severest measures to suppress political opposition;
the first decree in execution of the Reich Citizenship Law
(Reichsbürgergesetz) of 14 November 1935;29 the Law for the
Protection of German Blood and German Honor (Gesetz zum Schutz
des deutschen Blutes und der deutschen Ehre) of September 1935
and the executive decree thereto,30 which codified the defamation
of Jews and established their exclusion from German citizenship.

Influence in the selection of government personnel was
guaranteed by the German Civil Service Law (Deutsches Beamten-
gesetz) of 26 January 1937,30a Article 31 in conjunction with
the decree of 10 July 193730b demanded that the Stellvertreter
be heard prior to appointments of candidates to the civil service.

Following the departure of Rudolf Hess, the title of the
office of the "Stellvertreter des Führers" was changed by decree
of the Führer to that of Partei-Kanzlei (Party Chancellery).30c

28 Bulletin of the Reichsprosstellung (Reich Press Bureau) of
the Party, published in Das Dritte Reich, 1934, Berlin,
1935, p. 298.
29 RGBl. part I, p. 1333.
30 RGBl. part I, p. 1333, 1146.
30a RGBl. part I, p. 39, 186.
30b RGBl. part I, p. 769
30c Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 151.
The decree further stated that the Partei-Kanzlei should be directly subordinate to the Führer in person. Martin Bormann, Chief of Staff, was reaffirmed in his previous functions and made Chief (Leiter) of the Partei-Kanzlei. By subsequent decree the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei, Reichsleiter Martin Bormann, received the powers of a Reich Minister and was made a member of the Reich Government and of the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich. All functions bestowed by statute, decree, edict, or circular upon the Stellvertreter des Führers were transferred to the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei. 31

A decree of 16 January 1942, 32 issued on the basis of the decree of 29 May 1941, confirmed the monopoly of the Partei-Kanzlei as the only Party office with authority to participate in matters of legislation and of personnel administration within the Government. All contact between, on the one hand, the Supreme Reich authorities and the supreme authorities of the States which comprised several Gaus, and, on the other, the offices of the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations of the Party had to be channeled exclusively through the office of the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei. This rule applied not only to the actual issuance of major Reich laws, but meant also the inclusion of the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei in all preparatory work preliminary to the passing of Reich laws, decrees

32 RGBl. part 1, p. 35.
and edicts of the Führer, decrees of the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich, decrees of the supreme Reich authorities, including executive orders and decrees, laws and decrees of the States, and decrees of the Reich Governors. In addition, participation in the discussion of all fundamental and political problems, especially of those essential to the preparation, modification, and enforcement of laws, decrees, and edicts, was the prerogative of the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei.

The monopolistic position of the Partei-Kanzlei was strengthened further when, in the spring of 1943, the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei was appointed Sekretär des Führers (Secretary to the Führer). This promotion made Martin Bormann the most powerful functionary within the Party hierarchy. According to official definition he became the central clearing authority to the Führer for all fundamental planning and recommendations originating within the ranks of the Party ("Er behandelt alle grundsätzlichen Planungen und Anregungen aus dem Bereich der Partei zentral für den Führer"). Conversely, all directives issued by the Führer for the Party or drafted upon his order were channeled through Bormann to the offices in question. In other words, all operations emanating from the Party as the political force called to lead and to direct the State were concentrated in the Partei-Kanzlei. ("Die gesamte, dem politischen Führungsaufrag der Partei und ihrem richtungweisenden Verhältnis zum Staat entspringende Arbeit ist in der Partei-Kanzlei zusammengefasst").

33 Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 181.
The functions of the Partei-Kanzlei, thus, were two-fold. The Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei enforced Party authority inside and outside the movement. As the center of internal control, the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei had the right to examine all internal plans of the Party and all vital questions of political leadership, including the fundamental proposals of the Reichsleiter, the Gauleiter, and the Leader of the affiliated associations of the Party, and to "coordinate them with the requirements of the total political situation" ("auf die gesamtpolitischen Erfordernisse abgestimmt"). This included the employment of the Party offices in the interest of total mobilization and the supervision of Party work in incorporated and occupied territories. As part of his Party-internal functions the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei had the right to grant or to deny access to the Führer to all. As part of his rights to represent the Party externally he dealt with all questions of common interest to the Party and the Armed Forces, with all problems concerning the enforcement of unity of Party and State, and, above all, he participated in matters of legislation and in such matters of personnel administration as fell within the field of civil service (see above), insofar as they did not come under the jurisdiction

34 Cf. Interrogation of Lammers, Chief of Reich Chancellery, Ref. No. SAIC/32, on file with the War Crimes Office.
of the Gauleiters.

The complex nature of the responsibilities carried by the Partei-Kanzlei is evident from the number and type of offices under its jurisdiction. They are the:

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**Geschäftsführung (Executive Office)**

*Sachbearbeiter für innere Parteiangelegenheiten* (Internal Party Affairs) Helmut Friedrichs

*Sachbearbeiter für staatsrechtliche Fragen* (Constitutional Questions) Gerhard Klopfer

*Sonderbeauftragter bei der Partei-Kanzlei* (Special Delegate at the Party Chancellery) Gustav Oexle

**Hauptarchiv der NSDAP**

(Party Archives) Arnold Brügmann

**Leiter der Auslandsorganisation**

(Leader of the Foreign Organization) Ernst Wilhelm Bohle

**Beauftragte der NSDAP für alle Volksstumsfragen**

(Delegate of the Party for all Questions of "Folkdom") Heinrich Himmler

**Beauftragte für den Neubau des Reiches**

(Delegate for the Reorganization of the Reich) Adolf Wagner (dead)

**Beauftragte für alle Fragen der Technik und ihre Organisation**

(Delegate for Technological Affairs) Albert Speer

**Sachbearbeiter für alle Fragen der Volksgesundheit**

(Delegate for all Questions of Public Health) Leonardo Conti

**Leiter des Rassenpolitischen Amtes der NSDAP**

(Chief of the Office for Racial Policy) Walter Gross
Leiter des Amtes für Sippenforschung
(Chief of Office for Genealogical Research)
Kurt Mayer

Beauftragte für Fragen der Finanzen und Steuerpolitik
(Delegate for Questions of Finance and Tax Policy)
Fritz Reinhardt

Reichslager der NSDAP, Bad Tölz
(Reich Camp of the Party) Martin Seidel

Reichsschule der NSDAP, Feldafing
(Reich School of the Party) Julius Görlich

More recent responsibilities added, totally or partly, to the jurisdiction of the Partei-Kanzlei included the:

Arbeitsberichte der NSDAP
(Spheres of Operation of the Party)

Reichsluftschutzbund
(Reich Air Raid Protection League) Friedrich Hirschauer

Volkssturm
(People's Militia)

It is obvious from the multitude and diversity of offices assembled within the Partei-Kanzlei that it was not conceived and organized as a Party Cabinet, where high Party policies were formulated in council fashion, but rather as a clearing house, where high Party functionaries were heard or directed by the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei on matters pertaining to their particular sphere of jurisdiction.

Functionally, the office in charge of "Internal Party Affairs" under Friedrichs undoubtedly had a central position. All problems of internal Party control were presumably cleared.
through this office. Directives for Reichsleiter, Gauleiter, Verbändeführer (leaders of the affiliated associations) and Leiter der Arbeitsbereiche (Leaders of the Spheres of Operation) probably originated here. The Chief of the Office, Friedrichs, was known to be Bormann's right hand man. In the last days of the war, when the Allied armies threatened to cut Germany in two, Friedrich was reported to have been entrusted with political leadership of Northern Germany.

The office for "Constitutional Questions" under Klopfer, probably represented the Party in all matters of legislation. This function, logically, would seem to have included the preparation of bills affecting the Party or the relationship of the Party to outside agencies, and, presumably, the right to examine, veto, or approve bills prepared by offices within or without the Party and movement.

The Hauptarchiv der NSDAP (Party Archives) under Erdmann collected, sifted, and edited all documents, printed material, reports, photographs, etc., which were "of interest to the historian."35 This office comprised the following departments: (a) "Historical Archives" which contained the history of the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations; questions concerning Jewry, Freemasonry, political

35 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 339
Catholicism, and race "from a historical viewpoint;" (b) "Archives for Newspapers and Magazines," which contained a collection of newspapers and magazines of former political parties and of the Nazi Party; (c) "Library," which contained all National Socialist literature as well as the publications of "Marxism," trade unions, and other organizations of the Weimar Republic; (d) "Germandom Abroad," which contained a file of all events concerning Germandom and the National Socialist movement abroad; (e) "Department for History and Policy of Arts," which edited all pictorial and textual material suited for cultural programs of the Party and propaganda, and where works belonging to "Nordic-Indo-Germanic" culture were indexed; (f) "Collections," which contained pictures, documents, etc., of prominent Party members and of the dead of the movement; also historic relics of former political parties and organizations and phonographic records of prominent politicians; (g) "Photo-Laboratory and Pictorial Records," where all pictorial records were edited and filed and where Party events were pictorially recorded; (h) "Other Archives and Records," to which the archives and records of offices of the Party and Party formations which had been dissolved were being transferred for safekeeping. The Hauptarchiv, depending on need, was continued on the Gau level. The Gauarchive received the material collected in and from
the Kreise (districts) and Ortsgruppen (local groups). All offices of the Party, Party formations, and affiliated organizations were required to hand over all suitable material to the Hauptarchiv. According to recent reports, the majority of German archives in Berlin were destroyed upon higher orders. The Hauptarchiv der NSDAP was located in 1944 in Munich, Gabelsbergerstrasse 41. It is quite possible that these archives were also destroyed or dispersed and evacuated to other places. However, an attempt should be made to locate and apprehend as many of these documents as possible. They constitute a vital body of information on the structure and activities of the Nazi system and the record of its members.

The responsibilities of the remaining offices, so far as they related to war crimes, will be described within their proper context. Their over-all function within the Partei-Kanzlei can best be summarized as that of co-signers of Party policies in all matters concerning their own jurisdiction and as auxiliary organs of Party control within and without the Party proper. Therefore, the Partei-Kanzlei, i.e., originally

37 OSS A-5674
38 A Soviet broadcast of 26 June 1945 indicated that part of the Archives were flown to Spain (FCC Daily, 27 June 1945)
the Stellvertreter des Führers, later the Chief of the Party Chancellery and heads and staffs of the component offices, must be held responsible, within their respective areas of jurisdiction, for the formulation of over-all Party policies, for the issuance of all legislative acts, i.e., statutes, decrees, edicts, circulars of the Reich and States comprising more than one Gau, and for all appointments to the higher civil service.

Specific activities establishing, directly or indirectly, the responsibility of the Partei-Kanzlei for the commission of war crimes are the following:

1. Issuance of Circular No. 163/43 in Reichsverf
   fühungsblatt (Official Bulletin of the Party) of 28 November 1943 endorsing order of the Chief of Prisoner of War Section within the OKW (Supreme Command of the Armed Forces) "to cause prisoners of war to apply their capacity of work to the fullest." It is apparent from the wording of the circular that this order, which undoubtedly led to the ruthless exploitation of P.O.'s beyond the limits set in the Geneva Convention, was actually inaugurated under pressure from the Party Chancellery.

The order stipulated expressly:

that Russian prisoners "need not any longer regularly receive the originally careful surveillance of their health and the intermittent check-ups on weight";

that "Leaders of Workers' Commandos and of guards must now receive unequivocal orders and be continually informed through advice and
instruction that their urgent duty lies in forcing prisoners to employ their full production capacity and in seeing to it that loafers are punished as quickly as possible by the measures approved for contractors or the punishments reserved to military authorities, and that resistant elements are recognized and weeded out. The contractors are today officials of the German people;

that "the treatment of PW's put out to work is... to have one sole consideration in mind: to bring production to the highest possible point and to take sharp measures if the PW's are negligent, lazy, or recalcitrant. PW's are not to be attended to but to be treated so that the highest possible production rate may be reached, as demanded";

that "sharp measures (are to be taken) at once against unruliness or escapes on the part of PW's";

that "weaklings who are said to have remarked that in the present situation we should try to insure that we have friends among the PW's by treating them mildly, are defeatists and should be brought to trial for undermining the war potential";

that "PW's should at no time be left in doubt that they will be pitilessly shot if they take up mutiny or even passive resistance".

2. Circular of 31 May 1944 in Reichsverfügungsblatt requesting all Party members to volunteer for honorary part-time duties in the Security Police. As part of the general terror campaign these Party members were authorized to proceed not only against defeatists and rumor-mongers, but also

39 OSS A-55823. See also Announcement of Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei of 8 November 1944 ordering "strengthened propaganda influence" for Allied prisoners of war to increase work performance and output (SHAEP, PWD Intelligence Section-Rear, Ref. No. SR. 1752/D/15282, Document Report by PWD, 24 April 1945; OSS, CID, 130305).
against anyone suspected of a crime or transgression. Proofs and witnesses were not considered necessary. Party members and members of Party formations had therefore to be conversant with the procedure of taking particulars of identification and making temporary arrests and to be familiar with the use of weapons. Possibly in line with these recommendations, local Gestapo offices handed over to Party officials the responsibility of dealing with the "anti-social behavior" of certain members of the population.

3. Circular of the Party Chancellery regarding the attitude required of Party officials toward religious groups, quoted in Confidential News Service of the Gauleitung Westfalen-Süd on 2 November 1944. This circular stipulated:

that no officials may accept any office, even honorary, in any church;

that they may not participate in its activities, even unofficially;

that officials may never undertake tasks involving religious questions, except in the service of Party or State;

that officials must not identify themselves with the spirit of any religious group;

that while the aforesaid does not apply to ordinary members, their religious activities must take place out of uniform without reference to their Party membership;

that no Party member may attend religious meetings in uniform, except burials;

that Party members are allowed to be members of the Church finance committees which have been established as public offices in some districts;

40 SHAEP, CI MONITOR, No. 7, 3 March 1945, p. 5.
41 Cf. SHAEP, CI MONITOR, No. 15, 28 April 1945.
that violations of this policy will be punished, if necessary, with dismissal from the Party. 42

More evidence could probably be found in the Reichsverfügungsblatt, the official Bulletin.

D. The Reichsleitung (Reich Directorate)

The Reichsleitung of the Party was not a Party Cabinet. It was, rather, a common denominator for the chief executive organs of the Party (Oberste Dienststellen der NSDAP), each assisting the Führer in some of the technical functions which were the prerogative of the Party and each operating on a national plane but with subdivisions on the regional and, in most instances, also on the district and local levels.

Through the Reichsleitung, perfect co-ordination of Party and State machinery was guaranteed. The Party Manual puts it this way: "In the Reichsleitung, the arteries of the organization of the German people and of the German State merge" ("In der Reichsleitung laufen die Fäden der Organisation des deutschen Volkes und des Staates zusammen") 43 A circular of the Reich Minister of Justice, 17 February 1934, 44 sanctioned the coordination of Party and State on the Reich level legally by establishing equal rank for Reich offices of the Party and Reich offices of the Government. Reich

42 SHAEF, CI MONITOR, No. 5, 17 February 1945.
43 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, pp. 148-149.
44 Published in Das Dritte Reich, 1934, Berlin, 1935, p. 296.
Minister Gürten states expressly that

"The Supreme offices of the Party Directorate (Reichsleitung and Liaison Staff) are equal in rank ("gleichzustellen") to the Supreme Reich government authorities (Reichsbehörden)."

This state of affairs, called euphemistically "the permeation of the State apparatus with the political will of the Party"45 ("die Durchdringung des Staatsapparates mit dem politischen Willen der Partei") was further guaranteed not only through the appointment of the Chief of the Party but also through far-reaching identity of the leadership of Party Offices with that of the corresponding Governmental Offices; for example, the Reich Propaganda Leader of the Party, Goebbels, was Minister of Propaganda, while the head of the Main Office for "Folkdom" within the Reichsleitung, Himmler, was simultaneously "Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Volkstums" (Reichskommissar für die Festigung des deutschen Volkstums)46 etc.

To insure and to perpetuate the prerogative of the Party, the offices within the Reichsleitung were allotted the following specific functions: (1) to execute efficiently and quickly those tasks assigned them by the Führer or, upon his orders, by the Chief of the Party Chancellery, so that

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45 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 148-149.
"the will of the Führer is conveyed swiftly and accurately to the lowest regions of sovereignty";\(^\text{47}\) (2) to maintain the closest contact "with the life of the people" through the subdivisions in the Gaue, etc. All observations made in this way must be collected and evaluated by the offices of the Reichsleitung; (3) to secure the recruitment of an elite suited for leadership; and (4) to guarantee the efficiency of the Party apparatus in all its sections.\(^\text{48}\)

All office-holders within the Reichsleitung, i.e., Reichsleiter and all other political leaders, were appointed by the Führer. Each office (Dienststelle) within its particular area of jurisdiction performed so-called "leadership functions" (Führungsaufgaben). As part of these functions, the Führer or, upon his orders, the Chief of the Party Chancellery, assigned to them specific tasks.\(^\text{49}\) The number of offices was so calculated that all areas of "folkish" life were represented in the Reichsleitung.

The Reichsleitung of the Party consisted, essentially, of the Reichsleiter (Reich Leaders) of the Party, the Hauptämter (Main Offices), and the Ämter (Offices).

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\(^{47}\) Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 175.
\(^{48}\) Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, pp. 146-149.
\(^{49}\) Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 175.
1. The Reichsleiter. The Reichsleiter of the Party, were, next to the Führer, the highest officeholders within the Party hierarchy. They were entrusted by the Führer with so-called "Party official" tasks. Each of them had a specific title and was in charge of at least one office within the Reichsleitung. In addition, many of them carried major responsibilities as heads of Party formations, of affiliated associations of the Party, of supervised or otherwise controlled organizations of the Party, of offices on a lower (regional) level, or of governmental agencies.

The Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, lists the following Reichsleiter:

Max Amann  
Reichsleiter für die Presse  
(Reich Leader for the Press)

Martin Bormann  
Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei und Sekretär des Führers  
(Chief of the Party Chancellory and Secretary of the Führer)

Philipp Bouhler  
Chef der Kanzlei des Führers der NSDAP. Vorsitzender der Partei- amtlichen Prüfungskommission zum Schutze des NS - Schrifttums.  
(Chief of the Chancellery of the Führer and Chairman of the Party's Official Examining Commission for the Protection of National Socialist Literature)

Walter Buch  
Leiter des Obersten Parteigerichts  
(Chief of the Supreme Party Court)
Walter Darr  
On leave

Otto Dietrich  
Reichspressechef der NSDAP  
(Reich Press Chief of the Party)

Franz von Epp  
Leiter des Kolonialpolitischen  
Amtes (Chief of the Office for  
Colonial Policy)

Karl Fiehler  
Leiter des Hauptamtes für Kommunalpolitik (Chief of the Main Office for Communal Policy)

Wilhelm Frick  
Leiter der Nationalsozialistischen Reichstagsfraktion (Leader of the National Socialist Reichstag Delegation)

Joseph Goebbels  
Reichspropagandaleiter der NSDAP  
(Reich Propaganda Leader of the Party)

Konstantin Hierl  
Reichsarbeitsführer  
(Reich Labor Service Leader)

Heinrich Himmler  
Reichsführer SS;  
Beauftragter der NSDAP für alle  
Volkstumsfragen  
(Reich Führer SS;  
Delegate of the Führer for "Folkdom")

Robert Ley  
Reichsorganisationsleiter der  
NSDAP; Leiter der Deutschen Ar-  
beitsfront  
Reich Leader of the Party Organization and Leader of the German Labor Front

Alfred Rosenberg  
Der Beauftragte des Führers für  
Überwachung der gesamten ge-  
stigen und weltanschaulichen  
Schulung und Erziehung der NSDAP  
(Delegate of the Führer for the  
Total Supervision of the Spiritual  
and Ideological Training and  
Education of the Party)
Baldur von Schirach  Reichsleiter für die Jugend-
erziehung der NSDAP. (Reich Leader for Youth Education in
the NSDAP)

Franz Xaver Schwarz  Reichsschatzmeister der NSDAP
(Reich Treasurer of the Party)

Former editions of the Nationalsozialistische Jahrbuch
mention, in addition, the names of Adolf Hühnlein, Chief of
the National Socialist Motor Corps, Victor Lutze, Chief of
Staff of the SA, and Hans Frank, Chief of the Reichsrechtsamt
(Reich Legal Office) of the Party. Frank became Governor of
Poland. The Reichsrechtsamt was dissolved. In consequence,
it appears, Frank lost the title of Reichsleiter. The title
of Reichsleiter, obviously, was contingent on incumbency of
a Reich office within the Party hierarchy, but all holders of
such offices were not, of necessity, Reichsleiter. Baldur
von Schirach, for instance, ceded his office of Reichs-
jugendführer (Reich Youth Leader) to Artur Axmann. Artur
Axmann, however, did not become a Reichsleiter. Baldur von
Schirach, on the other hand, was put in charge of Youth
Education of the Party and thus was able to retain his title
of Reichsleiter.

