

Rise of the Dictators: Winston Churchill

Essential Questions:

“Who was Winston Churchill?”

“What role did Churchill play leading up to World War II?”

WINSTON CHURCHILL: BACKGROUND

- Born November 30th, 1874 in Oxfordshire, England.
 - He was actually born in a palace: Blenheim Palace.
 - Parents were wealthy aristocrats.
 - His father, Lord Randolph Churchill, was a politician who held many high offices in the British government.
 - Descended from the First Duke of Marlborough and was a well-known political figure in the 1870s and 1880s.
 - His mother, Jennie Jerome, was an American heiress whose father was a stock speculator and part-owner of The New York Times.
- Churchill was educated at the Harrow Prep School
 - Very poor student
 - 1893 - Winston Churchill headed off to military school at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

WINSTON CHURCHILL: School & Military

- Churchill attended the Royal Military College and joined the British cavalry upon graduation
 - He traveled the world while with the military
 - Worked as a newspaper correspondent, writing stories about battles and life in the military.
 - While in South Africa during the Second Boer War, Winston Churchill was captured and became a Prisoner of War
 - He escaped! – snuck out through a bathroom window and traveled 300 miles to be rescued
 - The story was EVERYWHERE! - became something of a hero in Britain.
- Churchill was a prolific writer – minor celebrity
 - Churchill's first book, published in 1898, was an account of his experiences in India's Northwest Frontier Province.
 - By the time he returned to England in 1900, the 26-year-old Churchill had published five books.

WINSTON CHURCHILL: Early Political Life

- 1900 - Churchill was elected to Parliament.
 - Winston Churchill joined the House of Commons as a Conservative.
 - Famously changed his political views: 1904, he “crossed the chamber” and became a Liberal.
- Politically, he worked on behalf of progressive social reforms
 - An eight-hour workday
 - A government-mandated minimum wage
 - A state-run labor exchange for unemployed workers
 - A system of public health insurance
 - This infuriated his Conservative colleagues, who complained that this new Churchill was a “traitor to his class.”

WINSTON CHURCHILL: First Lord of the Admiralty

- 1911 – Churchill became the First Lord of the Admiralty (akin to the Secretary of the Navy in the U.S.)
 - Noticed that Germany was growing more and more *bellicose* – “*demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight.*”
 - This was Pre-World War I
 - Churchill began to prepare Great Britain for war:
 - He established the Royal Naval Air Service, modernized the British fleet and helped invent one of the earliest tanks.

WINSTON CHURCHILL: Gallipoli

- 1914-15 – Churchill was responsible for a disastrous military campaign: the 1915 invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey.
 - Hoped that this offensive would drive Turkey out of the war and encourage the Balkan states to join the Allies
 - Turkish resistance was much stiffer than he had anticipated
 - After nine months and 250,000 casualties, the Allies withdrew in disgrace.
 - Churchill left the Admiralty after the Gallipoli failure.

WINSTON CHURCHILL: Between the Wars

- Churchill bounced from government job to government job
 - In 1924 he rejoined the Conservatives – switched political sides.
- 1933 – Nazis came to power in Germany
 - Churchill spent a great deal of time warning his countrymen about the perils of German nationalism
 - British were weary of war and reluctant to get involved in international affairs again.
 - British government ignored Churchill's warnings
 - Did all it could to stay out of Hitler's way.
 - 1938 – Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain signed the agreement giving Germany a chunk of Czechoslovakia for a promise of peace.
 - "throwing a small state to the wolves," Churchill scolded – in exchange for a promise of peace.
 - This was known as *Appeasement* (more on this later...)

WINSTON CHURCHILL: Prime Minister

- Churchill knew Appeasement would not work
 - Warned the government that they needed to help fight Hitler or Hitler would soon take over all of Europe.
- 1939 – Hitler broke his promise and invaded Poland
 - Britain and France declared war – WWII began!
 - May 1940 – Prime Minister Chamberlain was pushed out of office
 - Winston Churchill took his place as Prime Minister

Rise of the Dictators: Franklin D. Roosevelt

Essential Questions:

“Who was Franklin D. Roosevelt?”

