

Seyss-Inquart, Arthur

(1892--1946), Austrian Nazi. Throughout the years of Nazi power, Seyss-Inquart was very loyal to Hitler, and was rewarded accordingly with various important positions.

Originally, Seyss-Inquart was not an antisemite, but over time, he became interested in the Nazi Party. Hitler was impressed with Seyss-Inquart, so he pressured the Austrian chancellor into appointing Seyss-Inquart Austrian Minister of the Interior and Public Security in February 1938. Soon, Hitler pushed the chancellor into resigning, and gave Seyss-Inquart his job. Seyss-Inquart immediately invited the German army into Austria, setting the stage for *Anschluss*

---the annexing of Austria by Germany in March 1938. In reward, Hitler named Seyss-Inquart Reich Commissioner of Austria, and ss chief Heinrich Himmler gave him the rank of SS-*Obergruppenfuehrer*. In May 1939 Seyss-Inquart was made minister without portfolio in the German cabinet, and that October, he was appointed deputy governor-general in Poland, where he was charged with inspecting the land to be used in the Nisko and Lublin Plan.

In May 1940 Hitler once again gave Seyss-Inquart a new, challenging job: he appointed him Reich Commissioner of the Occupied Netherlands, with the task of creating friendly relations between the Dutch and the Germans. In fact, for the first few months in his new position, Seyss-Inquart did not make any radical moves, in order to make the Dutch think that the Germans would not persecute them. However, it soon became obvious to him that the Dutch did not accept his efforts at friendship. Thus, he launched a campaign of oppression against the Dutch. He instituted anti-Jewish measures, which in turn made the Dutch reject him even more. In punishment, Seyss-Inquart initiated the plunder of Jewish property and the deportation of Jews to extermination camps, instead of letting the local SS control the "final solution" themselves.

In the last months of the war, Seyss-Inquart saw that Germany would never emerge victorious, so he began negotiating with the Allied armies. After the

war, Seyss-Inquart was indicted for crimes against humanity, and at the Nuremberg trials, he was sentenced to death.