

Sauckel, Fritz

(1894--1946), Nazi official who, from 1942 to 1945, was responsible for recruiting forced laborers from Nazi-occupied territories to work in the German armaments industry.

Sauckel joined the Nazi Party in 1921. In 1925, he was appointed *gauleiter* (party leader) of Thuringia, and in 1933 became its governor.

When World War II broke out, Sauckel was named Reich defense commissioner for the German military district of Kassel. In 1942 he was appointed "plenipotentiary-general for labor mobilization." This meant that he was in charge of finding and supplying laborers to work in the German armaments industries. To fulfill the quotas, Sauckel ordered the deportation of millions of workers from the territories occupied by the Nazis, and exploited them ruthlessly. As a result, thousands of Jewish forced laborers from Poland also died while in his employment.

After the war, Sauckel was tried at the Nuremberg trials and convicted. He was hanged in 1946. (see also Forced Labor.)