It should be noted that neither Göring nor Ribbentrop
were Reichsleiter nor holders of offices within the Reichs-
leitung of the Party. Göring's only position within the
Party hierarchy was a prospective one: that of Successor-
Designate of the Führer.

a. The Reichsorganisationsleiter der NSDAP (The Reich Leader for Party Organization). (Former address: Munich 33, Baderstrasse 15). Reichsorganisationsleiter of the Party was Robert Ley. His original title, changed through decree of the Stellvertreter des Führers of 10 November 1934, was Stabsleiter der Parteiorganisation (Chief of Staff of Party Organization); that of his office was Oberste Leitung der Parteiorganisation (Supreme Directorate of Party Organization). He was appointed by the Führer to take charge of all matters concerning the organization of the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations.51 By virtue of this assignment, the Reichsorganisationsleiter became one of those chief control organs of the Party in which the principle of "subordination and coordination" was substantially anchored. This function, allotted only to a few offices within the Reichsleitung, was defined in a circular of 12 May 1934. It stipulated that all ordinances and measures of the Reichsleiter and offices (Dienststellen) of the Reichsleitung which concerned the organization of the Party, or which carried implications of an organizational nature, were to be discussed with the Reichsorganisationsleiter before publication or execution and must be approved by him. In addition, each plan and each

ordinance of this type was to be co-signed by the Reichsorganisationsleiter, with the implication that any ordinance of Party offices not based on such consent remained invalid. In such an event, the Reichsorganisationsleiter was empowered to overrule offices of the Party, of Party formations, and of affiliated associations and to countermand orders issued by them which conflicted with the position taken by him.\(^{52}\)

The strategic purpose of the office of the Reichsorganisationsleiter within the total structure of the Party hierarchy has been defined\(^ {53}\) as that of creating the permanently alerted (schlagfertig) and disciplined apparatus required for the task of leading the German people. According to Nazi principles, this aim could not be achieved by technical organization alone. For

"the strength of a political party lies by no means in a mentality, as great and as independent as possible, of the individual members but rather in the disciplined obedience with which its members follow their intellectual leadership."\(^ {54}\)

Consequently, purely technical organization was to be supplemented by proper training and careful selection of personnel. The Party Manual stipulated that\(^ {55}\)

"The areas of personnel policy, training, and organization form an entity.

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52 Ibid.
53 Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 183.
54 Mein Kampf, p. 679.
The recruitment and the enrollment of Party members in a well-organized system of training is a prerequisite for good personnel policies. Only if training is adequate can the bearers of sovereignty and, upon their order, the personnel offices pursue a successful personnel policy. The latter, in turn, is the prerequisite for the creation of a highly dynamic organization."

In keeping with these principles the Reichsorganisationsleiter, in this very capacity, was simultaneously Reichsschulungsleiter (Reich Training Leader) and Reichspersonalleiter (Reich Leader for Personnel). The concentration of authority on the top level in the same person was intended to guarantee uniformity of principles and procedures on all levels of operation.

Special functions of the Reichsorganisationsleiter in his triple capacity were: (1) the organization of the Party Congress (prior to 1939); (2) the organization of meetings of the bearers of sovereignty (Hohensträger) at the so-called "Ordensturgen" (literally "Castles of the Order," actually, training schools for Nazi leaders) in order "to achieve the solidarity of the leader corps of the Party"; (3) the issuance of ordinances on the training of political leaders; (4) the supervision of leadership training; and (5) the leadership of the German Labor Front.

To execute the various functions assigned to him, the

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56 Ibid., p. 153.
57 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, pp. 154-155.
Reichsorganisationssleiter relied on the following chief assistants:

the **Stabsleiter** (Chief of Staff) 
**Heinrich Simon**

the **Hauptreferat** (Chief Assistant) 
in charge of

the **Hauptorganisationam**t  
(Main Office for Organization)  
**Hartmut Stegmann**

the **Hauptpersonalam**t  
(Main Office for Personnel)  
**Fritz Harrenbach**

the **Hauptshulungsam**t  
(Main Office for Training)  
**Heinrich Bruhn**

the **Adjutantur**  
(Office of the Adjutants)  
Unknown

the **Organisationsleitung der Reichsparteitage**  
(Management of the Reich Party Congresses)  
**Werner Kropp**

Only the first-mentioned main offices, for organization, personnel, and training, were of prime importance. Each of them was continued on the regional (Gau), district (Kreis), and local (Ortsgruppe) levels. Through them, the Reichsorganisationssleiter effected the subordination and coordination of offices and organizations within the Nazi movement.

The following offices and organizations were subordinate
to the Reichsorganisationsleiter as regards management, organization, personnel, and discipline:

the NS-Frauenschaft
(NS Women's League) Gertrud Scholtz-Klink

the Hauptamt für Volkswohlfahrt
(Main Office for Public Welfare) Erich Hilgenfeldt

the Hauptamt für Volksgesundheit
(Main Office for Public Health) Leonardo Conti

the NSD-Studentenbund
(NS German Students' League) Gustav-Adolf Scheel

the NSD-Dozentenbund
(NS German University Teachers' League) Gustav-Adolf Scheel

the Hauptamt für Kriegsopfer
(Main Office for War Victims) Hanns Oberlindoben

the Hauptamt für Beamte
(Main Office for Civil Servants) Hermann Meed

the Hauptamt für Erzieher
(Main Office for Educators) Fritz Wächtler

the Hauptamt für Kommunalpolitik
(Main Office for Communal Policy) Karl Fiehler

the Hauptamt für Technik
(Main Office for Technology) Albert Speer
1. The Hauptorganisationsamt (Main Office for Organization). (Former address: Munich 33, Barerstrasse 15). The Hauptorganisationsamt was headed by Dienstleiter Hartmut Stegemann. According to official definition, "The Hauptorganisationsamt creates the prerequisites for a constantly alerted (schlagfertig) organizational apparatus." 

Specifically, it established the foundations of the regional organization, supervised the formulation of programs by individual Party offices, saw to it that the offices confined themselves to the areas of jurisdiction assigned to them, and edited the organizational literature. In addition, the Hauptorganisationsamt supervised all Organisationsleiter on the regional, district, and local levels. The Organisationsleiter (Leader for Organization), on each level, was one of the closest collaborators and advisers of the Hoheitsträger (bearer of sovereignty) on the respective level, e.g., of the Gauleiter, Kreisleiter, etc. It was his job to place at the disposal of the Hoheitsträger an apparatus adequate to execute Party policies determined by the Hoheitsträger or higher Party offices. For the same purpose the Organisationsleiter was in intimate contact with the Personalamtsleiter (Leader of Personnel Office), the Schulungsleiter (Leader of Training),

58 Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 184.
59 Ibid.
with the leaders of the Party formations, affiliated associations and supervised organizations, with the Organisations­leiter superior or subordinate to him, and with the leader of offices on the staff of the Hoheitsträger. The functions of the Hauptorganisationsamt are in general evident from the titles of its component offices. They were:

I. Hauptstelle: Geschäftsführung  
(Main Bureau: Executive Office)

II Hauptstelle: Tagungen der NSDAP 
Sonderaufgaben - Organisationsaus­stellungen  
(Main Bureau II: Meetings of the Party - Special Assignments - Exhibits)

III. Amt Vertikale Organisation  
(Office for Vertical Organization)

IV. Amt Gebietliche Organisation  
(Office for Regional Organization)

V. Amt Organisationsausrichtung  
(Office for Organizational Orientation)

VI. Amt Organisationsschrifttum  
(Office for Organizational Literature)

VII. Amt Statistik  
(Office for Statistics)

VIII. Hauptstelle Graphik  
(Main Bureau for Graphic Presentation)

IX. Amt Ausbildung  
(Office for Training)

X. Amt Uniform und Ausrüstung  
(Office for Uniforms and Equipment)
The Gauorganisationamt (Gau Office for Organization), the Kreisorganisationamt (District Office for Organization), and the Ortsgruppenorganisationamt (Local Office for Organization) contained similar "Planstellen" (i.e., planning offices), except for the fact that they were fewer in number and that their functional breakdown was less detailed.

The nature of the tasks assigned to the Organisationsleiter demanded a high degree of flexibility and adaptability, depending on the conditions prevailing in any given locality. Consequently, the scope and type of functions performed by him varied in details. Nevertheless, there were certain recurrent responsibilities of primary importance.

Foremost among them were those handled by the Amt Ausbildung (Office for Training). According to the Party Manual, the Reichsorganisationssleiter was simultaneously Reichsausbildungsleiter (Reich Drill Leader). The Amt Ausbildung within the Reichsleitung supervised "functionally" the Gauausbildungsleiter. (The Party Manual expresses it in this way: "Die disziplinär den Gauorganisationssleitern unterstehenden Gauausbildungsleiter erhalten ihre fachliche Ausbildung vom Amt Ausbildung"). The Gauausbildungsleiter,

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60 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 162.
61 Ibid.
in turn, supervised, functionally, the Kreisausbildungsleiter (District Drill Leaders). The Kreisausbildungsleiter supervised, functionally, the so-called "Hundertschaftsleiter" (Leaders of a Hundred Men), who, in turn, had under their command 100-150 political leaders, members of several local groups. It should be noted, however, that the jurisdiction of the Ausbildungsleiter was restricted to the specific area of responsibility assigned them, namely, drill. As regards organizational discipline, Ausbildungsleiter were subordinate to the Organisationsleiter on their respective levels, i.e., the Gauausbildungsleiter to the Gauorganisationsleiter, and so forth. The term "Ausbildung", literally "training", is misleading. It implies actual physical training and military drill including training in the use of weapons, such as pistols. The Party Manual stipulated:

"The Political Leader (Politische Leiter) must distinguish himself through soldierly bearing and discipline, irrespective of whether he is in Party uniform or civilian clothes. His appearance and conduct, as an individual or in closed formations, in parades and meetings of the Party, as well as the handling of the weapon of honor, the pistol, require adequate training and orientation.

"Training is obligatory."

Details of the training are described in the "Ausbildungsvorschrift für die Politischen Leiter der NSDAP. -AVM" (Training Regulations for the Political Leaders of the Party)
and in the "Ausbildungsvorschrift für die Politischen Leiter der NSDAP., Ausbildung mit der Pistole - AVP." (Training Regulation for the Political Leaders of the Party, Training in the Use of the Pistol), as well as in the executive orders for the annual shooting contest of the Political Leaders in Nuremberg.62

The Amt Statistik (Office for Statistics) was the central clearing bureau for all statistics made by and about the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations. In addition, it prepared statistical studies on the organization, membership, and leadership of the whole Party apparatus for the purpose of remedying any weaknesses in the organization. The files of this office, if obtainable, would be of considerable assistance in establishing functions and activities of Party offices and their incumbents.

The Hauptstelle Graphik (Main Bureau for Graphic Presentation) contained files of similar interest. This bureau was responsible for the coordination and direction (Ausrichtung) of all graphic and artistic works which were executed upon the initiation of the Reich Delegate for Artistic Form. It shared, with the Party and Government propaganda agencies, the responsibility for all such pictorial documents, which were

62 All quoted Ibid., p. 162a.
in large part designed to stir up political and racial hatred.

The Amt Vertikale Organisation (Office for Vertical Organization), according to official definition, was responsible for the "construction, expansion and supervision of the Party organization." This included responsibility for the erection of Party Main Offices, offices and bureaus, for the definition of their jurisdiction and for the incorporation in or exclusion from the Party of affiliated associations and supervised organizations. It was instrumental in the subordination to and coordination (Gleichschaltung) with the Party of non-Party organizations.

The Amt Gebietliche Organisation (Office for Regional Organization) was responsible for delineating and defining the jurisdiction of Hoheitsträger and other Party leaders in terms of geographical extension.

The Amt Organisationsausrichtung (Office for Organizational Orientation) was responsible for the "selection, orientation, and advancement of political leaders who are particularly suited for organizational work." To this end, the office not only procured the training material and issued directives to insure the desired attitude of the staff, but it had also the task of "checking constantly" the organizational

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system of block, cell, and local groups as well as the status of political orientation of the respective leaders. It thus amounted, in effect, to a departmental security agency.

ii. The Hauptpersonalamt (Main Office for Personnel). (Former address, Munich 33, Dauer Strasse 15). The Hauptpersonalamt was headed by Hauptdienstleiter Fritz Marrenbach. According to official definition, the Hauptpersonalamt had the following functions: to advise the Hoheitsträger on the selection of political leaders; to advance Party members in accordance with their abilities and inclinations as political leaders; to recruit leaders for the formations and affiliated associations of the Party; and to prevent the offices of the Party and its formations and affiliated associations from employing persons on a full-time, part-time, or voluntary basis who in view of their character or Weltanschauung were not fitted for the job, or the removal of persons for important reasons from one office and their reinstatement in another office of the Party.

To facilitate the execution of these tasks, the personnel offices kept personnel files on all Politische Leiter (political leaders), including feminine leaders and guardians of the NS-Womens' League. To this end, the Hauptpersonalamt

64 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 173.
maintained a so-called Zentrale Warnkartei (Central Warning File). Each personnel office on the Reich, Gau, or Kreis level kept files on political leaders operating on the same level and on the two next levels subordinate to them. For instance, the Hauptpersonalamt at the Reichsorganisationaleiter maintained files on the record of Politische Leiter, Walter und Warte as well as NSF-Leiterinnen and Walterinnen of the Reichsleitung; furthermore on those of the Stellvertretende Gauleiter (Deputy Gau Leaders) Gaushauptamtalaeter, Gauamtsleiter, Gaufrauenschaftsleiterinnen, and, finally, on that of the Kreisleiter (District Leaders). It should be noted that, officially, the files of the Hauptpersonalamt did not contain any data on the Reichsleiter or Gauleiter.

On the whole, the individual functions of the Hauptpersonalamt are evident from the title of its component offices. They are:

I. Hauptstaffelle Geschäftsführung (Main Bureau: Executive Office)

II. Amt Politische Leiter (Office for Political Leaders)

III. Amt für Nachwuchs (Office for Recruitment and Replacement)

This office contains the Bureaus for Personnel established at various Or- densusungen and the Bureau for Selection and Enrollment at the Ordsensusungen Adolf Hitler Schulen.

65 For details, see SHAZF, CI Monitor, #6, 24 February 1945
IV. Amt Personelle Sonderaufgaben
(Office for Special Personnel Affairs)
This office contains the Warning Files.

The Gau-Personalamt (Gau Office for Personnel) and the
Kreis-Personalamt (District Office for Personnel) contained
Plenstellen, i.e., planning offices, modeled on the pattern
of the Hauptpersonalamt, although they were fewer in number
and their functional breakdown was less detailed.

iii. The Hauptschulungsamt (Main Office for Training)
(Former address: Munich 33, Jerer Strasse 15). The Hauptschulungsamt was headed by Dienstleiter Heinrich Braun (formerly by Robert Schmidt). According to official definition, 66
the Hauptschulungsamt was responsible for the ideological
political orientation (weltanschaulich politische Ausrichtung)
of the following persons:

- Politische Leiter of the Party, inclusive of all those delegated, for special services, to the formations, affiliated associations, and supervising organizations; and Party orators;

- Members of the Party, insofar as they volunteered to participate in the training program;

- Leiterinnen (Leaders) and Walterinnen (guardians) of the NS Women's League and of the German Women's Work;

- Obmänner, Walter and Warte, of the German Labor Front;

66 Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 185; see also Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 176.
Walter of the NS Welfare Association and the nurses;

Obmann, and all leaders of the NS Association of War Victims;

Walter of the Reich League of Civil Servants;

Obmann of the NS League of German Physicians;

Walter and members of the NS League of Teachers;

Leaders of the NS League of Legal Officials;

Leaders and members of the NS League of German Students;

Leaders and members of the NS League of German University Teachers;

Walter of the NS League for German Technology;

Leaders of the NS Reich League for Physical Training;

Leaders of the Office of Colonial Affairs.

The above list does not include the leaders of the SA, SS, HJ (Hitler Youth), NSKK (National Socialist Motor Corps), NSFK (National Socialist Flying Corps) and RAD (Reich Labor Service). The ideological training of the leaders of these organizations was undertaken by the offices in charge (zuständige Dienststellen) in accordance with the directives of the Delegate of the Führer for Total Supervision.
of the Intellectual and Ideological Training and Education
and "in mutual agreement with the Reichsorganisationleiter,
the Hauptschulungsam and the Schulungsänter of the Party. 67
Likewise exempt from training through the Reichsorganisation-
leiter were the so-called "un-political associations,"
e.g., the Technical Emergency Corps, Reich Air Raid Protection
League, and the Reich Veterans League. Special training
plans adopted and carried through by individual offices of
the Party, e.g., Propaganda Office, Office for Organization,
Office for Personnel, Office for Racial Policy, etc., were
restricted to the specific functions of the office and, even
then, required permission by the Schulungsamt in charge. 68
Close cooperation with the Reichspseudanganahlenitmg was assured.

Structurally, the Hauptschulungsammt was subdivided into
the following offices:

I. Hauptselle Geschäftsführung
(Main Bureau I: Executive Office)
This office included the Registrar's
bureau.

II. Hauptstelle Persönlicher
Main Bureau II: Personal Assistant)

III. Hauptstelle Bauplanung
(Main Bureau III: Building and
Construction)

67 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 18la.
68 Ibid.
IV. Amt Lehrwesen
(Office for Teaching Materials)

V. Amt Aktive Schulung
(Office for Active Training)

VI. Amt Zentrale Einberufung
(Central Office for Selection and Enrollment)

VII. Amt Redaktionelle Schulungsmittel
(Office for Editorial Training Materials)

VIII. Amt Ordensburgen
(Office for Castles of the Order)

IX. Amt Adolf-Hitler-Schulen
(Office for Adolf Hitler Schools)

X. Amt Reichschulungsburgen
(Office for Reich School Institutes)

The Gauschulungsamt (Gau Training Office) and the Kreisschulungsamt (District Training Office) had a structure modeled, essentially, on that of the Hauptschulungsamt, though more restricted in the number of functions and subdivisions.

Of particular significance among the various offices were the following:

Amt Lehrwesen (Office for Teaching Materials). This office procured and edited all teaching materials used by Party teachers at Party institutes. To guarantee the total coordination of school instruction with Party principles, the office likewise issued so-called Lehrstoffanweisungen (i.e., directives as how to use the teaching materials).
Amt Aktive Schulung (Office for Active Training).
This office organized and supervised the training curricula and the operations at the Schulungsburgen of the Party. It recruited and supervised the teachers and speakers. It supervised the training within the affiliated associations. It was, in other words, the chief coordinator in matters of school administration.

