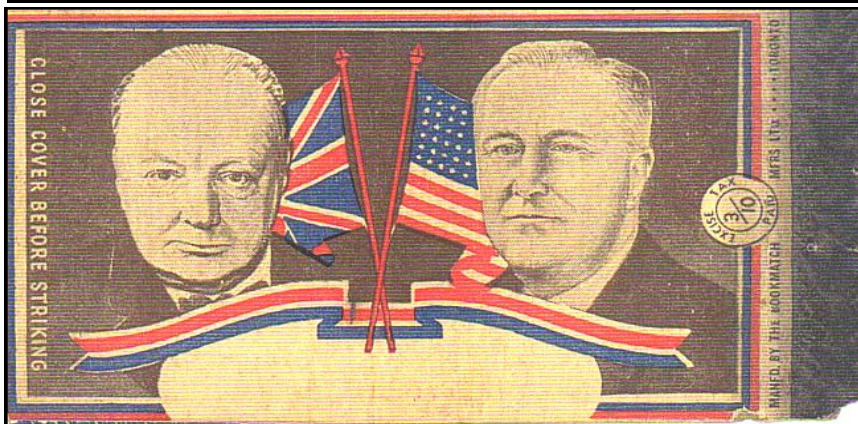


Churchill-



I was wondering the other day... 'What makes a great leader?' Seems to me we haven't had any in quite awhile. So, as usual I turn to History for examples...

Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1874-1965) - After leaving the British Army in 1899, Churchill worked as a war correspondent for the *Morning Post*.

While reporting the Boer War in South Africa he was taken prisoner by the Boers but made headline news when he escaped.

Churchill became First Lord of the Admiralty in October 1911 where he helped modernize the navy. Churchill was one of the first people to grasp the military potential of aircraft and in 1912 he set up the Royal Naval Air Service. He also established an Air Department at the Admiralty so as to make full use of this new technology. Churchill was so enthusiastic that he took flying lessons.

On the outbreak of war in 1914, Churchill joined the War Council. However, he was blamed for the failure at the Dardanelles Campaign in 1915 and was moved to the post of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Unhappy about not having any power to influence the Government's war policy, he rejoined the British Army and commanded a battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers on the Western Front.

When David Lloyd George became Prime Minister, he appointed Churchill Minister of Munitions and for the final year of the war, Churchill was in charge of the production of tanks, airplanes, guns and shells. Churchill also served as Minister of War and Air (1919-20) and Colonial Secretary (1921-22). He created great controversy over his policies in Iraq. It was estimated that around 25,000 British and 80,000 Indian troops would be needed to control the country. However, he argued that if Britain relied on air power, you could cut these numbers to 4,000 (British) and 10,000 (Indian). The government was convinced by this argument. An uprising of more than 100,000 armed tribesmen took place in 1920. Over the next few months the RAF dropped 97 tons of bombs killing 9,000 Iraqis. This failed to end the resistance. Churchill suggested that chemical weapons should be used "against recalcitrant Arabs as an experiment." He added "I am strongly in favour of using poisoned gas against uncivilised tribes to spread a lively terror" in Iraq.



With the defeat of the Conservative government in 1929, Churchill lost office. He spent the next few years concentrating on his writing, including the publication of the *History of the English Speaking Peoples*.

After Hitler and the Nazi Party gained power in Germany in 1933, Churchill became a leading advocate of rearmament. He was also a staunch critic of Neville Chamberlain and the Conservative's appeasement policy. In 1939, Churchill controversially argued that Britain and France should form of a military alliance with the USSR.

On the outbreak of the Second World War, Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty and in 1940 became chairman of the Military

Roosevelt: I

Coordinating Committee. Germany's ensuing occupation of Norway was a considerable setback for Chamberlain and his policies for dealing with Nazi Germany.

On 8th May, there was a vote of censure, and Chamberlain resigned. George VI appointed Churchill as prime minister on 10 May.. Later that day, the German Army began its Western Offensive and invaded the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Two days later German forces entered France.

Churchill formed a coalition government and developed a strong personal relationship with Franklin D. Roosevelt, and this led to the sharing and trading of war supplies. The Lend Lease agreement of March 1941 allowed Britain to order war goods from the United States on credit.

Although he provided strong leadership, the war continued to go badly for Britain, and Churchill had to face a motion of no confidence in Parliament. However, he won by 475 votes to 25. Churchill continued to be criticized for meddling in military matters and tended to take too much notice of the views of his friends rather than his military commanders. In April 1941, he made the serious mistake of trying to save Greece by weakening his forces fighting the Desert War. One of the major contributions made by Churchill to eventual victory was his ability to inspire the British people to greater effort by making public broadcasts on significant occasions. A brilliant orator, he was a tireless source of strength to people experiencing the sufferings of the Blitz.

After Pearl Harbor Churchill worked closely with Roosevelt. He was also a loyal ally of the Soviet Union after Adolf Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa in June, 1941. Churchill held important meetings with Roosevelt and Stalin at Teheran (November, 1943) and Yalta (February, 1945). Although Churchill's relationship with Stalin was always difficult, he managed to successfully develop a united strategy against the Axis powers.

However, he was unable to convince the electorate that he was as committed to new social reforms as much as Clement Attlee and the Labour Party. In 1945, his attempts to compare a future Labour government with Nazi Germany backfired and Attlee won a landslide victory. Churchill became opposition leader and when visiting the United States in March 1946 made his famous Iron Curtain speech at Fulton, Missouri. He suffered the first of several strokes in August 1946 but this information was kept from the general public and he continued to lead the Conservative Party.

Churchill returned to power after the 1951 General Election. After the publication of his six volume, *The Second World War*, Churchill was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Churchill's health continued to deteriorate and in 1955 he reluctantly retired from politics. Winston Churchill died on 24th January, 1965.

[<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/PRchurchill.htm>]

