

## Rosenberg, Alfred

(1893--1946), Nazi ideologist and head of the Nazi Party's foreign-affairs department. Rosenberg was born in Estonia to a family of Baltic Germans, but moved to Munich in 1918.

Rosenberg was an antisemitic and anti-Bolshevik ultra-nationalist who shared his views in two books published in 1919: *Die Spur der Juden im Wandel der Zeiten* ("The Track of the Jews Through the Ages"), and *Unmoral im Talmud* ("Immorality in the Talmud"). He joined the Nazi Party in its early stages, and in 1921, became chief editor of the party's newspaper. In 1923 Rosenberg participated in Hitler's unsuccessful bid to take over the Bavarian government. While Hitler sat in jail for the next two years, Rosenberg was entrusted with the Nazi Party leadership. Other leading Nazis denounced Rosenberg for his Baltic roots, but Hitler was impressed with his intellectual theories about Racism. Rosenberg soon became the head ideologist of the Nazi Party.

In 1929 Rosenberg established the Fighting League for German Culture, and wrote his most important work, *Der Mythos des 20. Jahrhunderts* ("The Myth of the Twentieth Century"). In this book, Rosenberg stated that art, science, culture, and world history are all determined by race. He also denounced Christianity for not controlling the Jewish takeover of the world. The work had great influence over Nazi philosophy and was a best-seller, approaching the popularity of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

From 1933--1945 Rosenberg headed the party's foreign-policy department, and in 1934 he was also appointed the head of the Center for Nazi Studies. In 1939 he founded the Institute for the Investigation of the Jewish Question; he declared that every single Jew living in Greater Germany would have to leave in order for the "Jewish question" to be considered solved.

After the fall of France, Rosenberg headed Operational Staff Rosenberg (*Einsatzstab Rosenberg*), an organization that systematically plundered the art and cultural objects of French and other Jews. In November 1941 Rosenberg was nominated Minister of the Occupied Eastern Territories, where he oversaw the murder of the Jews.

Rosenberg was convicted as a war criminal at the Nuremberg trials, and hanged in 1946.