

# WINSTON CHURCHILL

PRIME MINISTER



SPECIAL SERVICE OFFICE  
CAMP EDISON  
SEA GIRT, N. J.

SOME EXCERPTS FROM  
WARTIME SPEECHES

# WINSTON CHURCHILL

## PRIME MINISTER

A SELECTION FROM SPEECHES

MADE BY WINSTON CHURCHILL

DURING THE FOUR YEARS

THAT BRITAIN HAS BEEN AT WAR.

WINSTON CHURCHILL was born at Blenheim in 1874. His parents were Lord Randolph Churchill and Jennie Jerome, daughter of Leonard Jerome, a director of *The New York Times*. He was educated at Harrow School and the military college at Sandhurst and after receiving his commission fought on the Northwest Frontier of India and on the Nile. Having resigned his commission, he stood for Parliament in 1899, but failing to win a seat, joined the forces in South Africa as a journalist. He was taken prisoner, escaped, and was re-commissioned as an officer in the British Army.

After the war he returned to politics and entered Parliament as a Conservative, but broke with this party later and was appointed Under Secretary of State for the Colonies in the Liberal Government of 1906. He later held office in this Government as President of the Board of Trade and as Home Secretary (in which posts he created labor exchanges, helped to create unemployment insurance and promoted legislation against sweated labor). In 1911 he was First Lord of the Admiralty. Thanks

to his tenure of this office in 1914, the Fleet was already mobilized when the first World War broke out. He resigned in 1915, served in the Army in France, and in 1917 was recalled to become Minister of Munitions.

Between the Armistice and the fall of the Coalition Government, he held the posts of Secretary of State for War and Air and for the Colonies. In 1924 he returned to the Conservative Party and was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was out of office from 1929 till the outbreak of war in 1939, when he joined the National Government as First Lord of the Admiralty. On Mr. Chamberlain's resignation in May 1940, he became Prime Minister at the head of an all-party Government.

Mr. Churchill's writings include: *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*; *The River War* (accounts of his early campaigns); *The World Crisis* (an account of the war of 1914-1918); *Marlborough* (a life of his ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough) and *Great Contemporaries*. He married Miss Clementine Hozier in 1908, and has a son and three daughters.

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Residencia  
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We are at war,  
and we are going to make war,  
and persevere in making war,  
until the other side  
have had enough of it.

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BROADCAST ON THE FIRST TEN WEEKS OF WAR. NOVEMBER 12, 1939.

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**B**ut it is not only in those few glittering, deadly hours of action, which rivet all eyes, that the strain falls upon the Navy. Far more does it fall in the weeks and months of ceaseless trial and vigilance on cold, dark, stormy seas from whose waves at any moment death and destruction may leap with sullen roar.



AN ADDRESS TO THE MEN OF THE EXETER AND AJAX FEBRUARY 23, 1940.

*After the victory over the Graf Spee at the River Plate.*



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Let us to the task, to the battle, to the toil—  
each to our part, each to our station.  
Fill the armies, rule the air, pour out the munitions,  
strangle the U-boats, sweep the mines,  
plough the land, build the ships, guard the streets,  
succor the wounded, uplift the downcast,  
and honor the brave.



ADDRESS AT THE FREE TRADE HALL, MANCHESTER, JANUARY, 27, 1940.



I have nothing to offer but  
blood, toil, tears, and sweat . . .  
You ask, what is our policy? I will say:  
It is to wage war, by sea, land and air,  
with all our might and with all the strength  
that God can give us;  
to wage war against a monstrous tyranny,  
never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue  
of human crime. That is our policy.  
You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word:  
It is Victory, victory at all costs,  
victory in spite of all terror,  
victory, however long and hard the road may be;  
for without victory, there is no survival.

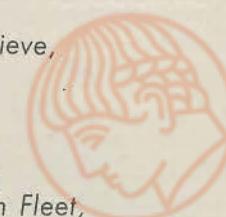
HOUSE OF COMMONS, MAY 13, 1940,

*His first speech as Prime Minister.*



Photo: Cecil Beaton

We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end.  
We shall fight in France,  
we shall fight on the seas and oceans,  
we shall fight with growing confidence  
and growing strength in the air,  
we shall defend our Island,  
whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches,  
we shall fight on the landing grounds,  
we shall fight in the fields and in the streets,  
we shall fight in the hills;  
we shall never surrender,  
and even if,  
which I do not for a moment believe,  
this Island or a large part of it  
were subjugated and starving,  
then our Empire beyond the seas,  
armed and guarded by the British Fleet,  
would carry on the struggle, until,  
in God's good time, the New World,  
with all its power and might,  
steps forth to the rescue  
and the liberation of the old.