Amt Zentrale Einberufung (Central Office for Selection and Enrollment). This office cooperated with the Hauptpersonalamt (Amt für Nachwuchs) in the selection of students. It was also in charge of the recruitment of political leaders for participation in courses arranged by Reich, Gau, and District Schools.

Amt Redaktionelle Schulungsmittel (Office for Editorial Training Materials). This office issued the "Schulungsbriefe," i.e., the periodical teaching circulars of the Party.

Amt Ordensburgen (Office for the Castles of the Order)
This office, one of the most important demands of Nazi indoctrination, supervised the ideological, physical, and intellectual education at the Ordensburger of the Party. It was in charge, also, of the ideological and pedagogic training of the teaching staff and of the leaders (Staufführer).

Amt Adolf-Hitler-Schulen (Office for Adolf Hitler Schools). This office, in cooperation with the Reich Youth Leader, supervised the drafting of
curricula and the gathering of teaching materials for the Adolf Hitler Schools. It also participated in the selection of teachers and students.

In sum, the Reichsorganisationsleiter through the basic offices and offices subordinate to him must be considered as the agent chiefly responsible for the organization of the technical apparatus needed for the execution of Nazi policies. It was his chief assignment to see to it that the principle of coordination and subordination was properly enforced within the movement. To this end the appointment of officials unconditionally devoted to the Nazi cause and of tested ability to commit such criminal action as was warranted by policies or circumstances, was his work. Finally, it was his responsibility to procure a thoroughly Nazified, militant leadership through his indoctrination of German youth.

(1) The schools of the Party. Under the Nazi system, indoctrination of youth with National Socialist ideas was made a vital ingredient of all school curricula. However, while the formal school system confined itself to the education of loyal followers, it fell upon the Party schools to create a body of Nazi leaders ready to assume whatever task within the Party hierarchy would in due time be assigned to them. The Party schools, thus, must be regarded as the instrument most vital for the perpetuation of the Nazi system,
where Nazi thought and Nazi methods were preserved in their purest form and taught in the most radical manner.

The following main types of National Socialist schools must be distinguished:

- **Ordensburgen**
- Reichsschulungsburgen
- Adolf-Hitler-Schulen
- Nationalpolitischen Erziehungsanstalten
- Deutschen Heimschulen

Only the first three were directly under the supervision of the Party proper, although the Reich Youth Leader took an essential part in the administration and supervision of the Adolf-Hitler-Schulen. The latter two were under the control of the SS, (Office Heissmeyer), and will be discussed in the part of the report dealing with the SS.

(a) The Ordensburgen. The Ordensburgen were the "political universities," i.e., the highest educational institutions of the Nazi Party. Their purpose was to prepare young Nazis of post-college age for leading positions in the Party hierarchy. At a late stage in Nazi history, the Ordensburgen served as training centers for reliable Nazi leaders and youth slated for underground operations after defeat.

Name, nomenclature, symbolism, and form of the Ordensburgen were gleaned, in part, from the history of the Teutonic Knights, whose mission these Nazi "Junkers" were called to perpetuate.
Altogether four Ordensburgen are known to have existed:

Krössinsee (Pomerania)
Vogelsang (Eifel)
Sonthofen (Allgäu)
Marienburg (East Prussia)

Enrollment of students, called "Junkers," was in the hands of a committee consisting of the Reichsorganisation-Leiter, Gauleiter, Kreisleiter, the Personalamtsleiter, and the physician delegated by the Party Office for Public Health. Required qualifications for admission included proof of active service as political leader (Politischer Leiter), as leader, or simply as member of the SA, SS, NSKK, NSFK, or NJ; Aryan descent; and recommendation of the Hoheitsträger based on a report of the Personalamtsleiter.

The staff consisted of the Personal der Verwaltung (administrative personnel) and the so-called Stammpersonal (nuclear personnel) comprising political leaders, unit leaders, and teachers. The Stammpersonal was recruited from the Gauamtsleiter, Kreisleiter, Kreisamtsleiter, and Ortsgruppenleiter. In addition, each Reichsleiter, Gauleiter, and Hauptamtsleiter of the Party was, ex-officio, a member of the teaching staff.

Subjects taught included racism, history, ideology (Weltanschauung), arts and culture, economics and social science, military science (Wehrwissenschaft), and applied Party politics. Particular emphasis was laid on sports and
physical culture. As part of their practical training the students performed administrative functions in Party organizations three times a year. Total time for training comprised three years, to be spent at different Ordensburgen, each of which specialized in particular subjects. Very talented students would spend an additional training period at Marienburg where they would be instructed in international politics with special emphasis on Eastern European affairs. After graduation, the best "Junkers", i.e., the so-called Sturm-Mannschaft (nuclear troops), were assembled in a camp at Chiemsee, where some would be selected for further training preparatory to a diplomatic career.

(b) The Reichsschulungsburgen. The Reichsschulungsburgen (Reich Training Castles) of the Party were organized to perfect the politico-ideological orientation of the Politische Leiter of the Party, and that of the Walter and Warte of the affiliated association ("Die Schulungsburgen der NSDAP dienen der weltanschaulich-politischen Ausrichtung der Politischen Leiter der NSDAP und der Walter und Warte der Verbände").

The specific purpose of the Schulungsburgen was to gather Party officials annually for participation in courses which acquainted them with Party policies, Party administration and political methods, etc. Outstanding Party leaders

69 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 182.
were assembled at so-called Reichsschulungsburgen, others went to Gauschulungsburgen and to Kreisschulungsburgen. Some of these schools were operated in cooperation with the German Labor Front, some were run under the exclusive responsibility of the German Labor Front.

(c) The Adolf-Hitler-Schulen. The Adolf-Hitler-Schulen were created by decree of the Führer on 15 January 1937. The decree designated the schools as preparatory schools for the National Socialist Ordensburgen. Approval of the Führer to organize such schools was given upon suggestion by both the Reichsorganisationsleiter and the Jugendführer des Deutschen Reiches (Reich Youth Leader). A common declaration by Reich Youth Leader von Schirach and Reichsorganisationsleiter Ley of 17 January 1937 referred to the foundation of the Adolf-Hitler-Schulen as a plan drafted cooperatively by Reichsjugendführer and Reichsorganisationsleiter and assigned to both authorities for the purpose of execution. The same declaration stated that the Adolf-Hitler-Schulen were units of the Hitler Youth (Einheiten der Hitler-Jugend) and were under the "responsible leadership" of this organization. On the other hand, subject matter, curriculum, and teaching staff were to be selected by the two Reichsleiter cooperatively and uniformly for the whole Reich. Supervision of the schools was

70 Das Dritte Reich, 1937, p. 117.
declared to be one of the functions peculiar to the Gauleiter in his capacity as Hoheitsträger of the Party. The right of supervision could be exercised by the Gauleiter in person or through the Gauschulungsamt. Enrollment was reserved for boys twelve years old who had proved their mettle in the Deutsches Jungvolk, i.e., the younger boys' group within the Hitler Youth, upon recommendation by the Hoheitsträger in question. The declaration stipulated finally that, after graduation at eighteen, each student was entitled to a career in Party and Government.

Originally, the creation of an Adolf-Hitler-Schule was planned for each Gau. But only fourteen schools were ever put into operation. All schools were boarding schools, with the boys organized in units resembling those established within the Hitler Youth.

Selection of the students followed closely the principles stated in the declaration of 17 January 1937. Only members of the Deutsches Jungvolk, twelve years of age, in perfect state of health (no deformities), of "sound stock," and of Aryan descent were considered. A satisfactory service record in the DJ was required. Candidates were nominated by the Ortgruppenleiter or local Hitler Youth leader, not by

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71 Ibid.
the parents, depending on availability of vacancies, which were annually allocated to each Gau. The Kreisleiter and Jungbannführer (Junior Hitler Youth Leader) would then select a number of boys among those recommended by the local leaders for "Primary Selection" in a "Primary Selection Camp." Upon recommendation by the Kreis to the Gau Personalamt, successful candidates were then sent for secondary selection to a Secondary Selection Camp. The Gauleiter, assisted by a "Final Selection Committee," chose the final candidates from those who had graduated with success. In addition, a special Delegate for Recruitment appointed by the Kreisleiter looked for suitable candidates and checked the qualifications of prospective students. According to recent information the SS appears to have taken an increasing interest in the selection of candidates. Special SS and HJ boards are said to have been formed for this purpose.

The staff of the schools consisted largely of SS and HJ leaders. Only Party members with satisfactory service records and with at least two years service in schools or the government were considered.

Subjects taught included ethnology, contemporary politics, racism, natural science, languages, arts and crafts.

In addition, physical exercise, indoor and outdoor athletics, horseback-riding, fencing, shooting, and driving, took a predominant place in the curriculum.

Upon graduation, most students were expected to enter a public - i.e., Party or State - career or to continue their study at Ordensburgen. In the majority of cases, the graduates were a living proof of the efficiency of the Nazi school system. They emerged as staunch Nazis bent upon selecting political or military occupations.

b. The Reichsschatzmeister der NSDAP. (Reich Treasurer of the Party). (Former address: München 33, Verwaltungsbau der NSDAP, Arcisstrasse 10). Reichsschatzmeister der NSDAP (Reich Treasurer of the Party) was Reichsleiter Franz Xaver Schwarz. His official position was defined in the Executive Decree of 29 March 1935, appended to the Law to Safeguard the Unity of Party and State of 1 December 1933. Article 4 stipulated that the "Reichsschatzmeister der NSDAP is the Plenipotentiary of the Führer in all fiscal affairs of the National Socialist German Workers' Party." (Der Reichsschatzmeister der Nationalsozialistischen Deutschen Arbeiterpartei ist Generalbevollmächtiger des Führers in allen vermögensrechtlichen Angelegenheiten der Nationalsozialistischen Deutschen Arbeiterpartei). In addition, the Reichsschatzmeister was the

73 RGBl. part I, p. 502.
74 RGBl. part I, p. 1016.
supreme administrative officer (Oberster Verwaltungsführer) of the Party as a "collective body" (Gesamtgemeinschaft). 75

In these capacities, the Reichsschatzmeister enjoyed practically unlimited powers. No business negotiation involving claims, property, or liabilities of the Party could be conducted without the participation or the approval of the Reichsschatzmeister. This included the acquisition of property, e.g., of prohibited non-Nazi organizations, and the initiation of public collections, e.g., the Winter Help by the NS Welfare Organization.

The powers of the Reichsschatzmeister were by no means confined to the Party proper. Article 4 of the Executive Decree excluded explicitly the fiscal independence of the Party formations and Article 5 that of the affiliated associations of the Party. From a fiscal point of view, the Party and Party formations were said to form an entity. Accordingly, the Reichsschatzmeister was given financial sovereignty (Finanzhoheit) over them. As to the affiliated associations of the Party, the Reichsschatzmeister exercised "financial supervision" (Finanzaufsicht) over them. 76

75 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 286
The technical apparatus at the disposal of the Reichsschatzmeister for the execution of his various functions consisted of the following offices:

Die Kanzlei des Reichsschatzmeisters
(The Chancellery of the Reich Treasurer)

Hauptamt I (Finanzverwaltung)
(Main Office I: Financial Administration)

Hauptamt II (Reichshaushaltsamt)
(Main Office II: Reich Budget Office)

Hauptamt III (Reichsrechnungsamt)
(Main Office III: Reich Accounting Office)

Hauptamt IV (Reichsverwaltungsamt)
(Main Office IV: Reich Administration Office)

Unterstellte Ämter
(Subordinate Offices), e.g.,

Zentralpersonalamt
(Central Personnel Office)

Wirtschaftsamt
(Economic Office)

Hauptamt V (Reichtsamt des Reichsschatzmeisters)
(Main Office V: Legal Office of the Reich Treasurer)

Hauptamt VI (Reichsrevisionsamt)
(Main Office VI: Reich Auditing Office)

Hauptamt VII (Hilfskasse der NSDAP)
(Main Office VII: Relief Funds of the Party)

Hauptamt VIII (Reichszeugmeisterei)
(Main Office VIII: Reich Quartermaster)

Amt für Lotteriewesen
(Office for Lotteries)
Amtsarzt der Reichsleitung
(Official Physician of the Reich Directorate)

Sonderbeauftragte
(Special Delegates)

Ortsgruppe "Eymes Haus"

The following Beauftragte des Reichsschatzmeisters
(Delegates of the Reich Treasurer) were appointed to assist
him in the execution of his duties and to administer some of
the major offices of his bureaucracy:

in the Reichsleitung:

the Stabsleiter
(Chief of Staff)

the Leiter der Hauptämter
(Chiefs of the Main Offices)

the Sonderbeauftragte für Finanz und
Verwaltungsangelegenheiten
(Special Delegates for Financial and
Administrative Affairs)

the Revisoren des Reichsrevisionsamtes
(Auditors of the Reich Auditing Office)

the Reichkassensverwalter der Gleiderungen
(Reich Cashiers of the Party Formations)

in the Gauleitung:

the Gauschatzmeister und deren ständige
Vertreter im Amt
(Gau Treasurers and their Permanent
Deputies)

the Gaurevisoren
(Gau Auditors)

77 Organisationstuch der NSDAP, 1943, pp. 294-295
Other delegates included:

in the Reichsleitung:

the Amtskassenverwalter (Office cashiers), with limited authority for the administration of an office of the Reichsleitung.

in the Gauleitung:

the Delegate of the Reich Treasurer in auditing matters (Auditor of the Reich Auditing Office)

in the Kreis and Ortsgruppenleitung:

the cashiers
the auxiliary cashiers

As is evident from the structure of his technical apparatus, the functions of the Reichsschatzmeister included some of a purely financial nature and others of a general administrative type. Financial functions were subdivided into those pertaining to financial economics (Finanzwirtschaft) and those pertaining to financial supervision (Finanzüberwachung). Financial economics involved the procurement of means, e.g., membership fees, special levies, collections, and lotteries; the administration of means, e.g., financing of Party offices; of Party formations; of the Gau, Kreise, and Ortsgruppen; of special projects, e.g., buildings, Party Congresses, and large-scale meetings; of the Reich School of the Party in Feldafing, etc. Financial supervision comprised
the right to examine the budgets of the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations (Prüfungsrecht), and the right to audit office accounts and to initiate legal and disciplinary procedures (Revisionsrecht).

The administrative duties of the Reichsschatzmeister included the following areas of jurisdiction: I. Internal Administration; II. Legal Affairs; III. Welfare and Pensions; IV. Economic Affairs; V. Equipment. "Internal Administration" comprised the issuance of general regulations for the purpose of internal administration; membership questions, e.g., admission; filing system; arbitration; conferment of the Golden Party Badge and the Blood Order; registration; personnel, e.g., appointment of Gau Schatzmeister (Gau Treasurers) and Kassenleiter (Cashiers); pay lists; administration of real estate; communications and mail services; buildings; and the "Hilfszug Bayern," i.e., an auxiliary train containing field kitchens and first aid stations.

"Legal Affairs" included consultation on fundamental problems arising from the handling of fiscal affairs by Gau Schatzmeister and Kassenleiter; permission to engage in litigation; insurance; lease and acquisition of real estate; taxation, etc. Welfare and Pensions included all provisions for monetary support of the victims and families of victims
accidents suffered in the service of the Party or in immediate connection with Party work. "Economic Affairs" embraced the use of raw materials and goods by the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations, the employment of labor and of means of transportation for purposes of the Party; similarly, the fixing and reduction of prices (Preisgestaltung und Preisvergünstigung) in the interest of the Party; price protection (Preisabschutzbestimmungen), and, finally, all policies regarding the construction of buildings for the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations. "Equipment" comprised all those functions performed by the Reichsschatzmeister (Party Quartermaster), which was subordinated to the Reichsschatzmeister; this included the procurement of materials needed for the manufacturing of Party uniforms, badges, flags, and other equipment; the licensing for production and distribution of such items; and the protection of Party symbols, in keeping with the Law Against Insidious Attacks Upon State and Party and for the Protection of the Party Uniform of 20 December 1934, 78 the special announcement of 16 January 1935, 79 and the Third Executive Decree of 16 March 1935. 80

The criminal responsibility of the Reichsschatzmeister

78 RGBl. part I, p. 1249.
79 RGBl. part I, p. 70.
80 RGBl. part I, p. 387.
and of his delegates consists, to begin with, in the vital part which, by virtue of their designated function, they took in the maintenance and operation of the Party apparatus. Without their assistance neither the Party proper, nor the Party formations, nor the affiliated associations of the Party, could have carried out their program nor the special assignments allotted them by the Party leadership. Furthermore, as the property custodian of the Party, of the Party formations, and of the affiliated associations of the Party, the Reichsschatzmeister must be presumed to have taken responsibility, at least in part, for the acquisition of new property acquired through illegal expropriation, forced sales, or other criminal acts perpetrated by the Party, the SS, and other formations or affiliates of the Party.
Delegate of the Führer was Reichsleiter Alfred Rosenberg. The Office of the Delegate of the Führer, by delegation of the Führer, was placed in charge of the Party's intellectual and ideological training and education. Its declared objective was the uniform ideological orientation of the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations. ("Ziel der Arbeit ist die einheitliche Ausrichtung der weltanschaulichen Haltung der Partei, aller Gliederungen und ange­schlossenen Verbände.") Its main functions, in furtherance of this objective, were the preparation of suitable training materials, the establishment of curricula, the training of qualified teaching staffs, the counseling of Party agencies, formations, and affiliates, on content and methods of indoctrination, and, specifically, the elimination of such reading and teaching materials as were deemed inappropriate from a National Socialist point of view.

To perform this multitude of individual tasks, the Delegate of the Führer operated with the help of the following sub-offices:

- the Stabsleiter (Chief of Staff) 
  Reichsleiter Dr. Helmut Stellrecht

- the Zentralamt (Central Office)

- the Arbeitsgebiet Lehrplanung (Operational Area: Teaching Plans)

- the Arbeitsgebiete II and III (Operational Areas II and III for Special Assignments)

- the Arbeitsgebiet Schrifttumspflege (Operational Area: Literature)

- the Arbeitsgebiet Wissenschat (Operational Area: Science)

- the Arbeitsgebiet Vorgeschichte (Operational Area: Pre-History)

- the Arbeitsgebiet "Kunstpflege" (Operational Area: Cultivation of Arts)

- the Arbeitsgebiet Presse (Operational Area: Press)

- the Verwaltung (Administration)

Directly subordinate to the Delegate of the Führer were also:

- the Reichsarbeitsgemeinschaft für die Schulung der gesamten Bewegung (Reich Workteam for the Training of the Whole Movement) and the Gauarbeitsgemeinschaften subordinate to it.

- the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Deutsche Volkskunde (Work Team for German Ethnology)

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For the previous and following information, cf: Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, pp. 312, 314a, 312b; PW paper 103, GSDIC (UK) on file with OSS 134627, based on testimony of PW CS/783, Dr. Richard Arnhold.
Of these offices the following were of special importance:

The **Stabsleiter**. He was the deputy of the Delegate of the Führer in matters of internal administration as well as in negotiations with other offices.

The **Zentralamt**. This was the executive office of the Delegate, in charge of administrative routine and personnel.

The **Arbeitsgebiet Lehrplanung**. This planned and issued the training directives for the whole Party, the Party formations, and affiliated associations. Its functions included the preparation and editing of all teaching curricula and teaching materials, as well as the establishment of a file containing the names of all persons engaged in the training program of the Nazi Movement. This office, unquestionably, had a major and decisive part in the work of those Party offices, agencies, organizations, formations, affiliated associations, and schools and training institutes run under their auspices, which were instrumental in the indoctrination of the German people and, specifically, of the German youth.\(^1\)

The **Arbeitsgebiet Schrifttumspflege**. This was the central clearing office for Party literature. Here publications were reviewed and either recommended or banned, totally or partly.