“What role did FDR play leading up to WWII?”

FDR: Background

- Born on January 30, 1882, on a large estate near the village of Hyde Park, New York
 - Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the only child of wealthy parents, James and Sara Delano Roosevelt.
- He was educated by private tutors and elite schools (Groton and Harvard)
- Admired and emulated his fifth cousin, Theodore Roosevelt (former President)
 - While in college, Franklin fell in love with Theodore’s niece (and his own distant cousin), Anna Eleanor Roosevelt
 - They married in 1905
 - The couple had a daughter, Anna, followed by five sons, one of whom died in infancy.

FDR: Early Political Life

- Roosevelt attended law school at Columbia University
 - Worked for several years as a clerk in a Wall Street law firm
- 1910 - entered politics, winning a state senate seat
- 1913 - President Woodrow Wilson named Roosevelt Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Navy.
 - He would hold that post for the next seven years, traveling to Europe in 1918 to tour naval bases and battlefields after the U.S. entrance into World War II.
- 1920 – Ran as the Democratic Party Vice-Presidential candidate for James Cox
 - Lost to Republican Warren G. Harding

FDR: Governor

- 1928 – elected as governor of New York
 - Grew more liberal in his policies as New York (and the nation) sank deeper into economic depression after the stock market crash of 1929.
 - Re-elected as governor in 1930
 - Roosevelt emerged as a front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination two years later.

FDR: President

- Accept the Democrat nomination, famously pledging himself to *“a new deal for the American people.”*
- An overwhelming margin of victory over the incumbent Pres. Herbert Hoover
 - Democrats won sizeable majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933
 - The Great Depression had reached desperate levels: 13 million unemployed.
 - In the first inaugural address to be widely broadcast on the radio, Roosevelt boldly declared that *“This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and prosper...[T]he only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”*

FDR: Fireside Chats

- Gave regular national radio addresses in which he spoke directly to the American people.
 - These “fireside chats,” were broadcast to a radio audience of millions and millions
 - Restores public confidence – a very important tactic in World War II

FDR: New Deal

- Roosevelt’s New Deal programs included...
 - the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA)
 - the Public Works Administration (PWA)
 - the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
 - the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
 - the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
 - the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
 - MANY, MANY other government programs and initiatives were created to combat the effects of the Great Depression.

- Largest expansion of government influence in U.S. history – created more government programs with more influence over individual

FDR: Foreign Policy

- The United States was famously NEUTRAL and ISOLATIONIST
 - Reluctant to get involved in ANY foreign entanglement
- *1933 – Good Neighbor Policy*
 - FDR did not want to completely isolate the U.S. from the world
 - Watched as Japan took Manchuria (1931)
 - Watched as Italy took Ethiopia (1935)
 - Watched as Germany took the Rhineland & Sudetenland (1936), Anschluss – Austrian annexation (1938), Poland invaded (1939)
- *Johnson Act of 1934* – no loans to nations owing U.S. money from WWI
- *Neutrality Act of 1935* – no sending arms or ammunition to foreign nations at war
- *Neutrality Act of 1937* – banned American citizens from entering war zones
 - FDR asks congress to repeal these acts – Congress refused
- Roosevelt increased his support of Great Britain with passage of the *Lend-Lease Act* in March 1941
 - Met with Prime Minister Winston Churchill in August, 1941 aboard a battleship anchored off Canada.
 - Results in the *Atlantic Charter*, the two leaders declared the “Four Freedoms” on which the post-war world should be founded:
 1. freedom of speech and expression
 2. freedom of religion
 3. freedom from want
 4. freedom from fear.
- December 7, 1941 – Japan bombed the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor
 - Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress the next day – Congress declared war on Japan.
- FDR was the first president to leave the country during wartime
- Roosevelt spearheaded the alliance between Allied countries combating the Axis Powers.
 - Met frequently with Churchill
 - Sought to establish friendly relations with the Soviet Union and its leader, Joseph Stalin
 - FDR spoke constantly on the radio (“fireside chats”), reporting war events and rallying the American people in support of the war effort (as he had for the New Deal).