HOUSE OF COMMONS, JUNE 4, 1940

*After Dunkirk.*



**B**ut all depends now upon the whole life-strength of the British race in every part of the world and of all our associated peoples and of all our well-wishers in every land, doing their utmost night and day, giving all, daring all, enduring all — to the utmost — to the end. This is no war of chieftains or of princes, of dynasties or national ambition; it is a war of peoples and of causes.

BROADCAST, JULY 14, 1940.

*Three weeks after the fall of France.*



The whole fury and might of the enemy  
must very soon be turned on us.

Hitler knows that he will have to break us  
in this Island or lose the war.

If we can stand up to him all Europe may be free,  
and the life of the world may move forward  
into broad, sunlit uplands.

But if we fail then the whole world,  
including the United States,  
and all that we have known and cared for.  
will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age  
made more sinister, and perhaps more prolonged,  
by the lights of a perverted science.

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty  
and so bear ourselves  
that, if the British Commonwealth and Empire  
lasts for a thousand years,  
men will still say,  
"This was their finest hour."

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JUNE 18, 1940.



We are fighting by ourselves alone;  
but we are not fighting for ourselves alone.  
Here in this strong City of Refuge  
which enshrines the title-deeds of human progress  
and is of deep consequence to Christian civilization;  
here, girt about by the seas and oceans  
where the Navy reigns;  
shielded from above by the prowess and devotion  
of our airmen —  
we await undismayed the impending assault.

BROADCAST, JULY 14, 1940.



These two great organizations  
of the English-speaking democracies,  
the British Empire and the United States,  
will have to be somewhat mixed up together  
in some of their affairs  
for mutual and general advantage.

For my own part, looking out upon the future,  
I do not view the process with any misgivings.  
I could not stop it if I wished;  
no one can stop it.

Like the Mississippi, it just keeps rolling along.

Let it roll.

Let it roll on full flood, inexorable, irresistible, benignant,  
to broader lands and better days.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. AUGUST 20, 1940.



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Never  
in the field of human conflict  
was so much  
owed by so many  
to so few.



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HOUSE OF COMMONS, AUGUST 20, 1940.

Little does he know the spirit of the British nation,  
or the tough fiber of the Londoners,  
whose forebears played a leading part  
in the establishment of Parliamentary institutions  
and who have been bred to value freedom  
far above their lives. This wicked man,  
the repository and embodiment of many forms  
of soul-destroying hatred, this monstrous product  
of former wrongs and shame, has now resolved  
to try to break our famous Island race  
by a process of indiscriminate slaughter and destruction.  
What he has done is to kindle a fire in British hearts,  
here and all over the world,  
which will glow long after  
all traces of the conflagration he has caused in London  
have been removed.  
He has lighted a fire which will burn  
with a steady and consuming flame  
until the last vestiges of Nazi tyranny  
have been burnt out of Europe.

BROADCAST, SEPTEMBER 11, 1940.

Photo: Press Association



Long, dark months of trials and tribulations lie before us. Not only great dangers, but many more misfortunes, many shortcomings, many mistakes, many disappointments will surely be our lot. Death and sorrow will be the companions of our journey; hardship our garment; constancy and valor our only shield. We must be united, we must be undaunted, we must be inflexible. Our qualities and deeds must burn and glow through the gloom of Europe until they become the veritable beacon of its salvation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, OCTOBER 8, 1940.



Long live also the forward march  
of the common people in all the lands  
towards their just and true inheritance,  
and towards  
the broader and fuller age.



BROADCAST TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE, OCTOBER 21, 1940.

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You share our purpose,  
you will share our dangers,  
you will share our anxieties,  
you shall share our secrets,  
and the day will come  
when the British Empire  
and the United States  
will share together  
the solemn but splendid duties  
which are the crown of victory.



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ADDRESS AT A LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR JOHN G. WINANT

March 18, 1941.



At four o'clock this morning Hitler attacked and invaded Russia . . . .  
We have but one aim and one single, irrevocable purpose.  
We are resolved to destroy Hitler and every vestige of the Nazi regime.  
From this nothing will turn us — nothing.  
We will never parley, we will never negotiate with Hitler or any of his gang.  
We shall fight him by land, we shall fight him by sea, we shall fight him in the air, until with God's help we have rid the earth of his shadow and liberated its peoples from his yoke.  
Any man or State who fights on against Nazidom will have our aid. Any man or State who marches with Hitler is our foe.

BROADCAST ON THE GERMAN INVASION OF RUSSIA, JUNE 22, 1941.



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We had a Church parade on the Sunday in our Atlantic bay. The President came on to the quarterdeck of the Prince of Wales, where there were mingled together many hundreds of American and British sailors and Marines. The sun shone bright and warm while we all sang the old hymns which are our common inheritance and which we learned as children in our homes. . . . We sang the sailors' hymn "For those in peril"—and there are very many—"on the sea." We sang "Onward, Christian Soldiers." And, indeed, I felt that this was no vain presumption, but that we had the right to feel that we were serving a cause for the sake of which a trumpet has sounded from on high.