\(^1\) Cf. description above of the Office of the **Reichsorganisation-Leiter** and subsection thereof.
for reading or teaching purposes within the Nazi Movement. In addition, through the section "Deutsche Informationsstelle" (German Information Bureau), the office was responsible for the issuance of inflammatory literature aimed at England, and later, at the United States and Soviet Russia.

Other offices dealing with specific subjects had the task of suppressing any evidence of opposition or other thought incompatible with Nazi ideology.

The Reichsarbeitsgemeinschaft. This was the chief coordinating office for Party training and ideology. Here delegates of the Party, Party formations, and affiliated associations met to receive directives which contained the final and exclusive answer of the Delegate to specific problems which arose within the training program of the Movement.

A late development within the Delegate's Office was the institution of an "Office for the Ideological Training of the Armed Forces." This office, according to an agreement concluded between Reichsleiter Rosenberg and Field Marshal Keitel, Chief of the OKW (Supreme Command of the Armed Forces), assisted the OKW in the indoctrination of the troops. For this purpose it participated in the examination of literature, published suitable pamphlets, and maintained a so-called Rednerdienst (Speakers' Service).

1. For the following Nachrichtendienst Deutscher Zeitungsverleger and DNB, both of 21 January 1944, and Deutscher Kulturdienst of 22 January, cited in FCC: Central European Analysis of the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service, No. 56, 3 February 1944.
Even greater importance must be attributed to another office which was put in charge of so-called "überstaatliche" tasks, i.e., of "Spheres Beyond the Limits of the Nation." This office devoted most of its activities to campaigns against Jews, Freemasonry, and Marxism and was supplied with materials by the so-called "Einsatzstab Rosenberg" (Special Service Squad Rosenberg). It is this organisation which was chiefly responsible for the systematic plundering of occupied territories in accordance with the Decree of the Führer of 1 March 1942. This decree by Hitler conferred on Reichsleiter Rosenberg the task of carrying on a "systematic spiritual battle against Jews, Freemasons, and those opponents of National Socialism who are affiliated with them on the basis of "Weltanschauung." The project was to be undertaken in agreement with and with the active support of the Wehrmacht, individual Army Groups, the Luftwaffe, the Gestapo, and the Geheime Feldpolizei, and was endorsed by, among others, Keitel, Göring, Reinseck, and Heydrich. The staff of the Reichsleiter was authorized "to search libraries, archives, lodges, and other "Weltanschauung" and cultural establishments for relevant material, and requisition it for the "Weltanschauung" tasks of the NSDAP and for future scientific research by the higher educational institutions." The same regulations were said to apply "to cultural treasures which are the property or in the possession of Jews.

1. Decree and executive orders issued there to are on file with the War Crimes Commission; also reference in Order of Reserve Gren. Regiment 239, Abt. 1c, NSFO on file with OSS 133784.
which are ownerless, or the origin of which cannot be clearly es-
thablished." The necessary measures within eastern territories un-
der German administration were to be taken by Reichsleiter Rosenberg in his capacity of Reichsminister for Occupied Eastern Terri-
tories. In the west, the head of the Office of the Reichsleiter, in his capacity as Delegate of the Führer for the Total Supervi-
sion of the Intellectual and Ideological Training and Education of the Party, was charged with the execution of the decree.

On the strength of this authority, the Delegate of the Führer, in addition to being responsible for the indoctrination of Party, Movement, and People and for such legislative and executive measures as were adopted for the purpose of indoctrination, can also be charged with the large-scale spoliation of occupied territories.
d. Reichspropagandaleiter (Reich Leader for Propaganda). Address:
Berlin W3, Taubenstrasse 8-9. Reichspropagandaleiter was Josef Goebbels.

i. History and Development. The Reichspropagandaleitung-RPL
(Reich Office for Propaganda) was founded in 1932, as the central propaganda
control office of the Nazi Party. In 1933, when the NSDAP took over power
in Germany, this office served as the basis, both in organization and in
personnel, for the establishment of the Reichsministerium für Propaganda
und Volksaufklärung (Reich Ministry for Propaganda and Enlightenment).

As the Ministry was set in motion the overt functions and importance of the
Reichspropagandaleitung lost in importance, with the exception of two fields
which remained the prerogative of the Party: so-called "Aktionspropaganda",
i.e. mass propaganda; the radio and the organization of radio listeners, as
a device to observe and report popular reaction to official programs. Never-
theless, it remained the supreme propaganda office of the Movement, and in
many respects used the Ministry as a channel for the execution of the policies
it conceived.

ii. Organization. The Reichspropagandaleitung (Party Propaganda
Department for the Reich) comprised the following offices:

Reichspropagandaleiter (Reich Propaganda Leader) Josef Goebbels;
Stabsleiter (Chief of Staff) Eugen Hadamovsky, later Werner
Naumann;
Adjutant (Aide-de-camp) Hugo Fischer.

iii. Functions. The Reichspropagandaleitung (RPL) was a functional
department (Sachamt) of the Reichsleitung, (Reich Directorate) of the Party.

1. For a description of the Propaganda Ministry, see Appendix I.
Its chief functions were (1) the direction, supervision, and synchronization of propaganda within the Party proper and within the movement; (2) the imbuing of the Movement and of the people with Nazi propaganda; (3) the control of German broadcasting; insofar as its organization and cultural development are concerned; (4) the verification of the effectiveness of Nazi propaganda on the population.

The functions of the Reichspropagandaleitung were carried out by several administrative departments:

Subordinated directly to the Chief of Staff were:

1. The "Reichering für Nationalsozialistische Propaganda und Volksaufklärrung" (Reich Ring for National Socialist Propaganda and Enlightenment) which was charged with maintaining liaison with the propaganda departments of the affiliated associations and supervised organizations. Inasmuch as the RPL was one of the Party offices which exercised functional control over various offices and organizations of Party and Movement within its special field, the Reichering must be considered as the center of control responsible for the complete coordination and subordination of Party and Movement in the field of propaganda.

2. The Reichsautoszug "Deutschland", originally intended to supply mobile canteens and ambulances for Party rallies.

3. The Hauptstelle Pressepropaganda (Main Bureau for Propaganda through the Press) which was directed by Otto Dietrich. Officially this office was charged with preparing all propaganda material issued by the Reichspropagandaleitung for dissemination to newspapers.

4. Hauptstelle Ausstellungs und Massenwesen (Main Bureau for Exhibits and Fairs). Its functions included the supervision of the propaganda aspects of all exhibits and fairs in which the Party participated.

5. The Geschäftsstelle der RPL (Business Office) which was in charge of internal administration.

In addition to these administrative departments which were subordinated to the Chief of Staff and dealt largely with public relations matters, the Reichspropagandaleitung had six functional offices:

1. Amtsleitung Aktive Propaganda (Section for Mass Propaganda) which was headed by Oberbefehlsleiter Ingenieur Erhardt. It was mainly concerned with the organization of propaganda campaigns within the Movement. It operated through two subordinate offices:
   a. Hauptstelle Rednerwesen (Main Bureau for Party Speakers), which was in charge of training and supplying Party speakers with propaganda material.
   b. Rednervermittlung (Speakers' Center) was a pool of Party speakers and was in charge of the speakers' programs and itineraries.

2. Amtsleitung Film (Office for Films) was charged with popularizing Mass-inspired films. It maintained a number of mobile units which staged motion picture performances in towns and villages without permanent movie houses. In addition, this office was responsible for photographing official rallies and other Party events.

3. Amtsleitung Rundfunk (Main Office for Radio). This office was headed by Oberbefehlsleiter Eugen Hadanovsky. It operated through three subsections:
   a. Hauptstelle Kulturpolitische Rundfunkarbeit und Rundfunkorganisation (Main Bureau for Cultural Political Work and the Organization of Broadcasting)
b. **Hauptstelle Rundfunktechnik** (Main Bureau for Radio Technology)

c. **Hauptstelle Rundfunkpropaganda** (Main Bureau for Radio Propaganda).

Through these offices the **Austausch Rundfunk** performed its assigned tasks which included the supervision of the content of broadcasting as well as the popularizing of radio as a means of propaganda.

4. **Austausch Kultur** (Main Office for Culture). This office was headed by Karl Gerff. Its main function was to make all forms of art conform to the standards of Nazi ideology. The office had four subdivisions:

- **Hauptstelle Architektur** (Main Bureau for Architecture)
- **Hauptstelle für Kunstlerische Formgebung** (Main Bureau for Style and Design)
- **Hauptstelle Auswahl** (Main Bureau for Selection of Works of Art)
- **Hauptstelle Programmabteilung** (Main Bureau for Formulation of Programs)

5. **Austausch Rednerausbildung** (Office for the Training of Speakers). This office was charged with the training of Party speakers.

6. **Verbindungsleiter** (Chief of Liaison). This office was in charge of liaison with all outside agents and agencies, e.g. the Reich Ministries, the Armed Forces, etc.

Regionally the *Reichspropagandaleitung* was organized in *Gau*, *Kreis*, and *Ortsgruppenpropagandaleiter* (Gau, district and local propaganda offices). The *Gaupropagandaleiter* (Leader of the Gau propaganda office) was at the same time the Gau representative of the Chamber of Culture (*Landeskulturwaltor*) and in most cases also represented the regional office of the Propaganda.
Ministry, so that on the lower levels, Party and State propaganda were completely unified. The top personnel of the Gau and Kreis propaganda offices consisted of five section heads, in charge of active propaganda, film, radio, culture, and liaison respectively. The Ortsgruppenpropagandaleiter himself was in charge of all propaganda matters within his sphere of operation.

Of the functional offices of the RPL, the Amtsleitung Aktive Propaganda was the most important. Its functions were extended to cover a variety of tasks. Thus for example one of its chief aims was, reportedly, cooperation in the absorption into the Party of all Reichsdeutsche living abroad by means of propaganda. Likewise, its representatives were detailed, at least during the last phases of the war, to apply their propaganda techniques to prisoners of war.

e. The Reichspressechef (Reich Press Chief) Reichspressechef was Otto Dietrich. (Address: München 35, Karlstraße 18, Berlin W3, Wilhelmstraße 63.

1. Functions. The post of Reich Press Chief (RPC) was created by the Führer in order to establish a central political organ for the control of the entire press of the Party and the Movement. The functions of the RPC included the supervision of the editorial policy of the press of the Party and of the affiliated associations. He exercised control over all press offices, including the chief editors of the National Socialist newspapers, as well as the Gau press wardens of the Party. He also served as liaison officer between the Party press and the "independent" press, and

between Party and Government. This office supervised the Party's only official news service, the Nationalsozialistische Parteikorrespondenz, and issued the Verordnungsblatt der Reichsleitung (official gazette of the Reich Directorate).

Organization of the Office

Chief: Otto Dietrich

Chief of Staff: Helmut Sündermann

The executive functions of the Reich Press Chief were carried out by two offices:

1. The Pressepolitisches Amt (Press Political Office). This office was located in Bonn. It was headed by Helmut Sündermann. This office was directly responsible for publishing the Party's regular and special news bulletins. Its main functions, however, were issuance of political directives to the Party press and the supervising of the Gau press offices.

2. The Pressepersonalamt (Press Personnel Office). This office was located in Munich. It had three subdivisions. The first (Pressschulung) was in charge of training journalists; the second (Personalakartai) kept files on German and foreign journalists, and the third issued the Verordnungsblatt der Reichsleitung (The Official Gazette of the Reich Directorate).

The vertical organization of press controls included Gau, - Kreis, - and Gruppengruppen-Presseämter. Each was headed by an Amtsleiter (otherwise a Press warden). The press wardens of the Gau and Kreis were responsible
for the entire Party press within their respective spheres of jurisdiction. They supervised the editorial policy of the Party press, issued information bulletins (Gaudienst or Kreisdienst) which informed the Party and non-party press about the activities of the Movement; they also served as liaison officers between the Party and non-party press. Furthermore, they transmitted local information to headquarters for distribution, and also made recommendations on the appointments of local party editors. The Gau- and Kreis-press wardens, at the same time, served as regional and local representatives of the Home Press Division of the Propaganda Ministry and of the Reich Press Chamber, thereby insuring complete coordination between Government and Party press activities on the regional and local levels. The Press-beauftragte der Ortsgruppe (Local Press Wardens), finally, were essentially concerned with the publicity for the Party papers.

Since the Reichspressechef had political control over the Party press, he was in position to coordinate the policies of all Party newspapers, virtually to gag them, and use the huge press apparatus which was at the Party's disposal as an integrated whole for political campaigns.

The Reichsleiter für die Presse (Reich Press Leader) MPL was Max Amann. (Address: München 22, Thierschstrasse 11; Berlin, Charlottenburg 2, Steinplatz 2).

The Reich Press Leader was charged with supervising all matters concerning the publishing business. He was not only empowered to control all publishing houses of the Party, but was assigned the task of bringing the entire German press into line with National Socialist ideology. To this
and he was given wide and specific powers.

His sphere of jurisdiction included specifically:

1. The administration, publishing, and financing of the Party press;
2. The establishment of new papers by Party members or affiliated associations;
3. The incorporation of newspapers into the Party press combine;
4. The appointment of publishers and of their deputies;
5. The termination or alteration of contracts with newspapers;
6. The appointment of Commissioners to supervise publishing houses.

The Reich Leader of the Press, like the Reich Press Chief, operated through two offices:

1. The Verwaltungsamt des Reichsleiters für die Presse (The Administrative Office of the Reich Press Leader) which controlled the administration and finance of the National Socialist publishing houses in the Gau.
2. The Zentralverlag, the central publishing house and holding company of the entire Party publishing machine and all its official organs. These included:

   Der Völkische Beobachter, Der Angriff, Illustrierter Beobachter, Der SA Mann, Das Schwarze Korps, NS Funk, Funk und Bewegung, Funktechnischer Völkischer, Der Arbeitsmann, Die HJ, Die Bewegung, Die Brennessel, NS Monatshefte, Die NS Gemeinde, Der Schulungsbetrieb, Unser Wille und Weg, Aufklärungs-

The position of the Reich Leader of the Press was of the utmost importance.

By controlling the Party publishing machine he shared, with the Reich Press Chief, in its political control. Moreover, the Reich Press Leader's sphere of control extended beyond the Movement to the entire German press. For instance, he occupied the position of President of the Reich Press Chamber.

He also delegated personal representatives who supervised, or served as liaison officers in, the following organizations:

- Reichsverband der Deutschen Zeitungsverleger
  (German Newspaper Publishers)

- Reichsverband Deutscher Zeitschriftenverleger
  (German Periodical Publishers)

- Fachverband der Deutschen Rundfunk-Pressen
  (German Radio Press)

- Fachgruppe der Studenten Zeitschriften
  (Association of Student Journals)

- Fachgruppe Jugendpresse (Juvenile press)

- Fachschaft der katholisch-kirchlichen Presse
  (Catholic Church Press)

- Reichsverband der Evangelischen Kirche
  (Evangelical Church press)

- Reichsverband der Deutschen Korrespondenz und Nachrichtenbureaus
  (German correspondents and news bureaus)
The Reichsleiter für die Presse doubling in his capacity as president of the Reich Press Chamber exercised the economic controls over the entire German press. He made use of his position to expand the Party publishing machine at the expense of non-party newspapers. As President of the Reich Press Chamber, he was authorized to issue directives with the force of law (See below in the Chamber of Culture). In April 1935 he issued three regulations prohibiting the ownership of newspapers by corporations of any kind, except the NSDAP or such groups as he personally approved.  

These regulations provided the legal basis for the pressure which the Party brought to bear on such publishing firms as Hugenberg, Ullstein, and others, in order to force them to sell out at a nominal price. In this manner, the Party publishing machine grew to absorb nearly the whole independent press, and became one of the most lucrative business enterprises of the Party.1

2. The Reichsamt für das Landvolk (Reich Office for the Rural Population). The formulation and execution of agricultural policies for Germany was the responsibility of three agencies: the Ministry for Food and Agriculture (Ministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft);2 the Reich Food Estate (Reichsnährstand); and the Reich Office for the Rural Population (Reichsamt für das Landvolk). How these three agencies were also involved in the vast plans for exploitation of the agricultural resources of Europe and for the enslavement of the conquered population is best revealed in a speech delivered in 1940 by Walter Darre, head of the above-mentioned agencies until 1942.3 After discussing the plans for conquest by "a nation predestined to rule the world," Darre presented the following description of a program for mass enslavement of the conquered peoples:

"It will be our duty to organize economically the territorial gains which gradually will be included in the German area. We will introduce in our new "living space" completely new methods. All soil and industrial property of inhabitants of non-Germanic origin will be confiscated without exception and distributed primarily among the worthy members of the Party and

1. See Civil Affairs Handbook: Germany, Section 12; Communications and Control of Public Opinion; also Interview with Max Amann, SALC/24, 26 May 1945.
2. For a description of the Ministry, see Appendix II.
3. Speech of Walter Darre, former Minister of Food and Agriculture, cited in Life, 9 December 1940; source undisclosed.

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soldiers who were accorded honors for bravery in this war. Thus, a new aristocracy of German masters (Herrenvolk) will be created. This aristocracy will have slaves assigned to it, these slaves to be their property and to consist of landless, non-German nationals. Please do not interpret the word "slaves" as a parable or as a rhetorical term; we actually have in mind a modern form of medieval slavery which we must and will introduce because we urgently need it in order to fulfill our great tasks. These slaves will by no means be denied the blessings of illiteracy; higher education will, in the future, be reserved only for the German population of Europe. We have selected this form of slavery for several reasons. The most important reason is that we are abolishing the gold standard and replacing it by work. This work must be done as cheaply as possible in order that our economic conquest may spread extensively and rapidly."

In implementing this plan and in carrying out its immediate aims insofar as Germany was concerned, the Reichsamt für das Landvolk was the Party agency directly responsible for the following functions in agriculture:

1. Supervision of the rural population;

2. Cooperation with the furtherance of the work of the Reich Food Estate and of the state in the regulation of farm land, labor, and food production;

3. Planning of measures to facilitate the growth and development of National Socialism among; the rural population;

4. Indoctrination, including schooling, of the younger rural generation in the principles of National Socialism;

5. Control of the rural press (for example, the Nationalsozialistische Landpost).

After 1942, the Reich Office for the Rural Population became responsible for the execution of Party directives among the farm population. It was organized as an integral part of the regional hierarchy of the Party on the Reich, regional, district, and local levels. Gauführer (Gau Offices) Kreisleiter (District Offices) and Ortgruppenführer (Local Offices) for the Rural Population were attached to the offices of the Gau, District, and local Party Leaders.

The Reich Office for the Rural Population and each of its regional divisions also exercised supervision over the Reich Food Estate and its regional offices. For example, supervision on the Reich level was exercised by the Reichsamtssleiter Herbert Backe, who simultaneously was head of the Food Estate under the title of Reich Peasant Leader. A similar connection existed on the lower levels.

The exact functions of Reichsamt für das Landvolk cannot be determined on the basis of the evidence available in this country. Therefore it must be clear that, apart from its broad responsibility for crimes committed as one of the three organizations responsible for the formulation and execution of German agricultural policy, a specific indictment of the organization can be drawn only on the basis of information derived from interviews with such former Nazi officials as Walter Darre and Herbert Backe. Darre was displaced by Backe, and it has been reported that the two were enemies. If this is the case, more reliable knowledge can probably be derived from Darre.
The following were the Hauptämter of the NSDAP. The more important ones have been treated in this report or in others dealing with War Crimes.

