How Winston Churchill Took A Stand In History

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“I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.”
- Winston Churchill

Introduction

When one thinks of the Second World War, perhaps their mind goes directly towards Adolf Hitler. The dictator, or the wrongdoer of the story who changed history from there on out. Or maybe what comes to mind is Winston Churchill, a man who tested his morals and defied Hitler and his men by choosing to fight instead of negotiating or surrendering. Either way you perceive the war, the outcome is still the same. Winston Churchill defied surrender against one of the greatest dictators, Adolf Hitler. By doing so, this altered history by stopping a menace, therefore making the world a safer place. Ever since Hitler became chancellor on January 30th, 1933, he constructed plans on how to expand the German population’s living space, throughout the country and eventually the world. 11 million people, without including soldiers, were killed during the holocaust. 3 Thousands, maybe even millions more would’ve had the same fate as those 11 million, if Winston Churchill hadn’t found the courage and stuck to his beliefs in facing Hitler.

Hitler’s Rise To Power

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1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood,_toil,_tears,_and_sweat

In 1914, Hitler had volunteered for the Bavarian army, and served throughout World War I. Afterwards, after seeing directly how the war was really like, allowed for him to fully embrace his racist thoughts and point of view. Germany was still processing their defeat from World War I, and aching from the economical depression that left millions of citizens jobless. It didn’t help that the Germans had very little faith in their government, Weimar Republic. The citizens desperation for change, allowed for a new leader to easily come to power. In 1924, before the economic depression hit, the National Socialist German Workers Party had only won three percent of the vote to the German Parliament.

As time went on, citizens eventually were captivated by the promises Hitler was making, claiming that the unfortunate would have a better life and Germany would be ameliorate and improved. Hitler won thirty-three percent of the vote in 1932, entitling Hitler to be Germany’s new chancellor. Since Hitler was now the head of the German government, Germans both young and old had a new found hope in Hitler and his party.  

Winston Churchill Is Elected Prime Minister

Neville Chamberlain was the United Kingdom’s Prime Minister from 1937-1940. Chamberlain’s position was tested severely because of how he was handling the situation regarding Hitler and his men. In September of 1939, Hitler took over Poland and Chamberlain quickly announced war on Germany. The eight months that followed

Neville Chamberlain’s declaration, were unfortunately his downfall as Prime Minister, since he had failed to defend Europe from Germany during the invasion of Poland. Chamberlain no longer had the House of Commons support, causing the famed writer and soldier Winston Churchill, to take Chamberlain’s position as Prime Minister, since Neville Chamberlain resigned. Winston Churchill took office on May 10, 1940, and gave his first speech as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom three days later. The well known speech began with, “I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.” Winston Churchill gave his speech to the cabinet, presenting himself with truth and a desire to defeat Adolf Hitler.  

**Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler**

Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler, both men of great power who had very different mind sets, could’ve met in spring of 1932. Churchill was visiting the city of Munich, and stayed at the Grand Hotel Continental, because of a book he was in the process of writing. During his time in Munich, Churchill wished to meet Adolf Hitler, the man who had supporters regarding the attack on Weimar Republic. Churchill’s son and Hitler’s foreign press agent, arranged for an evening meeting during dinner.

Hanfstaengl, Hitler’s agent, deliberately did not inform Churchill that his boss had little intrigue in meeting Churchill. Hanfstaengl urged Hitler to meet with the briton, the conversation went down like this, “Mr. Hitler, you should come. It’s truly important.” Hitler however, remained headstrong, and replied, “Hanfstaengl, you know

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perfectly well that I have a lot to do at the moment and that we plan to get an early start tomorrow. So -- good night”. Churchill stayed positive throughout the rejection of Hitler, but even so, Churchill prints in his memoirs, that Hitler “lost his only chance of meeting me”.  