When I looked upon that densely packed congregation of fighting men of the same language, of the same faith, of the same fundamental laws and the same ideals, and now to a large extent of the same interests, and certainly in different degrees facing the same dangers, it swept across me that here was the only hope, but also the sure hope, of saving the world from measureless degradation.

BROADCAST ON THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, AUGUST 24, 1941.

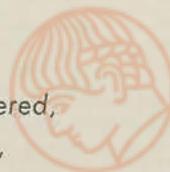


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When we think of the insane ambition  
and insatiable appetite  
which have caused this vast  
and melancholy extension of the war,  
we can only feel that Hitler's madness  
has infected the Japanese mind,  
and that the root of the evil and its branch  
must be extirpated together . . .  
we have at least four-fifths  
of the population of the globe  
upon our side. We are responsible  
for their safety and for their future.  
In the past we have had a light which flickered,  
in the present we have a light which flames,  
and in the future there will be a light  
which shines over all the land and sea.



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HOUSE OF COMMONS, DECEMBER 8, 1941.



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Still, I avow my hope and faith,  
sure and inviolate,  
that in the days to come  
the British and American peoples  
will for their own safety  
and for the good of all  
walk together side by side  
in majesty, in justice, and in peace.



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ADDRESS TO UNITED STATES CONGRESS. WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 26, 1941.



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Photo: Acme

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1. Your prime and main duty will be to take or destroy at the earliest opportunity the German-Italian Army commanded by Field Marshal Rommel, together with all its supplies and establishments in Egypt and Libya.
2. You will discharge, or cause to be discharged such other duties as pertain to your Command without prejudice to the task described in paragraph 1, which must be considered paramount in His Majesty's interests.

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ORDERS GIVEN TO GENERAL ALEXANDER IN CAIRO, AUGUST 10, 1942.

*Preceding the victory at El Alamein.*

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General Alexander,  
with his brilliant comrade and lieutenant,  
General Montgomery, has gained  
a glorious and decisive victory  
in what I think should be called  
the Battle of Egypt.  
Rommel's army has been defeated.  
It has been routed.  
It has been very largely destroyed  
as a fighting force . . . .  
Now this is not the end.  
It is not even the beginning of the end.  
But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

ADDRESS AT THE LORD MAYOR'S DAY LUNCHEON, LONDON, NOVEMBER 10, 1942.



I stand here to tell you today,  
as I told the Congress of the United States in your name,  
that every man, every ship, and every aeroplane  
in the King's service  
that can be moved to the Pacific  
will be sent and will be there maintained in action  
by the peoples of the British Commonwealth and Empire  
in priority over all other interests  
for as many flaming years as are needed  
to make the Japanese in their turn  
submit or bite the dust.

ADDRESS AT THE GUILDHALL, LONDON, JUNE 30, 1943.

*Upon receiving the freedom of the City.*



Residencia  
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We strove long, too long, for peace, and suffered thereby,  
but from the moment  
when we gave our guarantee  
that we would not stand by idly  
and see Poland trampled down by Nazi violence  
we have never looked back,  
never flagged, never doubted, never flinched.  
We were sure of our duty,  
and we have discharged it and will discharge it,  
without swerving or slackening, to the end.  
We seek no profit, we want no territory or aggrandizement.  
We expect no reward and we will accept no compromise.  
It is on that footing that we wish to be judged,  
first in our own consciences and afterwards by posterity.

ADDRESS AT THE GUILDHALL, LONDON, JUNE 30, 1943.

Upon receiving the freedom of the City.

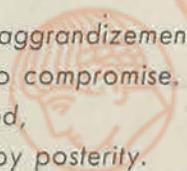


Photo by Karsh from British Combine



I must acknowledge with gratitude the extraordinary kindness with which I have been treated in the House and out of doors throughout the land. That is a very great help in these days of continuing crisis and storm.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JUNE 8, 1943.



Photo: Acme

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We, the United Nations, demand  
from the Nazi, Fascist and Japanese tyrannies  
unconditional surrender.  
By that we mean  
that their will-power to resist must be  
completely broken and that they must  
yield themselves absolutely  
to our justice and mercy. It also means  
that we must take all those far-sighted measures  
which are necessary to prevent the world  
from being again convulsed and wrecked  
and blackened by their calculated plots  
and ferocious aggression.



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ADDRESS AT THE GUILDHALL, LONDON, JUNE 30, 1943.  
Upon receiving the freedom of the City.



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Photo: U. S. Navy from O. W. I.

