

Erich Neumann (1892 - 1951)

State Secretary (Staatssekretär)
Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Four Year Plan



Neumann had participated as early as November 1938 in a meeting called by Göring to discuss the "Aryanization of the economy" as well as the special identification and isolation of Jews. At the Wannsee Conference, he represented the Ministries of Economic Affairs, Labor, Finances, Food, Transportation as well as Armaments and Munition. As Göring's state secretary, he looked out for the interests of the administrative office of the war economy and strongly suggested to defer the deportation of Jewish workers employed in firms essential to the war effort.

Born in Forst (Lower Lusatia) into a Protestant family. Son of a factory owner. After receiving his high school diploma, he studied law and national economy in Freiburg, Leipzig and Halle. Wartime service 1914-1917, ultimately as first lieutenant. In 1920, governmental civil servant (*Regierungsassessor*) in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior, thereafter in the Essen District Office. Senior Executive Officer (*Regierungsrat*) in the Prussian Ministry of Commerce in 1923. 1927/28, District President (*Landrat*) in Freystadt (Lower Silesia), then as Ministerial Secretary (*Ministerialrat*) again in the Prussian Ministry of Commerce. In September 1932, Permanent Secretary (*Ministerialdirektor*) in the Prussian Ministry of State in charge of administrative reforms. Joined the Nazi Party (NSDAP) in May 1933, the SS in August 1934. Served in the Prussian Ministry of State at the end of 1935, and in October 1936 in the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Four Year Plan, Hermann Göring. Appointed state secretary in the summer of 1938, and from 1941 was deputy chairman of the board of trustees of the Continental Petroleum Corporation, which was entrusted with the exploitation of oil resources in the occupied territories of the Soviet Union. Since early 1942, general manager of the German Potassium Syndicate, Inc. Internment in 1945. Released from prison early in 1948 for reasons of health.

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