Adolf Hitler During WWII

After World War I, Hitler became the leader of the Nazis. Adolf anticipated to create a racist program, that would lead to Germans eventually taking over the globe. His thoughts were that Germans would fight in multiple wars, in order to gain more land, where Germans could produce large families so they could send their children off to more wars. Once he was elected in 1933, plans began to unfold. His military ideas consisted of attacking Czechoslovakia first, then a battle with Britain and France would follow. Then war with the Soviet Union, and finally the Germans would strike the United States.

In 1938, Adolf Hitler finally set his plan in action. He attacked Czechoslovakia, but agreed to a peace settlement and receded. After agreeing to a peace with the desperate Czechoslovakia, Hitler regretted the act. When he began to attack Britain and France, he failed in getting Poland to lower their rank for Germany, which would enable a low-key condition in the east. Instead, he just decided to destroy the country.

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heretofore he headed west. Hitler was so adamant on having war, he initiated battle on September 1, 1939. Hitler situated Germany with the Soviet Union, so he could ease the swift annihilation of Poland, and sever any blockade.

On June 22, 1941, Germany commenced their attack on the Soviet Union. The opening blows were planned to crash the USSR, but didn’t. As time began to pass, Germany was pulling through like they intended, and other military generals started to doubt Hitler, even though he was still hopeful. Hitler and his allied countries arranged in 1942, to attack the South. This plan was disastrous for Stalingrad, which is now known as the Battle Of Stalingrad.

As time went by, Hitler’s allies began to close in on him and Germany. Hitler wished he could depart from the affiliation he had faked against himself. During his reign as Chancellor, Hitler had his mind set on the reason why Germany truly lost World War I. He thought that because of the crumbling of the home front, automatically he conjectured that the foundation of dictatorship and the process of executing Jews would promise conquest this time.  

On April 39, 1945, Adolf Hitler had committed suicide. This act placed the president of Germany, Karl Donitz, in Hitler’s former position.

**Winston Churchill During WWII**

In 1933, once Adolf Hitler took power, Winston Churchill exhausted himself greatly in attempting to caution his compatriots about the hazards of German

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7 [http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/adolf-hitler](http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/adolf-hitler)
nationalism. Even though Churchill repeatedly tried warning his fellow Britons, the British government brushed it aside and decided to leave Hitler and his Nazi men be.

May 13, 1940, Winston Churchill had spoken his first speech as Prime Minister. Where he would continue to speak powerful, alluring speeches during his ruling as Prime Minister. His speech was, “I would say to the House as I said to those who have joined this government: I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and suffering….You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory. Victory at all costs- Victory in spite of all error- Victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival.”

On June 4, 1940, after succeeding to save the French and British men from the Battle of Dunkirk, Churchill delivered another speech. "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..."

Winston Churchill had to handle the situation that had been presented to him. That is that France had capitulated to Germany, meaning Britain was all alone in the fight against Hitler and Germany. Being the leader he was, Churchill focused on defending his country and lifting up the spirits of his people. June 18, 1940, Churchill

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8 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood,_toil,_tears,_and_sweat
9 http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/winston-churchill/11366880/Winston-Churchills-10-most-important-speeches.html
gave his most memorable speech yet. "What General Weygand called the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin...Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will say, "This was their Finest Hours".  

German Luftwaffe air force started to drop bombs on London, and so Churchill turned to his last chance at winning the war, the president of the United States. President Franklin D. Roosevelt played a huge part in allying Britain, by agreeing to the land lease program created by F.D.R, it meant handing over enormous amounts of military supplies to Britain for the war. By doing this, he established an unbreakable bond between Churchill and Britain. 

In the spring of 1942, Churchill obliged to play a factor in the defeat of Germany, so he began dropping bombs over towns of Germany. This decision of the bombings ended with the death of over 600,000 Germans, and endless cities damaged. In the summer of 1944, Winston wrote a note to Joseph Stalin, leader of the USSR, “The enemy is burning and bleeding on every front at once”, applying to the military condition. No doubt the Germans were still inflicting havoc because of the flying bomb attacks to London, but Churchill began anticipating success.