Hauptorganisationsamt - Main Office for Organization
Dienstleiter Hartmut Stegenmann - Munich 33, Barerstrasse 15

Hauptpersonalamt - Main Office for Personnel
Dienstleiter Fritz Larrenbach - Munich 33, Barerstrasse 15

Hauptschulungsamt - Main Office for Training
Dienstleiter Heinrich Brunn - Munich 33, Barerstrasse 15

Hauptamt für Volksgesundheit - Main Office for Public Health
Oberbeamtleiter Dr. Leonardo Coni - Munich 33, Karlstrasse 21

Hauptamt für Volkswirtschaft - Main Office for Public Welfare
Oberbeamtleiter Erich Hilgenfeldt - Berlin SO 35, Maybachufer 48/51

Hauptamt für Technik - Main Office for Technology
Oberbeamtleiter Albert Speer - Munich 26, Erhardtstrasse 36

Hauptamt für Kriegsopfer - Main Office for War Victims
Dienstleiter Hanns Oberlindobler - Munich 33, Herzog-Wilhelm-Strasse 32

Hauptamt für Erzieher - Main Office for Educators
Dienstleiter Fritz Wachtler - Munich 33, Barerstrasse 15

Hauptamt für Kommunalpolitik - Main Office for Communal Policy
Reichsleiter Karl Fichler - Munich 33, Gabelsbergerstrasse 41

Hauptamt für Beamte - Main Office for Civil Servants
Dienstleiter Hermann Naef - Berlin W 35 - Graf Spee Strasse 17

Hauptamt für Volksaufbau - Main Office for "Folkdom"
Reichsleiter und Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler - Munich 33, Herzog-Wilhelm-Strasse 32.

1. See R & A 3113.7, Part III, D, 1, a
2. See R & A Report 3114.7, "Health and Racial Policy"
3. See below
a. The Hauptamt für Erzieher (Main Office for Educators)

(Formed Address: Munich 33, Barer Strasse 15; Bayreuth, Haus der Deutschen Erziehung). Chief of the Hauptamt für Erzieher was Gauleiter Fritz Fälchler. Operations were discontinued in March 1943 in the course of the total mobilization campaign.

The Hauptamt (Main Office) and the Ämter (Offices) subordinate to it were charged with the task of representing the interests of the Party in matters of institutional education before the various public offices ("Das Hauptamt, bzw. die Ämter für Erzieher haben bei den zuständigen Behörden allo schulischen Belange der NSDAP zu vertreten"). To this end, the Hauptamt evaluated all candidates for recruitment, appointment, and promotion as educators, from the "politico-ideological point of view." These evaluations were made in closest cooperation with the Kreisleitungen (District Leaders) of the Party and then passed on to the governmental offices in charge. In addition, the Hauptamt examined and issued proposals for the undertaking of "National Socialist reforms." Furthermore, the Hauptamt was to advise the Stellvertreter des Führers, later the Leiter der Partei-Kanzlei, in all matters concerning formal education and educators. Finally, the Hauptamt supervised ("betreut") the NS-Lehrerbund (National Socialist Teachers' League). Organisationally, this supervision was effected through the identity of office-holders in both organizations.

The Hauptamt and the Ämter für Erzieher had no special administrative apparatus of their own. They relied for the execution of the functions delegated to them on the bureaucratic structure of the NS-Lehrerbund. Thus

2. Rudolf Benze, Erziehung im Grossdeutschen Reich, p. 84.

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the Leiter des Hauptamtes was, at the same time, the Reichswalter (Reich Trustee) of the NS-Lehrerbund. He selected and appointed Party members to his staff, but following the appointment he sent them directly to the NS-Lehrerbund to assume charge of the functional offices there.

The Leiter des Hauptamtes, likewise, supervised the corresponding offices on the Gau level, ("Dem Hauptamt für Erzieher obliegt die fachliche Ausrichtung der Gauämter im Stab des jeweiligen Gauleiter"). The Leiter of the Gauamt was, simultaneously, the Gauwalter (Gau Trustee) of the NS-Lehrerbund. He selected and appointed his staff members and then delegated them to serve in the Gauwaltung of the NS-Lehrerbund. He also supervised the Kreisamt für Erzieher. The Leiter des Kreisamtes, in turn, was identical with the Kreiswalter of the NS-Lehrerbund.

The Hauptamt für Erzieher must share the responsibility for having sponsored and, through the medium of the NS-Lehrerbund, organized the Naziification of the German school system. Through pressure on provincial and local school authorities, the Hauptamt effected the enrollment in the Nazi party of large numbers of teachers, in some localities the majority. It also achieved the elimination of teachers regarded as unreliable from the Nazi viewpoint. It likewise bears the responsibility for having transformed the teaching plans of the schools into curricula adapted for the systematic indoctrination of German youth with Nazi ideology.

b. Hauptamt für Volkstumsfragen (Main Office for Folkdom) This Office was set up by an Order of the Führer on 12 March 1942, and taken

over by Himmler who was made responsible for all questions either directly or indirectly related to German Folkdom (Volkstum). He was told to adopt whatever executive measures he deemed necessary, with the cooperation of the Chief of the Party Chancellery, the Reich Treasurer, and the Reich Leader for Organization (Reichsorganisationsleiter). Himmler's deputy in this Office was Erich Cassel.

Offices were set up on all administrative levels. The Chief Office on the Reich level had one Central Office and four Sub-Offices. This Central Office, under the direction of Cassel, was responsible for Personnel, Organization, and Indoctrination in German Racial Questions. The Office for Press Censorship for German Racial Questions was attached to it. The four Sub-Offices had, respectively, responsibilities for the following:

i. German Racial Tasks for the Consolidation of the German Race;

ii. Deutschum (German) and Fremdvolkgruppen (Foreign Ethnic Groups);

iii. Racial Questions (Volkstumsarbeit);

iv. Settlement (Siedlungsplanung) for the Consolidation of Germandom.

3. Ämter der NSDAP (Offices of the National Socialist Party) The following were the Ämter of the NSDAP. Two are discussed below. The others have been treated in another report dealing with war crimes.

Aussenpolitisches Amt der NSDAP - Office for Foreign Policy
Reichsleiter Alfred Rosenberg - Berlin W 35, Margaretenstr. 17

1. See below
Kolonialpolitisches Amt der NSDAP - Office for Colonial Policy
Reichsleiter Franz Ritter von Epp - München 22, Prinzregentenstrasse 7

Amt für Sippenforschung der NSDAP - Office for Genealogy
Hauptbereichsleiter Dr. Kurt Mayer - Berlin NW 7, Schiffbauerdamm 26

Rassenpolitisches Amt der NSDAP - Office for Racial Policy
Hauptdienstleiter Dr. med. Walter Gross - Berlin W 15 Sachsische Strasse 69

1. See below.
a. The Aussenpolitisches Amt der NSDAP (Foreign Political Office of the Party). (Former Address: Berlin W 35, Margaretenstr. 17)

The head of this office was Reichsleiter Alfred Rosenberg. According to the official Party definition, it had the following tasks:

1. "To observe the political situation in foreign countries from the viewpoint of the National Socialist Weltanschaunng and to follow up and carry out the tasks which this analysis suggests;
2. "To imbue all offices and formations of the Party with the political aims and endeavors of the National Socialist State in foreign countries;
3. "To enlighten all foreign countries, especially foreigners visiting Germany or staying in Germany as representatives of the (foreign) press, as to the meaning and objectives of National Socialism, in order to arouse the understanding of other nations of the exigencies of the German people."

Aside from the somewhat nebulous purpose indicated under 1 above, the tasks of the Foreign Political Office, then, were primarily propagandistic, namely to popularize Nazi foreign politics, at home and abroad. By the same token, the functions of the Foreign Political Office remained closely linked to those of the Office of the Delegate of the Führer for the Total Supervision of the Intellectual and Ideological Training and Education of

2. The Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944, p. 193, expressed it this way: "The Foreign Political Office of the Party has the task of imbuing the whole movement with the foreign-political aims and endeavors of the leadership and to familiarize the foreign press with the ideology (Gedankengut) of the National Socialist Movement."
the Party (Dienststelle des Beauftragten des Führers für die Überwachung
der gesamten geistigen und weltanschaulichen Schulung und Erziehung der
NSDAP), which was likewise headed by Alfred Rosenberg. In fact, both
offices shared parts of their administrative apparatus. Moreover, the
policies espoused by the Foreign Political Office must be presumed to
have been determined by the conceptions of Rosenberg, the source of much
of the ideology of the Party and the regime.

Characteristic of Rosenberg's attitude in matters of foreign politics
was his mystic belief in the "Aryan International" and in the mission of
the "White Race" under Nordic leadership. His slogan was: "Aryans of
all lands, unite!"

The common stakes and strategy of the "White Race" were stated thus:
"Great Britain undertakes to protect the white race in Africa, India and
Australia; U.S.A. undertakes it on the American Continent; Germany will do
the same in Central Europe in close alliance with Italy, who will have con-
trol over the western Mediterranean and complete mastery of the Adriatic
so as to isolate France and to crush the French attempt to bring black
Africa into the fight against white Europe." However, Germany's leading
role in the White Alliance was never left in doubt. Its mission was
derived from the concept of "Nordic Europe": "..."Nordic Europe" is the

1. Alfred Rosenberg, The Future of German Foreign Policy, p. 142.
2. Ibid.
slogan of the future, with a German Central Europe. Germany is a racial
and national State, as the central power of the Continent, as Guardian of
the South and Southeast; with the Scandinavian States and Finland to
safeguard the Northeast, with England in charge of the West and overseas,
wherever the interest of Nordic Man requires it.

Equally significant, Rosenberg's cry for German Lebensraum in the
East. Rosenberg stated flatly: "All the land east of the Elbe, as far as
the Marova, is land for Germany to colonize." He underlined this
declaration as follows:

"The recognition that the German nation, if it is not to
perish...needs land for its present and future population
and the...view that this land cannot be conquered in
Africa but must be acquired in Europe and primarily in
Eastern Europe...forms the essence of German policies for
centuries to come..."

Both Rosenberg's demand for a "White Alliance" and his formulation
of a "Drang nach Osten" were dictated essentially by his unadulterated
Russophobia. Evidence of his view is furnished by his demand for

"a German-Scandinavian block with the aim of securing land
for 100 millions of Germans and also of meeting the
Mongolian danger (sic) in the East; an alliance of this
block with England, whose mission in India can only be
maintained by preventing Asia (sic) from becoming a stron;
political block....Support for a racial policy in North
America in favor of the white race; a Mediterranean
alliance under Italy's leadership; a system of Yellow
states in the Far East, and the common defense of the
vital interests of the white race in the East by the

2. The Future of German Foreign Policy, p. 18.
3. Ibid., pp. 20-21.
The cooperation of North America, England and Germany."

As to Russia, Rosenberg said:

"The Russians will have to confine themselves so as to remove their center of gravity to Asia...."

This was no mere ideological threat. It was a reference to a prospective geographical as well as political status to be created through military conquest. Rosenberg stated it unequivocally:

"The battle cry of the nation should have been: all soil conquered by the German national army should become the property of the German Reich." 3

To propagate and further objectives of this type, the Foreign Political Office of the Party was organized as follows:

1. The Stabsleiter. (Chief of Staff) Oberdienstleiter Arno Schickedanz.
2. The Adjutant.
3. The Zentralamt. (Central Office)
4. The Arbeitsgebiete. (Areas of Operation)

   I. Länder-Referate. (Regions)
   1. Osten (East)
   2. Südosten (Southeast)
   3. Vorderasien (Asia Minor)
   4. Fernost (Far East)
   5. Norden (North)
   6. Westen (West)
   7. Südwesten (Southwest)
   8. Britisches Imperium, Grossbritannien und Freistaat Eire (British Empire, Great Britain, and Eire)
   9. Übersee (Overseas)

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1. Mythos, p. 676.
2. Ibid., pp. 641-2.
3. Ibid., p. 541.
II. Aussenwirtschaft (Foreign Economics)

III. Presse (Press)

IV. Sonderaufgaben (Special Assignments)

V. Zwischenstaatliche Kulturbeziehungen (International Cultural Relations)

VI. Aussenpolitisches Schulungshaus (Foreign Political Training Institute)

V. Verwaltung (Administration).

The Zentralamt was administered in "Personalmischung" (identity of top personnel) with the Zentralamt of the Delegate of the Führer whereas the Adjutant and the Verwaltung are both used by the Office of the Delegate of the Führer. The Stabsleiter was the executive officer and the representative of Rosenberg in matters concerning the direction and coordination of work within the Arbeitsgebiete and at formal affairs. The Zentralamt was in charge of all questions concerning the "politische Geschäftsführung" (political direction) as well as organization and personnel. The Aussenpolitisches Schulungshaus was the training institute for those assigned to political work abroad.

In the course of the years, the Foreign Political Office yielded a great deal of its influence in foreign affairs to agencies competing with it in the field of foreign affairs and foreign press relations, e.g., specifically, the Auswärtiges Amt (Foreign Office), the Propaganda Ministerium (Propaganda Ministry), the Auslands-Organisation (Foreign Organization), and the like. On the other hand, in his capacity as Reichsminister für die besetzten Ostgebiete (Reich Minister for the Eastern Occupied Territories), Rosenberg found a powerful medium to test the policies formulated and promulgated through the Foreign Political Office.
In sum, the Foreign Political Office of the Party must share the responsibility for both Nazi infiltration and intervention abroad and for the schemes of exploitation and extirpation practices in occupied territories.

b. Kolonialpolitisches Amt der NSDAP (Office for Colonial Policies of the Party) (Former Address: München 22, Prinzregentenstrasse 7) Chief of the Office was Reichsleiter Ritter v. Epp.

i. Overall Policies. Acquisition by Germany of a colonial empire outside of Europe was a Nazi objective consistently kept in view. Point three of the original program of the Party declared: "We demand land and soil (colonies) for the sustenance of our people and for the colonization of our surplus population." The Party leaders, it is true, later subordinated this demand to the immediate and prime objects of German foreign policy—namely, the conquest of Russia, an irruption of German population eastward, and the domination of the world through Nazi hegemony over the Slavic masses bordering the Reich to the East. Alfred Rosenberg wrote: 1 "The recognition that the German nation, if it is not to perish...needs land for its present and future population, and the...view that this land cannot be conquered in Africa but must be acquired in Europe and primarily in Eastern Europe...forms the essence of German foreign policy for centuries to come...."

Nevertheless, it should be noted, Hitler never omitted the claim to overseas colonies. In his Reichstag speech of 20 February 1938 he said:

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1. The Future of German Foreign Policy, pp. 20-21.
The claim for German colonial possessions will be voiced from year to year with increasing vigor, possessions which Germany did not take away from other countries, and which today are virtually of no value to these Powers, but appear indispensable for our own people."

Again, in his Reichstag speech of 30 January 1939 to the German people, Hitler declared:

"The theft of the German colonies was morally unjustified. Economically, it was utter insanity. The political motives advanced were so mean that one is tempted to call them silly. In 1918, after the end of the war, the victorious Powers really would have had the authority to bring about a reasonable settlement of international problems...

"The great German colonial possessions, which the Reich once acquired peacefully by treaties and by paying for them, have been stolen — contrary indeed to the solemn assurance given by President Wilson, which was the basic condition on which Germany laid down her arms. The objection that these colonial possessions are of no importance in any case should only lead to their being returned to us with an easy mind."

Again, in his speech of 28 April 1939, Hitler declared:

"The only demand I have ever made and shall continue to make on England is that she return our colonies. I always made it very clear that this would never become a cause of military conflict. I have always held that the English, to whom those colonies are of no value, would one day understand the German situation and would then value German friendship more than the possession of territories which, while yielding no real profit whatever to them, are of vital importance to Germany."
Functions of the Colonial Office. The Nazi Party took over a colonial propaganda movement which had existed since the days of the Kaiser, and unified and Nazified it. The Party's purpose was two-fold: (1) to indoctrinate all Germans with an ideologically sound awareness of Germany's future role as a colonial power, and (2) to take practical steps to prepare a selected corps of colonial administrators and settlers. In the Reich directorate of the NSDAP a Colonial Policy Office (Kolonial-politisches Amt) was set up "to advise and issue directives for the handling of all questions of colonial policy and colonial economy within the National Socialist movement and its press." This office supervised the activities of the Reich Colonial League (Reichskolonialbund), the Government's nationwide instrument for propagandising the colonial idea. General Ritter von Epp, a South German Nazi and a veteran proponent of the colonial movement, was put in charge of both the Office and the League.

The Reich Colonial League had more than a million members in 1939, organized in some 8,000 local branches. Its work was carried on by seven departments: Propaganda, Colonial Education and Science, Organization and Personnel, Cultural Tasks, Colonial Welfare, Treasury, and Publications.

Functions of the League. The main functions of the Reich Colonial League were the issuance of propaganda, colonial training, and fifth-column preparation. The slogan "Colonies without War" (Kolonien ohne Krieg) was adopted, and meetings, exhibitions, and lectures were organized throughout Germany, to acquaint the nation with tropical overseas...
areas and with Germany’s claim to them. Future colonial administrators and settlers — in part made up of native Germans and in part of the sons of German settlers from the former colonies — received intensive specialized training in colonial problems in schools and camps at Letten, Bitterfeld, Ladeburg, and elsewhere in the Reich. Financial support was sent to German schools in former German Southwest and Southeast Africa, and books and periodicals colored with Nazi ideology were regularly supplied to the farmers and planters of these remaining outposts. Attempts were made to find employment in the former German colonies for German women and girls from Germany.

iv. Ultimate Intent. While the work of the Colonial Policy Office and the Reich Colonial League never came to fruition, the program and activities of those organizations fitted neatly into the Nazi program of world conquest and constitute corroborative proof of the German intention of overthrowing the existing world order. Propaganda for colonies was one essential element in the Nazis’ astute psychological campaign to prepare the German people for a war to overthrow the "Dictate" of Versailles. The training of colonial leaders and the maintenance of an intensive propaganda among the remnants of German settlements in the former colonies further, were intended to build up a German fifth column, ready to exploit any Allied weakness and to provide a base for the armed forces of the Third Reich at the opportune moment.

1. I.e., the Co-operative for Settlement and Colonization at Letten, near Laufen; the retraining workshops for settlers and emigrants at Bitterfeld; the Reich Colonial League School at Ladeburg, near Bernau; the German Colonial School at Witzenhausen on the Werra; the Reich Colonial Administration School; and the Colonial Geographical Institute of Berlin University.
E. The Gauleitung and the Lower Regional Authorities.

1. Gau 1 - 42

a. General Functions. As has been noted above, "regional controls" constituted one of the four vital principles of control within the Party structure. Vertically the Party was subdivided into major regions, Gaue, which, in turn, were subdivided into Kreise, Ortsgruppen, Zellen, and Blöcke. According to the leadership principle, these regional units were headed by "sub-leaders" of the Führer. In contrast to the various affiliated associations and supervised organizations, which were each concerned with one specific activity or group of the population, the regional units were supposed to coordinate all Party functions and those of their affiliates and charges within the same geographical area, the so-called Hechtsgebiet, i.e., region of sovereignty. Its leaders were therefore considered as being endowed with Party "sovereignty," and were titular "bearers of sovereignty" (Hechtsträger). In their sphere of jurisdiction, they were supposed to represent the Party as such. Each Gauleiter, and, to a lesser extent, also each Kreisleiter and Party chief of each lower region was "a little Hitler" in his sphere of jurisdiction. Moreover,

1 See above, Part II Chapter A.
each holder of an office in the regional organization of the Party, in contradistinction to officials in the specialized affiliations and organizations was considered a "political leader" (Politischer Leiter). The function and significance of these officials, and of the Gauleiter in particular, thus was a general political one: to guarantee the authority of the Nazi regime within his area; to coordinate the activities of the Party and all its affiliates and charges, and to integrate in the Party organization the "totality of public life."

