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“The Secret Diaries” by Albert Speer

Erich Fromm
(1976d-e)

“The Secret Diaries by Albert Speer” is Fromm’s text on the Book-Cover of Albert Speer: *Spandau. The Secret Diaries*, New York (Macmillan) 1976.

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Albert Speer’s book is a deeply moving human document. It is also of extraordinary political and psychological interest. His self-analysis of the reasons why and how he could have been involved with the Nazi criminal gang and his remarkably frank account of the change within himself during twenty years are truly convincing. His description of the life of the former Nazi leaders in Spandau prison is a revealing record of the psychology of power bearers who have lost their power. The picture he paints of the four-power prison administration and their bureaucratic methods is often hilarious. This book is a must for anyone interested in the psychological motivation of political action and the problem of guilt and repentance. But beyond this it is so fascinatingly written that I could not put it down before I finished it.