

#### SPEAKERS TO THE WESTERN WORLD

Amidst the confusion and anxiety of the twentieth-century thought, some outstanding individuals in Great Britain rose above their circumstances to offer encouragement, warning, and hope to the entire Western world. An eloquent spokesman for courage in the midst of national emergency and of warning to the West of the spreading dangers of Communism was Sir Winston Churchill, one of the world's greatest statesmen. C. S. Lewis, the scholarly literary critic

and author of widely read imaginative literature, helped many intellectuals to see that Christianity was the only reasonable way of life for twentieth-century man. His writings offered an unanswerable challenge to the materialism of the day, as did the writings and television appearances of Malcolm Muggeridge, a man whose life spanned the century and whose turn from Socialism to Christ surprised and encouraged many people on both sides of the Atlantic.

## Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat

WINSTON CHURCHILL

*When Neville Chamberlain resigned as prime minister, George VI invited Winston Churchill to form a new administration. The following is his speech delivered in the House of Commons on May 13, 1940.*

On Friday evening last I received His Majesty's Commission to form a new Administration. It was the evident wish and will of Parliament and the nation that this should be conceived on the broadest possible basis and that it should include all parties, both those who supported the late Government and also the parties of the Opposition. I have completed the most important part of this task. A War Cabinet has been formed of five Members, representing, with the Opposition Liberals, the unity of the nation. The three party Leaders have agreed to serve, either in the War Cabinet or in high executive office. The three Fighting Services have been filled. It was necessary that this should be done in one single day, on account of the extreme urgency and rigour of events. A number of other key positions were filled yesterday, and I am submitting a further list to His Majesty tonight. I hope to complete the appointment of the principal Ministers during tomorrow. The appointment of the other Ministers usually takes a little longer, but I trust that when Parliament meets again this part of my task will be completed,

and that the administration will be complete in all respects.

I considered it in the public interest to suggest that the House should be summoned to meet today. Mr. Speaker agreed, and took the necessary steps, in accordance with the powers conferred upon him by the Resolution of the House. At the end of the proceedings today, the Adjournment of the House will be proposed until Tuesday, 21 May, with, of course, provision for earlier meeting if need be. The business to be considered during that week will be notified to Members at the earliest opportunity. I now invite the House, by the Resolution which stands in my name, to record its approval of the steps taken and to declare its confidence in the new Government.

To form an Administration of this scale and complexity is a serious undertaking in itself, but it must be remembered that we are in the preliminary stage of one of the greatest battles in history, that we are in action at many points in Norway and in Holland, that we have to be prepared in the Mediterranean, that the air bat-

tle is continuous and that many preparations have to be made here at home. In this crisis I hope I may be pardoned if I do not address the House at any length today. I hope that any of my friends and colleagues, or former colleagues, who are affected by the political reconstruction, will make all allowance for any lack of ceremony with which it has been necessary to act. I would say to the House, as I said to those who have joined the 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 of suffering. 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: 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. Let that be realized; no survival for the British Empire; no survival for all that the British Empire has stood for, no survival for the urge and impulse of the ages, that mankind will move forward towards its goal. But I take up my task with buoyancy and hope. I feel sure that our cause will not be suffered to fail among men. At this time I feel entitled to claim the aid of all, and I say, 'Come, then, let us go forward together with our united strength.'

#### QUESTION

What was the policy and the aim outlined by Churchill in this speech?

#### MEET THE AUTHOR



In 1940, Winston Churchill (1874–1965) became prime minister of England. For the next year, Britain stood alone against Hitler and his National Socialists (Nazis) during World War II. Sir Winston Churchill, one of the greatest statesmen in the history of the world, combined his personal courage and leadership ability with his great power of oratory to help turn England's darkest hour into its finest hour. Churchill became famous for his "V for victory" salute and for his exuberant phi-

losophy of hope and endurance that encouraged his countrymen during an almost unbearable time.

Churchill was extremely well read in the literature and history of his country. He achieved a matchless command of the English language and won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1953. A staunch conservative, Churchill loved his country and had a keen vision of the good Britain could do if she had the fortitude to keep the empire intact.

Churchill was prime minister of Great Britain twice (1940–1945 and 1951–1955) and also a noted orator, author, painter, soldier, and war reporter. Besides his matchless speeches, contained in such books as *While England Slept* (1938), his outstanding literary contributions included *Liberalism and the Social Problem* (1909), *The World Crisis* (1923–1929), *The Second World War* (1945–1954), and *History of the English-Speaking Peoples* (1956–1958). Churchill, whose mother was an American, was given the unique distinction of honorary United States citizenship in 1963.