The Gauleitung, then, did not function as a collective body. It is true that the Gauleiter were from time to time convened in their entirety, usually by the Führer or his deputy, but this apparently, was not done in order to have them decide upon general policies, but to listen to some exhortative speech or to receive directives for policies to be followed in the Gaue, particularly in cases where coordination of effort seemed expedient, such as an over-all propaganda campaign, or some anti-Church or anti-Jewish campaign. In such instances the Gauleiter would often be made responsible for smooth execution in their respective areas.

b. Party Functions: The Gauleiter's major functions can be divided into two main groups: functions which they exercised as Party agents proper; and functions which were
conference upon them in addition to their status as Party agents — for instance, in the realm of State administration.

1. The Gauleiter as Party Agents The Gauleiter in this capacity had three main functions: to rule over the Party proper in the Gau; to supervise and direct the activities of the affiliated and supervised Party organizations in the Gau; and to extend the influence of the Party over population and life in his Gau generally.

(1). The Gauleiter as chief of the Party Organization. In the first instance, the Gauleiter represented for his Gau the Party internally, i.e., vis-à-vis Party members, affiliates, and supervised organizations, and externally, vis-à-vis the general population. He was superior to all Party offices and Party officials in the Gau. He was endowed with disciplinary and punitive power over these officials as well as over Party members in general, which power he exercised in conjunction with the Party courts (for the Gau: Gaugericht). He thus watched over the political reliability of members and officials. While he himself was appointed by the Führer, he had the right to appoint major officials in Gau, Kreis, and subordinate units, and he had to be heard in the appointment of certain functionaries on his staff by their functional superiors within the Reichsleitung. The same applied to dismissals.
The Gauleiter, as the leader of the Party in the Gau, was, above all, concerned with the proper organization of the Party structure in the Gau, which included questions of personnel as well as financial organization and legal problems concerning the Party. He had to see to it that all Party officials were properly trained and "educated" in the Nazi spirit and the Nazi philosophy. The offices and procedures used for these purposes will be discussed below.

(2). The Gauleiter as political coordinator of Party Organizations. One of the major principles of the organization and structure of the Party dictated that the chiefs of the regional units as Hoheitsträger should coordinate all Party activities and organizations, including the specific activities of the affiliated associations and supervised organizations. For this purpose most of these associations and organizations were so organized that their regional spheres of activity coincided with the general regional subdivisions of the Party. Thus, in each Gau, there would also exist a Gau office (Gauwaltung) of the Labor Front, a Gau office of the NS Public Welfare Association, Gau agencies of the various Nazi professional organizations (Physicians, Lawyers, Teachers), etc. ¹ The coordination and supervision of these

¹ For details see below, d, iv.
agencies and their chiefs were so regulated that while the Gauleiter retained "disciplinary" power over them, they were "functionally," i.e., with respect to the technical aspects of their different activities, directed by their "functional" superiors. Thus, a chief of a Gau Office for Civil Servants (who at the same time was Gau chief of the NS League for Civil Servants) would be directed by the chief of the Party's central Main Office for Civil Servants. The Gauleiter had similar, although somewhat more attenuated, powers regarding those Party organizations which, like the SA, SS, or Hitler Youth, were not organized according to Party Gau and whose regional chiefs were not integrated into the Gau organization of the Party. According to the Party Manual, he possessed for his Gau "the right to supervise the execution of all duties incumbent upon the Party, its formations (Gliederungen), and its affiliated organizations; he had the right and the duty to prevent public and private arrangements and activities which ran counter to the aims of the Party. The choice of measures which might become necessary through the exercise of this supervision was part of the special powers conferred upon the Gauleiter."

1 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943; for details see Ibid., pp. 70 ff., 127-135.
(3) The Gauleiter as political coordinator of Public Life in the Gau. This more general function was clearly defined in the Party Manual where it is stated that:

"The Gau leadership - the Gauleiter with his staff - has to guide politically to become active creatively in a specific part of the Reich. Within his sphere of jurisdiction the Gauleiter is responsible for the entire political, cultural, and economic arrangement of all life and activities according to National Socialist principles. He is responsible for the general political situation in his sphere. For his sphere he is responsible to the Führer for the political and ideological education and attitude of the Political Leaders, the Party comrades, and the population."

Which procedures and means were at the disposal of the Gauleiter for the execution of these duties is not quite clear from available sources. The activities of the Gauleiter (and of subordinate Hoheitsträger, like Kreisleiter) are sometimes termed "Betreuung" (care of individual Volksgenossen), i.e., they were supposed to help and assist them when in difficulties, to hold regular "office hours" (Sprechstunden) during which, in principle, every Volksgenosse had access to the Hoheitsträger, and the like. It is clear that, in practice, the functions of the Gauleiter were much broader and were not limited to these charitable activities and "public relations." Thus, e.g., the

1 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, pp. 136, 137, 98a.
Gauleiter were called upon by the Gestapo to collaborate with the Security Police and other agencies and formations in the preparation and execution of the action against Jews in November 1938, when synagogues were burned, properties invaded and looted, and persons beaten up and arrested in pursuance of a concerted Party action. On the other hand, it is clear that, in principle, the Gauleiter by virtue of their capacity as Gauleiter had no right to interfere with the State administration, the military, or even the private affairs of individuals, organizations, or corporations. That is to say, they did not have the right to give orders to mayors in their Gau, or to order the arrest of a politically suspect person. This would have constituted a case of gross interference with the rights of higher State authorities or with those of the Gestapo, respectively. Indirectly, of course, by using the influence of their office, through suggestions and possibly through political pressure, they were in a position to obtain the desired decision or measure. This lack of legal authority to implement broadly defined political functions probably accounted for the conferral on the Gauleiter of additional and specific positions and functions in government and administration and in other fields.

1 See teletype directives issued by Heydrich, of 9/10 November 1938.
outside the Party.

c. Government Functions Transferred to the Gauleiter.

i. Intervention and Patronage in Government Administration. Regarding the respective jurisdictions of Party and State administration the rule prevailed, in principle, that the State was charged with "the administration of things" and the Party with the care and manipulation of men (Menschentreuung). In practice the separation of functions was gradually modified by giving the Party, and in particular its Hoheitsträger, influence over matters of Government and administration. This was sometimes done indirectly, as may be illustrated by the authority granted to the Gauleiter in matters of appointments to the civil service, and by the powers of Gauleiter and Kreisleiter in municipal government.

According to article 26 of the German Civil Service Act of 26 January 1937¹ and the executive decree of 29 June 1937², only politically reliable persons could be appointed civil servants. The attestation of political reliability was entrusted to Hoheitsträger of the Party, among them the Gauleiter, for certain categories of civil servants. It is clear that this power was bound to establish each Gauleiter as the political "boss" of officials appointed on his

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¹ RGBl. Part I, p. 39.
² RGBl. Part I, p. 669.
recommendation to a post within his Gau.

The German Municipalities Code of 30 January 1935\(^1\) provided for the office of a "Party Delegate" (Beauftragter der NSDAP) for each municipality with important functions in municipal government, particularly as far as appointments were concerned. According to executive decree of 26 March 1935\(^2\) the Kreisleiter were, in general, to hold this office; but the Gauleiter were authorized to provide them with binding instructions, and in certain cases, to take over the functions of the Party Delegates themselves. Apart from the right of intervention in municipal affairs implied therein, the liberal use of this authority in the long run established Party sponsorship and patronage in matters of municipal administration.

ii. Infiltration in the government. In order to strengthen the hold of the Party over the governmental and administrative machine, important positions were entrusted to high Party personages. Gauleiter were given positions in the field of regional government, central government, and, after the outbreak of the war, the administration of occupied territories. This was achieved through the device of establishing the "personal identity of two offices," as, for

1 RGBl. Part I, p. 49.
2 RGBl. Part I, p. 470.
example, filling positions of state government with Gauleiter.

(1). Gauleiter in Regional Government. In the regional administration, the areas of Party and of State government, i.e., Gau on the one hand, and Länder or Provinces on the other, were not always identical but frequently overlapping. The problem of "personal identity" between the Gauleiter and the head of the Länder or provincial administration could therefore not be solved simply by appointing each Gauleiter to head the Land or province. In practice, the position of all Reich Governors, as heads of the Länder, and of most Provincial Presidents, as chiefs of provincial administrations, was in the end given to those Gauleiter whose Gau coincided with, or was contained in, the respective government area. This did not make the administration of such areas Party administration, since the Gauleiter, qua Reich Governors etc., acted, not in their capacity as Gauleiter but as state functionaries, using the machinery of the state administration. It is, nevertheless, obvious that they continued to be first and foremost Party men, who would in critical cases subordinate State interests to Party interests and generally rule over their regions in accordance with the principles of Party philosophy.

A higher degree of concentration of authority was achieved in the case of the Reichsgaue which were created
in territories incorporated into the Reich (Austria, Sude	
tenland, etc.). Here, each Reichsgau, as government unit,
was also Party Gau, the area of the Reich Governor coinciding
totally with his area as Gauleiter.

(2). Gauleiter in Central Government Functions.
Some of the more important Gauleiter were entrusted with tasks
in the central government which gave them a chance strongly
to influence or formulate over-all policies, as, e.g., in the
case of Goebbels, Gauleiter of Berlin, who became Propaganda
Minister and Plenipotentiary for Total Mobilization; Sauckel,
Gauleiter of Thuringia, who was made Commissioner General for
Manpower. Here, of course, both functions were entirely
separate, often exercised at separate places.

(3). Gauleiter with Powers over Occupied Terri-
tories. Gauleiter played a major role in the administration
of territories invaded and occupied during the war. Some-
times, geographical contiguity was decisive; thus, e.g.,
Alsace, Lorraine, and Luxembourg were put under the rule of
Wagner, Märckel, and Simon, who were Gauleiter of neighboring
Baden, Westmark, and Moselland respectively and who were made
Chiefs of Civil Administration over the areas concerned. In
addition, these areas were incorporated into the neighboring
Party Gaue as Gaue, so that there was full coordination of

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State and Party administration. The respective Gauleiter had all powers required to prepare the integration of these areas into the Reich.

In other cases, Gauleiter were chosen for personal reasons to head the administration of certain occupied countries or regions, thus, e.g., Terboven, Gauleiter of Essen, was picked to become Reich Commissar for Norway, Koch, Gauleiter of East Prussia and a Party "expert" on Eastern questions, to become Commissar of the Ukraine, and Lohse, Gauleiter of Schleswig-Holstein to become Commissar of the Ostland. Already prior to the war, the "digestion" of newly acquired territories was frequently effected by appointing a Gauleiter "special commissar for the integration" of the country in question into the Reich, thus, e.g., by making Bürckel, Gauleiter of Pfalz, and specialist in "re-integration," successively commissar for the re-union of the Saar, and for the "re-union" of Austria with the Reich.


After the outbreak of the war, when it became necessary to coordinate all administrative, economic, and other affairs in the interest of the conduct of the war, the Gauleiter were entrusted with key positions. They were made executive agents of the main legislative and central executive agency of the Reich, the Ministerial Defense Council, and as Reich
Defense Commissars were entrusted with decisive powers over regional coordination of affairs.

Gauleiter as Reich Defense Commissars (Reichsverteidigungskommissare) were appointed first for areas larger than Party Gaue, namely, the Wehrkreise (Military Districts of the Army High Command) so that, again as in the case of regional administration, only a limited number of Gauleiter could become such Reich Defense Commissars. Later, when more and more important administrative functions were put on a Gau basis, the Party Gaue became basic areas for Reich defense, and each Gauleiter became a Reich Defense Commissar.

The Gauleiter as Reich Defense Commissars were guided by the directives of the Ministerial Defense Council and other supreme Reich authorities, which had to use the Reich Defense Commissars as intermediaries between them and the governmental agencies engaged in matters of Reich defense. The Commissars were authorized to give directives to all authorities, except supreme Reich authorities and a number of special administrations as, e.g., the Reichsbahn and Reichspost,

1 Decree of 1 September 1939 (RGBl. Part I, p. 1565).
2 E.g. labor administration, under Gau Labor Trustees and Gau Labor Offices, economic "self-government" through Gau Economic Chambers, whose presidents and vice-presidents were appointed under the participation of the Gauleiter.
3 Decree of 16 November 1942 (RGBl. Part I, p. 649).
and were supposed to cooperate with the military authorities in matters concerning the organization of civil defense in accordance with military requirements. For the execution of their tasks, the Reich Defense Commissars were not given special staffs, nor were they supposed to use the Party machine. They had to utilize the existing machinery of the general administration within the individual regions, e.g., District, Provincial, or Land, to which, for specific purposes, were attached Regional Economic Offices, Regional Food Offices, and Forest and Lumber Offices. They were further assisted by advisory Defense Councils, composed of the chiefs of the most important agencies of the area.

In the course of the war, more and more additional functions were entrusted to the Reich Defense Commissars, so that at the end, with the exception of such specialized affairs as administration of justice or police, almost every matter in the field of civil administration was coordinated and supervised by them. For instance, regional authority over price control was put under the Gauleiter as Reich Defense Commissars, and housing was put under the Gauleiter as Gau Housing Commissar. Goebbels, as Plenipotentiary for Total Mobilization, used the Reich Defense Commissars in a final effort to mobilize available manpower and resources. Cooperation with the military authorities in matters of
recruitment for military service had long been one of the major functions of the Commissars; it was their job to recommend key administrative personnel for deferment. They also were in charge of requisitioning buildings for military use.

Toward the end of the war, the Gauleiter or Reich Defense Commissars were charged even with military and quasi-military tasks. They were made commanders of the Volkssturm in their areas. They were further entrusted with important functions in case of evacuation of civilian populations before the invading enemy and in so-called ARLZ-measures, i.e., measures of evacuation or destruction of installations in the same case.

It is thus clear that throughout the duration of the Nazi regime but especially toward the end of the war, the Gauleiter held key posts in the structure of the Nazi state. They were considered to be the most reliable personnel in important positions. This confidence was not always warranted. But instances have been reported, for example Gauleiter Hanke in Breslau and other cases in which Gauleiter or Kreisleiter, often together with the local SS and police chiefs, proved the last bulwark of resistance in cities immediately threatened by the approaching enemy.
d. Organization and Structure of the Gau Administration

i. General Structure. The Gau as a basic subdivision of the Party was defined in numbers, boundaries, and capitals by the Führer himself and the Reich Leader for Organization.¹ This structure derived from pre-1933 times and was laid out according to existing election districts, i.e., not coincident with administrative boundaries. After the addition of Austria and other incorporated territory, there were altogether 43 Gaue. One of them, Gau Ausland, under Gauleiter Bohle, had for its territory not the Reich but, in a way, the whole world: In the Greater Reich, there were 42 Gaue, with 42 Gauleiter, more than half of whom were at the same time Reich Governors or Provincial Presidents. The names of Gaue and Gauleiter are as follows:

List of Gaue with their capitals, Gauleiter (with indication of major additional positions of Gauleiter, if any), and Deputy Gauleiter, as of 1944

1. Baden (including Alsace), capital Strasbourg; Robert Wagner (also Reich Governor of Baden and Chief of Civil Administration in Alsace); E. Röhnn
2. Bayreuth (Bayreuth); Fritz Wächtler; L. Ruckdeschel
3. Berlin; Joseph Goebbels (Reich Minister of Propaganda); G. Schach
4. Danzig-Westpreussen (Danzig); Albert Forster (also Reich Governor of Reichsgau Danzig-Westpreussen); G. Seeger
5. Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf); Karl Florian; K. Overhues
6. Essen (Essen); Josef Terboven (also Provincial President of Rhein Province and Reich Commissar of Norway); F. Schlossmann
7. Franken (Nuremberg); Acting: Karl Holz, formerly Julius Streicher

¹ Organisationstuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 136
8. Halle-Merseburg (Halle); Joachim-Albrecht Eggeling; G. Tesche
9. Hamburg (Hamburg); Karl Kaufmann (also Reich Commissar for Ocean Shipping and Reich Governor of Hamburg)
10. Hessen-Nassau (Frankfurt a.M.); Jacob Sprenger (also Reich Governor of Land Hessen); K. Linder
11. Kärnten (including Oberkrain), at Klagenfurt; Friedrich Rainer (also Reich Governor of Kärnten and Chief of Civil Administration of Oberkrain); R. Egger
12. Köln-Aachen (Cologne); Josef Grohe; M. Bergmann
13. Kurhessen (Kassel); K. Gerland; M. Sollwig
14. Magdeburg-Anhalt (Dessau); Rudolf Jordan (also Reich Governor of Braunschweig and Anhalt); R. Trautmann
15. Mainfranken (Würzburg); Otto Hellmuth (also District President of Würzburg); W. Königsreich
16. Mark Brandenburg (Berlin); Emil Stürtz (also Provincial President of Brandenburg Province)
17. Schicklungen (Schwerin); Friedrich Wildebrandt (also Reich Governor of Mecklenburg); G. von Körber
18. Poselland (including Luxembourg) at Koblenz; Gustav Simon (also Chief of Civil Administration of Luxembourg); F. Rockmann
19. Tüben-Oberbayern (Munich); Paul Giesler (Minister President of Bavaria); F. Lücker
20. Niederösterreich (Vienna); Hugo Jury (also Reich Governor of Niederösterreich)
21. Niederschlesien (Breslau); Karl Hanke (also Provincial President of Niederschlesien)
22. Oberösterreich (Linz); August Eigruber (also Reich Governor of Oberösterreich); G. Oostenhoff
23. Oberschlesien (Kattowitz); Fritz Bracht (also Provincial President of Oberschlesien); R. Metzner
24. Ost-Hannover (Lüneburg); Otto Telschow; H. Peiper
25. Ostpreußen (Königsberg); Erich Koch (also Provincial President of Ostpreußen; Reich Commissar of Ukraine, Chief of Civil Administration of Byalistok); F. Grossherr
26. Pommern (Stettin); Franz Schwedo-Coburg (also Provincial President of Pommern); P. Simon
27. Sachsen (Dresden); Martin Jutschmann (also Reich Governor of Sachsen)
28. Salzburg (Salzburg); Gustav-Adolf Scheel (also Reich Governor of Salzburg); A. Wintersteiger
29. Schleswig-Holstein (Kiel); Hinrich Lohse (also Provincial President of Schleswig-Holstein and Reich Commissar of Ostland); W. Sian
30. Schwaben (Augsburg); Karl Wahl (also District President of Schwaben); A. Mündler
31. Steiermark (including Untersteiermark), at Graz; Siegfried Uberreither (also Reich Governor of Steiermark, Chief of Civil Administration of Untersteiermark); T. Potschky
32. Sudetenland (Reichenberg); Konrad Henlein (also Reich Governor of Sudetenland); G. Seuberg
33. Süd-Hannover-Branswieg (Hannover); Hartmann Lautenbacher (also Provincial President of Hannover); A. Knop
34. Thüringen (Weimar); Fritz Sauckel (also Commissioner-General for Manpower); H. Siekmeyer
35. Tirol-Vorarlberg (Innsbruck); Franz Hofer (also Reich Governor of Tirol-Vorarlberg); H. Parsen
36. Wartheland (Posen); Arthur-Karl Greiser (also Reich Governor of Wartheland); K. Schmalz
37. Weser-Brès (Oldenburg); Paul Wegener (also Reich Governor of Oldenburg and Bremer); G. Joel
38. Westfalen-Nord (Münster); Alfred Meyer (also Provincial President of Westfalen, Reich Governor of Lippe and Schaumburg-Lippe, Deputy Reich Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories); P. Straugler
39. Westfalen-Süd (Bochum); Albert Hoffmann; H. Vetter
40. Westmark (including Lorraine) at Neustadt; Wilhelm Stühr (also Reich Governor of Westmark and Chief of Civil Administration of Lorraine); E. Leyser
41. Wien (Vienna); Baldur von Schirach (also Reich Governor of Wien); K. Scharzer
42. Württemberg-Hohenzollern (Stuttgart); Wilhelm Herr (also Reich Governor of Württemberg); A. Vogt
43. Auslandsorganisation (Berlin); Ernst-Wilhelm Lohle

The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, as far as Party organization was concerned, was divided up among Party Gaue Sudetenland, Niederdonau, and Oberdonau.

