

PART III

Responsibility

1. Introductory Note

In this third part of the paper, we indicate those who bear responsibility for the conception of the conspiracy to annihilate the Jewish people and for the execution of its various criminal phases. Due to the whole German political, administrative and military setup, and the typical division of powers introduced by the Nazis, the responsible persons are to be found on three levels: Party; Government; and Wehrmacht. It thus follows:

(1) The Party structure and the Reich administration were organized by the top Nazi leaders in such a manner that the leadership in both was held, in almost all cases, by the same persons. Consequently, the names of those responsible appear two and even three times for the same acts because of the close ties, one might even say identity, of personnel of Party, Government and even Wehrmacht.

(2) Emphasis is to be laid on the fact that responsibility for the conception and execution of the plan to annihilate the Jewish people is, by its very nature, not a divisible but a joint one.

Those who belonged to the top leadership of the Party, of the Nazi German Government, and of the Wehrmacht machine are jointly and severally responsible for the whole set of crimes committed in the execution, step by step, of the criminal preconceived plan. Even where no direct connection is shown between a definite person to a specific charge, such person is, nevertheless, to be held responsible as a conspirator.

(3) The joint responsibility of the top leaders for the performance of the criminal undertaking as a whole does not, naturally, exclude the individual responsibility of the direct perpetrators, whatever their rank in the Party, Government, or Wehrmacht.

(4) The names given are followed by an indication of the charge or charges for which they are held responsible. It should, however, be borne in mind that these lists of names of major perpetrators are far from exhaustive. We are convinced that, through special knowledge and material in the hands of the various governments, particularly that gathered by the competent military authorities of the United States, Great Britain and USSR active in the European theatre of operations, these lists will be completed, especially insofar as the personnel of the Wehrmacht is concerned.