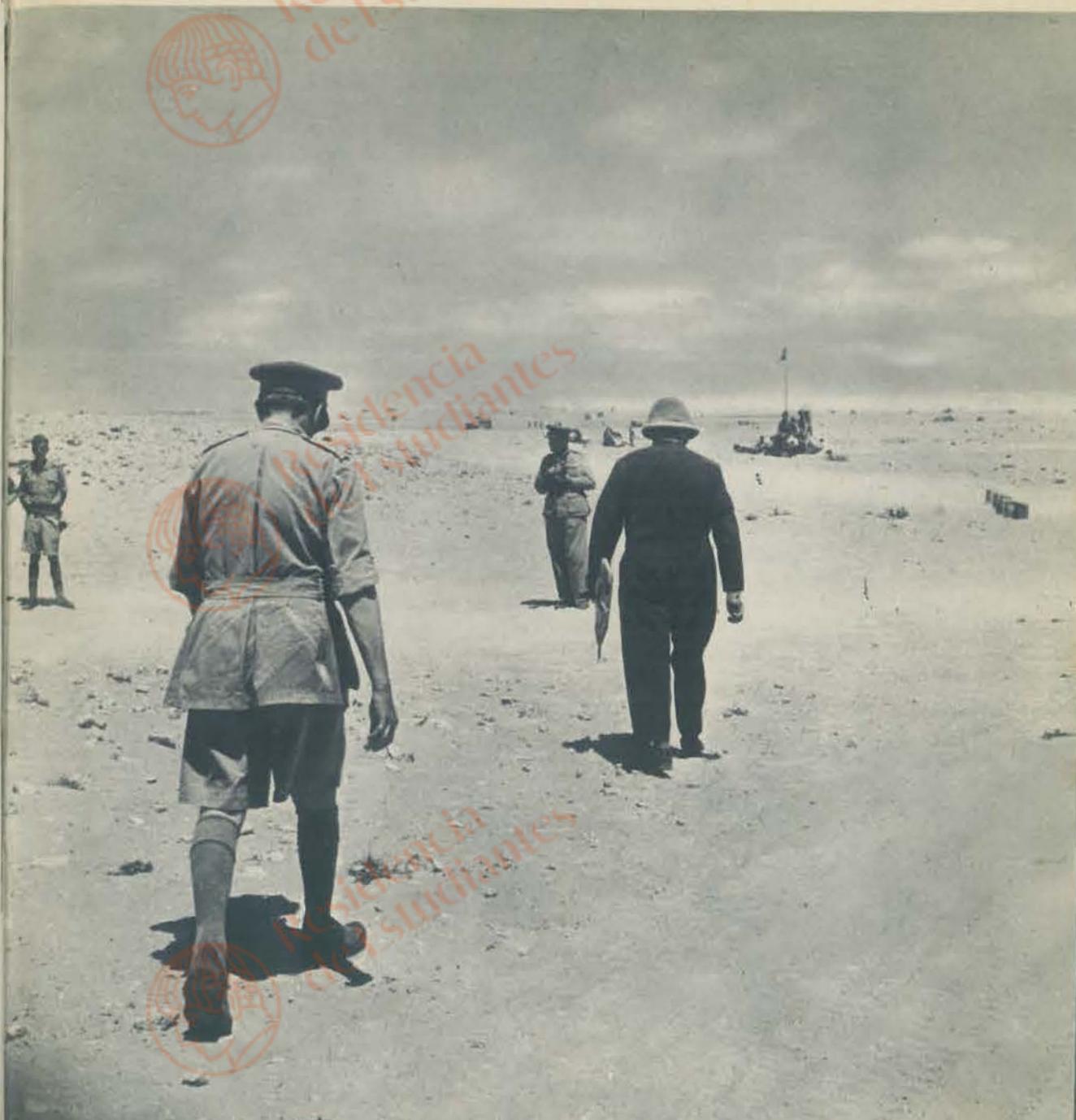
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**B**y many hazardous turns of fortune  
and by the long marches of destiny  
the British and United States Armies,  
having occupied  
the Italian African Empire,  
the North of Africa,  
and the bulk of Sicily,  
now stand  
at the portals of the Italian mainland  
armed with the powers of the sea and the air  
and with a very large land and amphibious force  
equipped with every modern weapon and device.



HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 27, 1943.



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Let all of us who are here  
remember that we are on the stage of history  
and that whatever our station may be,  
whatever part we have to play,  
great or small,  
our conduct is liable to be scrutinized  
not only by history but by our own descendants  
Let us rise to the full level of our duty  
and of our opportunity  
and let us thank God  
for the spiritual rewards He has granted  
for all forms  
of valiant and faithful service.



ADDRESS AT HARVARD, ON RECEIVING HONORARY DEGREE, SEPT. 6, 1943.



Photo: Press Association

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