Each Gau was organized according to the same basic pattern. The leadership principle, of course, prevailed. The Gauleiter was the autocratic chief of the Gau administration as well as the superior of the chiefs of the regional Party
units included in his Gau (Kreise, Ortsgruppen, etc.). Within the Gau administration proper, he was assisted by a Deputy Gauleiter, one or several Gau Inspectors, and a staff which was divided into Main Offices (Hauptämter) and Offices (Ämter) in charge of specific tasks and functions. As has been pointed out above, those offices which were at the same time Gau agencies for some affiliated or supervised Party organization (e.g., Gau Propaganda Office, NS Public Welfare Association, NS League of Legal Officials) were under a dual control. Politically and regarding "disciplinary" control, they were under the Gauleiter, but functionally, they were under the corresponding agency or the central level. In cases of discrepancy between policies or directives of these two controlling agencies, e.g., between the Gauleiter and the chief of the central Main Office for Public Welfare within the Reichsleitung, a complicated system was developed by which such conflicts could be solved.

11. Deputy Gauleiter. The deputy Gauleiter was second in importance in Gau affairs. He was not only supposed to take over leadership of the Gau, if and when the Gauleiter was temporarily prevented from exercising his functions personally, but had important functions of his own. These tasks were fixed in detail by the Gauleiter. They comprised mainly the supervision of, and relations with, the subordinate
Hoheitsträger - above all, the Kreisleiter. The Deputy Gauleiter was in all cases a full-time official, selected from among the most reliable of the political leaders.

111. Gauleiters. Not too much is known about the precise functions of the Gauleiters. In principle, there was one for each Gaue, and only in exceptional cases several. He was assigned special duties by the Gauleiter or his deputy, and appears to have been mainly in charge of investigating complaints and of coordinating subordinate agencies in cases of conflicts. He, too, was a full-time official of the Party and was selected from leading Party officials with wide experience in Party work.

iv. Main offices, offices, and their chiefs. The division of the Gaue office into departments and their organization was regulated according to basic directives of the Reich Leader for Organization. Details were to be worked out by the head of that Gaue Office which was in charge of organizational matter - the Gaue Organization Leader. The offices can be divided into two groups. There were first those which dealt with over-all matters concerning all Party agencies and organizations in the Gaue, including the so-called "Sachämter:"

- Gau Staff Office (Gaustabsamt)
- Gau Treasury (Gauschatzamt)
- Gau Education Office (Gauschulungsamt)
- Gau Organization Office (Gauorganisationamt)
- Gau Personnel Office (Gaupersonalamt)
- Gau Propaganda Office (Gaupropagandaamt)
- Gau Press Office (Gaupressamt)
Also in this group, although not an office, belonged the Gau Court (Gaugericht).

The second group consisted of the subdivisions of Reich offices supervising Party formations, affiliated associations, supervised and other organizations as well as the Gau offices of these Party formations, affiliated associations, supervised and other organizations:

Gau Public Welfare Office (Gauamtseleitung der NSV)
Office of the Gau Chief of the Labor Front (Amt des Gauämtermannes der DAF)
Office for Rural Policies (Amt für Agrarpolitik)
Gau Office for Educators (Gauamt für Erzieher)
Gau Leader of University Teachers (Gaudezentrenführer)
Gau Student Leader (Gaustudentenführer)
Gau Office for Civil Servants (Gauamt für Besaate)
Gau Leader of the NS League of Legal Officials (Gauführad des NS Rechtswahrerbundes)
Office for Racial Policy (Amt für Volksfragen)
Gau Office for Technology (Gauamt für Technik)
Gau Office for Public Health (Gauamt für Volksgesundheit)
Gau Women Leader (NS-Frauenschaft)
Gau Office for War Victims (Gauamt für Kriegsopfer)
Gau Office for Communal Policy (Gauamt für Kommunalpolitik)

The main functions of these offices are indicated by their titles. The Gau Staff Office was mainly a coordinating agency, to secure proper and close collaboration among the various offices. Under it, there was the Gau Legal Advisor (Gaurechtstaberater). The Organization Office dealt not only with questions of organization, but also with arrangement of meetings, supplies of the various organizations, and similar matters. The Training Office was in charge of the proper
indoctrination of Party personnel, including the staff of the affiliated and supervised organizations. Gau Training Schools (Genschulungsburgen) were created for this purpose. The Gau Propaganda Leader, who was at the same time chief of the Reich Propaganda Offices under the Reich Propaganda Minister, was in charge of all matters of propaganda and "culture" in the Gau, i.e., all Party activities in the fields of radio, films, etc. Being simultaneously chief of the regional "chambers of culture," he was, under the Gauleiter, the most important person in the field of mass domination and mass manipulation in the region. The Gau Press Office was in charge of the Party press in the Gau, including all publications of Party and Party organizations, its head also was to supervise the non-Party press of the Gau in matters of political discipline.

The offices representing the various supervisory offices of Party formations, Party affiliates, etc., were usually so organized that the chief of the Gau office was at the same time leader of the various organizations tied into his office and provided them with trusted staff members from among the reliable members of his office. These organizations, in short, were strictly supervised and politically coordinated from the Gauleiter's office. Thus, e.g., the chief of the Gau Office for Public Health (one of the Gauleiter's departments) was at the same time leader of the "League of Physicians"
for the Gau and provided this organization with staff officials from among his Party collaborators.

Gau chiefs of the NS League of German University Teachers existed only in Gaue where there was a university. The Gau Student Leader not only supervised the NS Student League (KSDS) as the Party formation of students, but also the German Students Society (Deutsche Studentenschaft), the organization to which every student had to belong. Gau Offices for Racial Policy were established only in Gaue where either non-German minorities or geographical nearness to territory where "Germans abroad" lived warranted such establishment.

v. Kreisleiter, Ortsgruppenleiter, Zellenleiter, and Blockleiter. The structure and organization of the Party Gau was substantially repeated in the lower units of Party organization, the Kreise, Ortsgruppen, Cells, and Blocks. They too were headed by autocratic Hoheitsträger (Kreisleiter, etc.) and organized into offices dealing with the various activities of the Party and the Party organizations. But the number of such departments and activities diminished as the unit dropped in the hierarchy, so that, while the Kreis office contained all or most of the departments mentioned for the Gau, the Ortsgruppen had fewer, and the lower ones still fewer. On the other hand, the connection of the leaders and the staff of these units with the population under their jurisdiction was
supposed to be the closer and more direct the lower and smaller
the unit in question, so that the main function of the cell
and the block was to supervise the people living in the re-
spective districts.

(1). Kreis. There were roughly 220 Kreise. Their areas, which had to coincide with the corresponding administrative units, usually comprised one city or rural county (Stadtkreis or Landkreis). The Kreisleiter was appointed and dismissed by the Führer at the proposal of the Gauleiter. The latter was his disciplinary superior and gave him orders and instructions. The Kreisleiter, within the Kreis, had the same position, powers, and prerogatives granted the Gauleiter in the Gau. In cities they constituted the very core of Party power and organization.

(2). Ortsgruppen. There were roughly 30,000 Ortsgruppen. Their areas coincided with municipalities and usually comprised one Ortsgruppe. However, in very small municipalities (villages) two or more could be combined into one Party Ortsgruppe, while larger cities were regularly divided into several Ortsgruppen. The Ortsgruppen leader was directly under the Kreisleiter and was appointed by the Gauleiter on the proposal of the Kreisleiter. He as well as his collaborators in the Ortsgruppen administration were
usually not full-time officials but fulfilled their functions on a part-time basis (ehrenamtlich).

(3). Zelle. Each Ortsgruppe was divided into Zellen (cells), of which there were altogether 110,000. They comprised parts of larger communities or, in smaller localities, an entire community. The main function of the Zellenleiter (Cell Leader) was to keep in close contact with the households and industrial and commercial enterprises in his area, particularly the Party members, and to supervise the Blocks. There were usually three more Party functionaries under his jurisdiction in the Cell administration: the Labor Front Street Cell Chief, the NS Public Welfare Cell Chief, and the NS Women's Cell Chief.

(4). Block. These were the lowest units of the Party organization, usually comprising 40 to 60 households. There were altogether 550,000. The Blockleiter (Block Leader) was the one Party official immediately in contact with the people. He was supposed to make direct propaganda, to spy on them, and to supervise and organize Party members among them. He was, like the Cell Leader, assisted in his tasks by block leaders of the Labor Front, the NS Public Welfare Association, and the NS Women's Organization.
The Auslands-Organisation (AO) of the NSDAP was established in Hamburg in the fall of 1933. Its first chief was Dr. Hans Nieland, who was replaced on 8 May 1933 by Ernst Wilhelm Bohle. Bohle was appointed with the rank of a Gauleiter and was on the staff of the deputy of the Führer. In the middle of March 1935 the AO moved its headquarters to Berlin and on 16 April 1935 it received the status of a Party Gau and thus ceased to be a section in the Reichsleitung (Reich Directorate of the Party). On 30 January 1937 Bohle was made Undersecretary of State in the Foreign Office, thus raising his status to that of holder of a Reich office. Bohle was, however, unwilling to subordinate his foreign policy work to Ribbentrop, with the result that Ribbentrop removed him from office. After Hans' disappearance, the Party Chancellery under Martin Bormann took over most of the functions formerly performed by the Führer's deputy. Bohle was a member of the Party Chancellery, as he had been in Hess' office. No other Gauleiter held ex officio such high positions in the central Party administration.

1. From 1 May 1931 to early 1933 and again from 3 October 1933 to 17 February 1934 its name was Auslandsabteilung der Reichsleitung der NSDAP. From early 1933 to 3 October 1933 it was Abteilung für Deutsche im Ausland bei der Obersten Leitung der P. From 17 February 1934 on: Auslands-Organisation der NSDAP.

2. For details on the history of the AO, see Karl Ehrlich, Die Auslands-Organisation der NSDAP (1937), pp. 2-31, 51-62 (cited hereafter as Ehrlich); KHI, part 1, pp. 197-199.
Moreover, Bohle had the right to attend Reich cabinet meetings when matters pertaining to his department were discussed.

b. Functions and Organization

i. Functions. The AO was established with the avowed purpose of Nazifying all German citizens of German descent living abroad. The implication of such a policy was to extend the political duties involved in the possession of German citizenship beyond the borders of Germany. Germans abroad were not to be maintained for their own sake but were expected to support actively the new German Reich. Bohle, in 1938, referred bluntly to:

"The unconditional will to cooperate ... (which) has swept along every single German, regardless of all boundaries ...." 1

While German legations and consulates continued, at least officially, to protect the interests of the individual Germans living abroad, it fell upon the Party to "substitute" the government offices in regard to functions which the official German representatives could not assume without offending against the diplomatic code. These functions were of a dual nature. They consisted first of an attempt to organize German citizens abroad in groups. Bohle defined this task as follows:

"... our Germanism abroad is composed of individual Germans who can only live as Germans if they form among themselves an indestructible community and if this community is incorporated in the community which Adolf Hitler has given their racial comrades in the Reich...." 2

1. National Socialism, publication by United States State Department, p. 101 (cited hereafter as State Dept).
Rudolf Hess, when reviewing the accomplishments of the Auslandsorganisation in 1937, could claim:

"The Foreign Organization of the NSDAP has brought together the Germans out there ... and, joined them with Adolf Hitler's Reich. The National Socialist care for Germans abroad is maintaining an enormous number of Germans for the nation who otherwise would be absorbed as cultural fertilizer for other nations."

The other task consisted not only in making Germans abroad aware of their allegiance to the Third Reich but in inculcating in them a sense of obligation to contribute actively to the cause of National Socialism. This postulate was conceived and pronounced as a deliberate departure from the traditional pattern of foreign policy and international relations. Behle stated it in so many words:

"In this, the Foreign Organization has followed wholly new paths; it has turned aside from the old unsuitable idea of a pure protection of foreign Germans ... for a master race ... a protection of this kind would be humiliating. The Foreign Organization has, therefore, deliberately begun its work by placing upon foreign Germans obligations to the new Reich, and it is a cause of pride for our German nationals beyond the borders that almost all of them have joyfully accepted these obligations."

In a similar view, Ehrich in 1937 defined the Foreign Organization as the extended arm of German national policies:

"... the Reich and the people in the Reich do not exist for the benefit of Germans abroad, but demand the contrary -- that foreign Germans shall accept and be responsible for that share of the nation's task which is assigned to it by Providence. The task of the Foreign Organization is to prepare foreign Germans for this role ...."

To accomplish these objectives the Foreign Organization employed practically all standard means of Nazi control, namely indoctrination, infiltration, propaganda, and, to a certain extent, even terrorization. Essentially, however, the Foreign Organization must be regarded as the prototype of Nazi agencies entrusted with infiltration of Nazi thought, policies, agents, and social, political, and economic influence into non-German territories.

The AO had supervisory authority over all branches of the Party and its subsidiary organizations abroad. All business of any such organization with its branches abroad had to channel through Dohle's office. Party members taking up a permanent residence abroad were transferred from their Gau in the Reich to the AO. By decree of 16 March 1934 all members of the German merchant marine and all pilots belonged to the jurisdiction of the AO.

1. Headquarters Organization. The AO had its headquarters in Berlin. In 1937 this consisted of the following departments:

1. Staff of Gauleiter.
2.Regional Offices (Länderämter)

- Länderrat 1: Northern and Eastern Europe
- Länderrat 2: Western Europe (except British Isles)

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1. Cf. Part II, Chapter B.
2. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP 1943, p. 143
3. Ehrich, p. 10.
Länderamt 3: Southeastern Europe, Austria, Near East
Länderamt 4: Italy, Switzerland, Hungary
Länderamt 5: Africa
Länderamt 6: North America
Länderamt 7: Latin America
Länderamt 8: Far East, Australia, British Isles

The function of these sections changed with the expansion of the Reich and for other reasons. Eventually they were reduced to six, but a new Kolonialamt (colonial office) was added. These six remaining Länderämter are said later to have been further reduced to only three:
(1) Europe (except the Iberian Peninsula and British Isles); (2) Latin America, Spain, and Portugal; and (3) the Far East, Australia, the British Isles, Canada, and the United States.


(4) AO central offices in other Nazi agencies and organizations. (In contrast to the offices in other Gaue, these offices were under the direct supervision of the AO. Other Gauleiter had the right only to complain about activities of such organizations, but Bohle, conversely, had the duty to see to it that the activities of these Nazi agencies conformed to the policies of the AO).

Department 10: Deutsche Arbeitsfront der AO (German Labor Front).

Department 11: Amt für Beamte (Gau Ausland des Reichsordnungsministeriums)

1. OSS CID 144607, 28 September 1944.
2. Curt Rieß, The Nazis Go Underground (1944), pp. 142-3 (cited hereafter as Rieß)
deutscher Beamten E.V.). Civil servants' organization including foreign
service officers, official pilots, and other officials.

Department 12: Amt für Erzieher (Gau Ausland des Nationalsozia-
listischen Lehrerbundes E.V.). Covered teachers abroad, and teachers
in merchant marine and marine engineering schools.

Department 13: GAudozentenbundesführung Ausland. Dealt with
German college instructors abroad.

Department 14: Gaustudentenbundesführung Ausland. Dealt with
German students abroad.

Department 15: Gauobmann der NS-Kulturgemeinde. (Departments
Nos. 12 to 15 were organized within Department 21/Kulturamt/.)

Department 16: Gauführung des NS-Rechtszahererbundes was the AO
branch of the Nazi Lawyers' League.

Department 17: Arbeitsgemeinschaft der deutschen Frau in Auslande
(from 1 August 1933 to 1 July 1939); from 1 July 1939 it was called
Auslands-deutsche Frauenenschaft; chief: Vera Behr. Dealt with German
women and children under 10 years abroad.

Department 18: Jugendamt (Gebiet "Ausland" der Hitler-Jugend).
AO office of the Hitler Youth. Chief was also in charge of Auslanaant
der Jugendführung.

(5) Functional Offices.

Department 19: Aussenhandelsamt (Foreign Trade Office). Its
chief was also deputy Gauleiter for economic questions.

Department 20: Inspektionsamt. Dealt with mail, files, transport,
security, etc.
Department 21: Kulturamt (Culture Office). Its chief was also Gaustudentenbundesführer Ausland (Department 13) and Gauchmarn der HS - Kulturgemeinde (Department 15). For teachers and students abroad Department 21 had a Hauptstelle Schulwesen and a Hauptstelle Akademische Auslandsarbeit, which were equivalent to Departments 12 and 14.

Department 22: Personalamt (Personnel).
Department 23: Presseamt (Press and publicity).
Department 24: Gaugericht (Gauck court). Staff and chief were the same as for Department 25. Had two chambers. Had no courts abroad, but only Schlichter (arbiters). Reviewed decisions of local courts of merchant marine department of AO.

Department 25: Rechtsamt (Law Office). Staff and chief were the same as for Department 24. Chief: Horst Lübke, Deputy: Wolfgang Haeseler. Department 25 could train higher civil servants (Ausbildungs- station für Gerichts- und Regierungssreferendare).

Department 26: Amt der Rednervermittlung (Speaker Procurement).
Department 27: Rückwandereramt (Repatriation Office).
Checked on Germans returning from abroad, eliminating undesirables.

Department 28: Schatzamt (Treasurer of AO).
Department 29: Schulungsamt (Training Office).
Department 30: Amt für Volkswhlfahrt (Welfare Office, later Amt NSV). Liaisons with NSV and in particular the Winter Help program.

Chief: Heinrich Peetz.
Department 31: Amt für Technik (Engineering Office). Closely connected with Department 19 and also under the same deputy of the Gauleiter.
iii. Field Organization of AO

(1) Regular Offices. In general, the field organization of the AO followed that of the Party Gau. In each country, the AO was organized as either a Landesgruppe or a Landeskreis, the latter being used for the less important country groups. Landesgruppen were further broken down into Kreise (districts), Ortsgruppen (locals), and Stützpunkte (outposts). Landeskreise had only Ortsgruppen and Stützpunkte. The staffs of each of these units were more or less completely patterned after the AO headquarters in Berlin. As soon as an area was incorporated into the Reich, the AO lost jurisdiction over it. This was also the case when an Arbeitsbereich (special sphere) was set up in territories neighboring the Reich.

Partial list of Landesgruppen and Landeskreise and their chiefs:

Netherlands (Landesgruppe): Dr. Butting, later E. J. Huijbergs. Became Arbeitsbereich on 15 October 1940.

Norway (Landesgruppe): Hans Friedrich Neumann (also Chief of Security Police under German occupation).

Belgium (Landesgruppe): Adolf Schulze; deputy: Julius Heinrich Koch, (later chief).

France (Landesgruppe): Neuendorf, later Huble; deputy: Reise.

Greece (Landesgruppe): Dr. Wrede, later Dr. Ebingher.

Danmark (Landesgruppe): Julius Daldorf, Ernst Schäfer.

Croatia (Landesgruppe): Rudolf Emping.