10 http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/whic/ReferenceDetailsPage/DocumentToolsPortletWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&u=oldt1017&u=oldt1017&jsid=02fb032431c4e21b61e224832c4b5193&p=WHIC%3AUHIC&action=2&catId=GALE%7C00000000MXCB&documentId=GALE%7CK1605000058&zid=7bdaf9d6f4a1371b6e5f803d42c41  
11 http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/winston-churchill/11366880/Winston-Churchills-10-most-important-speeches.html  
12 https://www.nps.gov/articles/fdrww2.htm
On July 7, 1944, Anthony Eden informed Churchill on the report of the concentration camp, Auschwitz. Winston responded to Eden with the words, “invoke my name if necessary”, to bestow help on averting any more prisoners to be stationed in the camp.

In 1945, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin gathered in Crimea and signed the Yalta Agreement promising to order Germany’s surrender and talk about post-war. Churchill’s worries were growing, relating to the Soviets’ intention of not fulfilling the Yalta Agreement because of Poland.

Churchill needn’t to worry in a few months because eventually, on May 7, 1945, the Germans signed an unquestionable surrender in Reims, France. One day later in Berlin, Germany, the Military Act Of Surrender was ratified. That same day, Churchill broadcasted victory. “This is your victory! It is the victory of the cause of freedom in every land...I have never accepted what many people have kindly said, namely that I inspired the nation. It was the nation and race dwelling around the globe that had the lion’s heart. I had the luck to be called upon to give the roar.”

Winston Churchill was much more than a man of war, of literature and endless photographs of him posing his v-sign. He was a hopeful man, who stood against all odds and gave light during a time of darkness. He presented intelligence and perseverance that helped grant him his victory he rightfully deserved.

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13 http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/yalta-conference
15 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire_in_World_War_II
Afterwards

Post-war Britain was an absolute mess. Over 4 million homes had been destroyed during WWII, causing a shortage of houses because of returning soldiers and rationing beyond normal. For the first time in over a century, Britain became a debtor country, and over 2.3 million britons were unemployed. Besides the economic downfall, to everyone’s aghast, Churchill had lost the 1945 re-election to the Labour Party.  

Over in Germany, the winning allies divided it into four sectors, so France, Britain, USSR and the U.S. could control the zones. Even after all the death and devastation of WWII, the Soviet Union’s leader, Joseph Stalin, began a dictatorship that would lead to the Cold War. Even though more death followed WWII, Winston Churchill proved to be strong and victorious as a leader and a Briton, and changed the lives of those who followed.

http://www.countriesquest.com/europe/united_kingdom/history/world_war_ii_and_its_aftermath/postwar_britain.htm
Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt at Casablanca meeting in 1943.

Nazi Leader Adolf Hitler Portrait

Prime Minister Winston Churchill Motioning a peace sign to represent V-Day

Primary Sources


This article was written by Klaus Wiegrefe, a writer for Spiegel.com who has been head of the contemporary history department for 20 years. This was my first article I really indulged into, and wrote notes on.


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This article was written by Warren Dockter, an author and historian who wrote for the telegraph in the uk. This article has been especially helpful considering all of the speeches I have in my paper.

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This article was written on an online website that is run in the uk. This site doesn't really list the credentials, but it has been an immense amount of help for my paper.


This article was written by Boris Johnson, a British politician, historian, author and journalist. This helped me for a majority of my paper, seeing as all the information presented.
Secondary Sources


This article as published by A&E Networks, and it was the article I used for my Adolf Hitler section. This was a huge help for my paper.

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https://www.ushmm.org/learn/students/the-holocaust-a-learning-site-for-students

This article was mainly supervised by Nesse Godin, a survivor of the holocaust. This is another one of my favorite websites because it kept the information simple to comprehend and I found so many facts that were perfect for my paper.


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This article was off of wikipedia, which does not list the exact authors of the site. This article helped me especially with the famous speech by Winston Churchill.