Yugoslavia (Landesgruppe): Neuhausen, who later obtained a high position in the administration of occupied Southeast Europe.
Bulgaria (Landesgruppe): Josef Drechsel.
Nanking China (Landesgruppe): Siegfried Lahrmann.
Finland (Landeskreis): Wilhelm Jahre.
Manchuria (Landesgruppe): Hanns Günther von Kirschbaum.
Portugal (Landesgruppe): Dr. Horst Lübbe.
Bulgaria (Landesgruppe): Ludwig Kohlhammer.
Sweden (Landesgruppe): Friedrich Wilhelm Stengel, later Köhler (?).
Switzerland (Landesgruppe): Gustloff (killed); later Baron Siegfried von Hibi.
Serbia (Landesgruppe): Köhler.
Slovakia (Landesgruppe): Kurt Rudershausen.
Hungary (Landesgruppe): Henry Esp.
Egypt (Landesgruppe): Krahm.
Italy (Landesgruppe): Ettel, later Emil Ehrich.
Portuguese West Africa (Landeskreis): Kiesler.
British India (Landesgruppe): Dr. Urhe.
Uruguay (Landeskreis): Felix Schmid.
Palestine: Schwarz.
United States: Walter H. Schellenberg
Spain (Landesgruppe): Friedhelm Burbach, later Hermann Sack, Walter
Zuchristian, Hans Helleman, Hans Thomsen.
Japan: Erich Zeisig, later Rudolf Hellmann.
Argentina (Landesgruppe): Heinrich Vollberg.
(2) Other Local Officers: Merchant Marine: Crews on board ship were organized in Ortsgruppen or Stützpunkte directly under AO headquarters in Berlin. In addition, there were the following regional offices:

- "Weser-Elbe" at Bremen
- "Elbe" at Hamburg; chief, R. Homberg
- "West Baltic" at Kiel
- "East Baltic" at Stettin

(The last two offices were later combined under Alexander Wegener).

Harbor offices abroad:

Repatriation Office: Local branches in Breslau, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Munich, Schneidemühl, and Stuttgart. Also a number of homes.

Training Office: Reichsschule für Auslanddeutsche und Seefahrer at Hamburg-Altona.

There was also a general branch office of the AO in Hamburg.

Activities:

i. Introduction. The official spokesmen of the NSDAP have repeatedly stated in public, that the AO was a voluntary association of Germans living abroad which wanted "to cultivate ... Germanism" and the members of which wanted "to be good National Socialists." Specifically, the AO was said not to deal with persons who were not German citizens, and it was claimed that the Nazis did "not want National Socialism to

1. Ehrich, p. 17.
2. Ehrich, p. 21.
3. Ibid., p. 21.
5. Ehrich, p. 7.
trickle into other people as poison. Even after the AO had been accused of fifth column activities, its leaders repeatedly denied that it was an espionage agency or used in preparation of world conquest.

In subsequent sections, it will be shown that the AO was a full-fledged instrument of Nazi policy, that it was a subversive organization, and therefore naturally also an organization which did its best to conceal its real activities from the public. The case against the AO can therefore be made not so much from the public statements of its leaders, as from inside observers and captured documents. The best known collection of the latter type of information are AO files found by the Loyalists in Barcelona during the Spanish Civil War.

ii. Undercover Techniques. The AO outside of Germany was not a private organization, but acted as a semi-governmental agency. Erich, a high AO official, stated that the purpose of the AO was to provide for the German abroad the kind of guidance which the Nazi state gave the residents of the Reich. According to another official Nazi pronouncement, "the NSDAP was not a party in the ordinary meaning of the word, but was the state-supporting movement of the whole people, to which even the Germans abroad belonged." The crowning symbol of

4. NSDAP, AO, Jahrbuch der Ausland-Organisation der NSDAP 1940 (1939) p. 182.
this relation between AO and state was Eohle's appointment as Undersecretary of State in the Foreign Office. 

This union of the AO and the state did not remain a dead letter. When Switzerland prohibited the central Swiss office of the AO, a member of the German legation was appointed to run the AO in Switzerland. Reich agencies used the AO for carrying out their public functions abroad. Goebbels went so far as to call the AO members cultural attaches abroad. Members of the AO traveled with Foreign Office courier passports, and even in countries where the AO was not prohibited, it was permitted to use diplomatic buildings as quarters. Although every AO member was instructed to obey the laws of the country he resided in, he owed unbreakable allegiance to Hitler and unconditional obedience to him and his deputies. The AO, in short, was as much an executive instrument of Hitler as was the Army.

1. "Durch die Ausstattung des Gauleiters mit staatlichen Vollmächten erhält das Gesetz über die Einheit von Partei und Staat eine logische Anwendung auf die Reichsdeutschen im Auslande" (By giving the Gauleiter state authority, the Law on Unity of Party and State received a logical application to German citizens abroad). Ehrich, p. 31.


3. Reich Propaganda Ministry to AO, 24 November 1934, asking AO to supply a certain Spaniard with propaganda materials: photostat in Emilie Burns, The Nazi Conspiracy in Spain (1937), facing p. 48 (cited hereafter as Burns).


5. Photostat of diplomatic courier passport issued by German Embassy in Madrid on 24 April 1936 to AO chief in Spain, Burns, facing p. 31; reliable and confidential eyewitness report on AO in the Netherlands, OSS CID 274686, n.d.

The AO's internal organization gives additional clues to its real activities. Correspondence was transmitted and kept under a system of security regulations. Codes were used; in one instance in anticipation of the German invasion of Greece. The AO also included uniformed formations, such as the HJ, NSFK, and a "sport group." The latter's activities consisted primarily of drilling, outdoor maneuvers, shooting practice, and "special tasks." Whether or not there was also an SA or whether the sport group took its place is not entirely clear.

It has even been asserted that Germans were allowed in some instances to do their military service with local AO uniformed groups.

iii. Propaganda. Although statements to the contrary were issued regularly by the AO, the AO did not limit its activities to German citizens, but in numerous instances propagandized non-Germans. This is confirmed by Bohle's statement that the attitude of AO members could substantially influence public opinion abroad.

1. Bohle's decree of 20 February 1935 on confidential treatment of AO official correspondence, quoted from AO Mittteilungsblatt sequence 27, # 37/35 by Grimm, 41; Biese's decree of 17 May 1935 on the use of cover code names, translated in Burns, 65; statement of Dr. Wrede, AO leader in Greece, that several hours before the German Army entered Greece at 5:20 A.M. on 9 April 1941, he was advised of this plan by the German minister in Athens and that he himself thereupon gave over the phone to four German block leaders the code message "Don't miss the bus." State Dept., p. 468.

2. State Dept., p. 343 on NSKK; Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1943, p. 33b on sport groups of AO.

3. Grimm, p. 69, has a picture of uniformed SA in Switzerland.

4. Riess, p. 144, says that this was permitted in the Argentine after 1936 and that the NSDAP had in that country infantry, cavalry (tank), and air force formations.

5. State Dept., p. 312.
branch of the AO, for example, was consulted by AO headquarters as to whether or not the Spanish anti-Semitic periodical, LaExad, should be supported by German advertisements, while the Barcelona group of the AO reported the anti-German "bias" of a Spanish correspondent in Berlin to the higher AO office in Spain. As pointed out in the preceding section, the AO was also used by the Propaganda Ministry to supply propaganda to a Spaniard. The AO in the United States corresponded directly with the Reich Propaganda Ministry and in turn was put in charge by the NSDAP of running the Freunde des neuen Deutschlands, an organization not entirely composed of German citizens.

iv. Commercial Pressure. Bohle in 1937 said: ... British residents abroad are perfectly entitled to promote the commercial interests of their country whenever they have a chance of doing so. Similarly, no one can possibly object to our claims to exercise exactly the same rights on behalf of our German communities in foreign countries. The AO gave this claim a very generous interpretation.

1. AO Ausserhandelsamt to AO Spain, 12 April 1935, photostat, Burns, facing p. 16.
2. AO Barcelona to AO Madrid, 16 August 1935, Burns, photostat facing p. 17.
4. Strauss to Weidmann, 31 May 1933, quoted in Strauss to Giscibi, 11 June 1933 (ibid., p. 7).
5. Strauss to Weidmann, 31 May 1933, quoted in Strauss to Giscibi, 11 June 1933 (ibid., p. 7).

(Secret)
It had a chain of economic observers who were charged by the AO Ausseuhandelsganz with the duty of reporting in detail on all importing, exporting, manufacturing, shipping, and mining activities within their respective areas.\(^1\) Particular attention was paid to German firms and their representatives; every effort was made to Nazify the personnel.

Thus the Ausseuhandelsganz wanted in 1934 to know how many German Nationals members Party \(\ldots\) and Jews were employed by 734 firms in Spain, \(^2\) and in 1935 the AO agent in Cordova denounced two "unreliable" Germans to the AO chief in Madrid.\(^3\) The AO was also used to check on German firms which did not cooperate with the Nazis \(\ldots\) i.e., by refusing to export, by entering into "fake" transactions abroad, or by not using German shipping facilities.\(^4\) The AO also on occasion undermined foreign competition, as, for example, in the case of a Spanish thermometer manufacturer whose skilled workers the AO, together with the German Foreign Service, the Gestapo, and the Thuringian Government, tried to entice into going into Germany.\(^5\) Even state secrets were within the ambition of the AO, as can be gathered from the order its Madrid office received in 1935 to find out details of an Uruguayan-Spanish trade agreement.\(^6\)

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\(^1\) Circular quoted by Burns, pp. 111-113.
\(^2\) Evidence cited by Burns, pp. 115-116.
\(^3\) Kravas to Zuckristian, 20 May 1935, translation in Burns, pp. 117-121.
\(^4\) Evidence cited by Burns, pp. 128-129.
\(^5\) Evidence cited by Burns, pp. 125-128.
v. Intimidation of German Citizens Abroad. As has been
fundamentally
pointed out, the AO was the Third Reich's prime instrument for keeping
its nationals abroad in line. The AO not only investigated the political
views of Germans abroad and tried to uncover connections with Jews and
Freemasons, but it also used all the high pressure methods at its
disposal to weed out those who opposed the Reich. This was done
(1) by threats of taking away their German passports, (2) by having
them dismissed from their jobs if employed by a German firm or a
firm dependent on German business, and (3) by cutting off the German
business connections of those who were in business for themselves
or who were business agents. More direct methods were sometimes
used, too. In Spain, in 1934, the AO had an anti-Nazi German student
arrested on a trumped-up charge by Spanish Police with the help of the
German Consulate and put on a German boat to be returned to Germany.
The AO concentrated in particular on German officials abroad. Charged
with submitting reports and recommendations on members of the foreign
service as potential Party candidates, it was able to comb out
"undesirables" in at least one country, the AO even had a recognized
right in the appointment and dismissal of consuls and was consequently
able to coerce them into "cooperation."

1. Confidential and reliable eyewitness report on AO in Netherlands in
OSS CTD 171666; Burns, pp. 110-176, passim.
2. Evidence cited by Burns, pp. 133-143.
3. Hellermann to Vice Consul Beisek in San Sebastian, 17 June 1936,
in Burns, pp. 87-88. Cf. also Burns, pp. 88-93, 100-105.
vi. Fifth Column Activities. The Nazis gave no publicity to the fifth column activities of the AO. Erich stated in 1937 that "the diversity of conditions abroad requires that the Central Office of the Foreign Organization have offices which are continuously and precisely informed concerning all events abroad that are in any way connected with and exert influence on foreign Germany." 1

Bohle in 1941 made a statement suggesting the success of such activities in the Nazi conquest of Europe when he said: "The year of victory (1940) has also proved that the Germans abroad maintain their unconditional allegiance to the Führer... An evaluation of their heroic actions will be reserved for a later period." 2

These activities apparently go back to the earliest years of the AO. In Spain, it operated an illegal courier service via German boats. 3 It also in early 1936 displayed great interest in promoting the sport of gliding in Spain. 4 While its role in preparing the Franco revolt is not quite clear, it is certain that the AO knew which German agents were active in Spain; on at least one occasion it had to stop some of its over-ardent members from attacking these agents for what appeared to be a gross lack of Nazi zeal. 5 It has, moreover, been flatly reported that those German agents who did the groundwork for Franco maintained close contact with the AO. 6 By its very nature,

indeed, the AO could hardly remain aloof from such work.

In Holland, certainly, the AO cooperated fully for many years in preparations for the German invasion. The AO director for Holland, a Dr. Butting, shared a house for official purposes with the German military intelligence agent. Both were members of the Legation and their house enjoyed diplomatic immunity; there they operated a short-wave transmitter. Butting cooperated fully in providing the Wehrmacht with all the information it needed, collecting it from local AO groups and members as well as from confidential agents of the German Army. Butting, moreover, played his part in softening up the Dutch by providing their unemployed with temporary work in Germany, etc., with the result that hundreds of Dutchmen went to the German legation in September 1939 to volunteer for service (including espionage).

Butting was also influential in impressing Dutch businessmen with Nazi strength, helping to neutralize the Dutch resistance potential, and he had a hand in the intrigue by which the Netherlands before the war was persuaded to place an order for military aircraft with a German firm — with the result that few if any planes were ever delivered.¹

In Greece, local AO members (many of them in uniform) were on the spot, ready and able to offer the Germans effective assistance the day they occupied Athens.

¹ Confidential and reliable eyewitness report, OSS CID 17/630.
² State Dept., p. 470.
d. Summary. There can, in brief, be little doubt of the illegal and criminal character of the whole AO, even though specific instances of criminal action by each branch in each area, are not available here. Its opportunities for infiltration, subversion, and even terrorism in foreign countries made it an ideal Nazi tool in the plot to conquer Europe and the World.
2. The Arbeitsbereiche of the NSDAP

a. General.

The Arbeitsbereich (literally, "sphere of operations") was a regional administrative unit of the NSDAP set up in the following conquered territories: the General Government, the Occupied Eastern Territories, the Netherlands, the Alpenvorland, and the Adriatisches Küstenland, i.e. in occupied territories which had German minorities. A new institution in the foreign activities of the NSDAP, it replaced the Auslands-Organisation in the above sectors, and undertook the integration of Party work with that of the German civil administration.

The Arbeitsbereiche operated, not under Wilhelm Bohle, head of the AO, but directly under Martin Bormann, Secretary of the Führer and head of the Party Chancellery.

Except for the Party Treasurer, no Reich Party offices could deal directly with officials of an Arbeitsbereich without the prior consent of Bormann and the chief of the Arbeitsbereich. Bormann, moreover, had to be consulted by the leader of an Arbeitsbereich on all important matters of policy, organization, and personnel.

b. The Arbeitsbereich for the General Government. The Arbeitsbereich for the General Government was established on 15 August 1940, in accordance with an order of the

Governor General of 6 May 1940. The Governor General was the chief of the Arbeitsbereich, but his deputy, vested with plenipotentiary powers, took care of all current work and acted as the representative of the Party Chancellory in the General Government.

The Arbeitsbereich was administered like a day in the Reich, with central and local subdivisions; the latter followed the usual General Government pattern of the organization. In many instances corresponding Reich and Party offices were held by the same person. The Arbeitsbereich had, in addition to these units, a paramilitary formation attached to it, as well as several other subsidiary organizations. The SA had 11 Standarten and 150 Stürme (c. 15,000 men); the NSKK had 15 Stürme; and the NSKK 24 Stürme. The HJ had in 1942 33 Banne or 18,000 boys.

As an auxiliary to the Government General's public administration, the Arbeitsbereiche participated in its illegal occupation policies. Its special function was that of Germanization. On 15 April 1940 it will be recalled the propaganda section of the General Government had organized Poles of German cultural background into a

2. Radom HJ chief: Zwetsch; Warsaw HJ chief: Becker
Volksdeutsche Gemeinschaft under Party auspices. On 7 May 1941, the Governor General decreed the establishment of a Deutsche Gemeinschaft to supersede the Volksdeutsche Gemeinschaft and to include all Germans regardless of citizenship who were not members of the NSDAP. This Deutsche Gemeinschaft had no administrative system of its own, but was administered by the Party through the Arbeitsbereiche.

Personalities in the General Government's Arbeitsbereich

Chief: Hans Frank (also Governor General) Plenipotentiary deputy and representative of the Party
Chanceller: Richard Schalk, until February 1944; thereafter Walter Tissel.
Second Deputy and occasionally acting first deputy: Adolf Stahl until February 1944; thereafter Stabsleiter Sundermann

Labor and Social Policy: Bodo Stahr
Propaganda: Stoessel
SA, "Wehrbereitchaftsdienst": SA Oberführer Kurt Felz or Peltz
HJ Befehlssstelle: Schimelpfennig
Volksdeutsche Gemeinschaft: Heinrich Boltz

1. Du Pree, 56-59
1. Regional Organization. As of 1 September 1941, the regional organization of the General Government's Arbeitsbereiche was as follows:

- **District Cracow**: SS-Brigadeführer Dr. Wender
  (38 units, 6 of which were in Cracow);
- **District Radom**: Gouverneur Murdt, M.d.R.
  (5 county units and 33 locals);
- **District Lublin**: SS Brigadeführer Globocnik
  (17 locals);
- **District Warsaw**: SA Gruppenführer Dr. Fischer
  (34 locals);
- **District Galicia**: SS Brigadeführer Gouverneur Dr. Wächter.

2. Occupied Eastern Territories. The Occupied Eastern Territories formed the Arbeitsbereich Ost of the NSDAP. Its setup was similar to that in the General Government. Rosenberg, the Minister for the Occupied Eastern Territories, was also head of its Arbeitsbereich; its actual administration, however, was performed by Stabsleiter Friedrich Schmidt. This Arbeitsbereich, like the others, was under the Party Chancellery and had its offices not in Rosenberg's but in the same building which housed the Auslands Organisation's headquarters.

1. Du Prel, 287-289
2. Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch, 1944
The regional and local organization of the Arbeitsbereich followed closely that of the Reichskommissariate Ostland and Ukraine, most of the Reich administrators also holding the corresponding Party office; the higher officials usually had deputies to take care of Party matters. The Arbeitsbereich included branches of other Party formations and organizations, such as the HJ, SS, NSKK, etc.; little information is available on them.

d. Netherlands. The Arbeitsbereich for the Netherlands was constituted on 15 October 1940 out of the Landesgruppe of the Auslands-Organisation for the Netherlands. Seyss-Inquart, the Reich Commissar for the Netherlands, had general supervisory functions, while the day-by-day administration was in the hands of Hauptbereichsleiter Fritz Schmidt and, after his death in June 1943, in those of Willi Ritterbusch. Both Schmidt and Ritterbusch were also Generalkommissare zur besonderen Verwendung (General Commissars for Special Tasks) in the Reich Kommissariate; in this capacity they supervised German propaganda in the Netherlands as well as the Dutch quisling groups.

The Netherlands Arbeitsbereich was first located in Utrecht, later moving its headquarters to the Hague.

1. Niekel was Chief of the Befehlstelle Caten of the HJ; Luer was chief of Befehlstelle Ostland of the HJ.
2. Nationalsozialistisches Jahrbuch 1944
Its organization followed that of the Landesgruppe. Attached to it were various subsidiaries, such as the DAP, NSV, IJ, and NSKK, as well as two schools, a theater, and a newspaper. Its activities seem to have centered around the issuance of propaganda and the organizing of Dutch sympathizers.

2. **Alpenvorland and Adriatisches Küstenland.** Arbeitsbereich Alpenvorland, comprising the area of German civil administration of the same name, was organized around February 1944 under Franz Hofer, who was also Chief of Civil Administration. In the neighboring Adriatisches Küstenland, an NSDAP Operationszone Adriatisches Küstenland (NSDAP Zone of Operations Adriatisches Küstenland) was established in October 1944. It was placed under the Chief of Civil Administration, Rainer, and had the character of an Arbeitsbereich. It took over the AO locals at Fiume, Trieste, and Ljubljana.

1. The RJ unit was the Befehlstelle Niederlande; the deputy in charge was Voss.
2. Comprising Bolzano, Trento, and Belluno
3. OSS CID 118389 S 3 March 1945
4. Comprising Udine, Venezia Giulia, and annexed Yugoslav territories
5. OSS CID XL 6389