Winston Churchill

* "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."
* The Churchill Centre and Museum At The Churchill War Rooms, London

<http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/biography/the-admiralty>

**The Wilderness-** From 1929 to 1939 Churchill was denied office by a succession of Prime Ministers, alienated by his campaigns against the India Bill, granting local self-government to parts of India) and criticizing their refusal to rearm the county in the face of Hitler's aggressions. When war came as he had predicted in September 1939, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain asked him back, and he again served as First Lord of the Admiralty until he replaced Chamberlain as Prime Minister in May 1940.

**The War Leader**- Churchill's inspirational speeches when Britain had little else to fight with roused the nation and convinced his colleagues to fight on even after Hitler's armies had conquered France and dominated most of Western Europe. After the Soviet Union and the United States entered the war in 1941, he worked to build what he called a "Grand Alliance," traveling tens of thousands of miles to meet with allies and coordinate military strategy. With them he redrew the map of Europe as Germany collapsed in 1945. Almost immediately, he saw the threat that had arisen in Hitler's place, and warned the West of the Soviet "Iron Curtain" in his famous speech in Fulton, Missouri, in 1946.

**Biography-** Winston Churchill was also an effective statesman and leader because he possessed the attribute of strategic foresight.  An example of his keen intuition is found in the aftermath of the Munich Agreement.  While Neville Chamberlain proclaimed that its policies of appeasement had brought, “peace in our time,” Winston Churchill complained of the terms.  He declared that:  a) nothing vital was at stake; b) Czechoslovakia could “have hardly got worse” terms in the agreement; and c) the agreement would ultimately not be successful in preserving Europe’s uneasy peace while the threat of Nazi Germany under Hitler still loomed.9 World War II would prove his intuition correct. While Winston Churchill’s foresight was a critical component of his leadership, there was another factor that elevated all of his talents to the forefront:  his passion.  Winston Churchill possessed a passion for democratic freedom that drove him to work hard for its preservation, allowing him to be an effective statesman and leader.

World War II, however, is where Churchill’s personality shines the most.  He tirelessly travelled to military positions and installations, conducting inspections, boosting morale, and supporting commanders.  He also established a personal friendship with Franklin Delano Roosevelt and maintained strong relations and diplomatic ties with the American Government.  Through it all, he was able to maintain a cool assurance of victory and instill confidence in everyone around him.

\*Also more info on page 493 of your textbooks.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

Miller Center, University of Virginia

<http://millercenter.org/president/fdroosevelt>

**Life in Brief-** Faced with the Great Depression and World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt, nicknamed "FDR," guided America through its greatest domestic crisis, with the exception of the Civil War, and its greatest foreign crisis. His presidency—which spanned twelve years—was unparalleled, not only in length but in scope. FDR took office with the country mired in a horrible and debilitating economic depression that not only sapped its material wealth and spiritual strength, but cast a pall over its future. Roosevelt's combination of confidence, optimism, and political savvy—all of which came together in the experimental economic and social programs of the "New Deal"—helped bring about the beginnings of a national recovery.

In foreign affairs, FDR committed the United States to the defeat of the fascist powers of Germany, Japan, and Italy, and led the nation and its allies to the brink of victory. This triumph dramatically altered America's relationship with the world, guiding the United States to a position of international prominence, if not predominance. By virtue of its newfound political and economic power, as well as its political and moral leadership, the United States would play a leading role in shaping the remainder of the twentieth century.

Franklin Roosevelt also forged a domestic political revolution on several fronts. In politics, FDR and the Democratic Party built a power base which carried the party to electoral, if not ideological, dominance until the late 1960s. In governance, FDR's policies, especially those comprising the New Deal, helped redefine and strengthen both the American state and, specifically, the American presidency, expanding the political, administrative, and constitutional powers of the office.

**World War II-** In addition to changing life at home, Roosevelt permanently altered America's role in the world. Hamstrung in the 1930s by domestic economic woes and a strong isolationist bloc in Congress and the public, FDR confronted Germany and Japan only tentatively as those powers looked to establish dominance in Europe and Asia, respectively. Nevertheless, Roosevelt did extend massive amounts of aid to Great Britain as that nation successfully held out against the Nazi onslaught during 1940 and 1941 Working with America's allies in the Pacific, FDR also tried to contain the Japanese threat.

Japan's surprise attack on the American Navy at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 officially brought the United States into World War II. FDR proved a talented war-time leader and, by 1943, the United States military, along with its allies, had turned the tide against both Germany and Japan. But Roosevelt did not live to see the war's end., In April 1945, just weeks before the German surrender, the president collapsed and died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Under Roosevelt's leadership, the United States emerged from World War II as the world's foremost economic, political, and military power. FDR's contributions to domestic life during his presidency were just as vital. While his "New Deal" did not end the Great Depression, Roosevelt's leadership gave Americans hope and confidence in their darkest hours and fundamentally reshaped the relationship between the federal government and the American people. FDR so dominated American politics that he almost single-handedly launched the Democratic Party into a position of prolonged political dominance.. During his tenure, FDR also lifted both the standing and power of the American presidency to unprecedented heights. More broadly, however, his New Deal programs, marked a substantial turning point in the nation's political, economic, social, and cultural life.

Emperor Hirohito

“To our good and loyal subjects:  After pondering deeply the general trends of the world and the actual conditions obtaining in our empire today, we have decided to effect a settlement of the present situation by resorting to an extraordinary measure.”

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/hirohito_emperor.shtml>

The emperor was regarded as divine by many Japanese. In reality he had little power, with civilian and increasingly military officials deciding national policy. He reluctantly supported the invasion of Manchuria and the war against China, and attempted to encourage cooperation with Britain and the USA. However, he had no choice but to approve the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that led to war between Japan and the United States in December 1941. Despite his lack of enthusiasm over the decision to go to war, he was pleased with the Japanese military and naval successes that followed. He frequently appeared in military uniform to raise morale.

By the spring of 1945, the defeat of Japan seemed imminent. The Japanese government was deeply divided between military leaders who favored continuing the war and civilians who wanted to negotiate for peace. Hirohito appears to have favored peace. Following the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Hirohito insisted that Japan surrender. On 15 August 1945, he made a radio broadcast announcing the end of the war - this was the first time the people of Japan had heard the voice of their emperor.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/macarthur/peopleevents/pandeAMEX97.html>

Hirohito presided over one of the largest and most costly military ventures in human history. In the decades after the war, the accepted version of events held that Hirohito was essentially a pawn of the militarists who gained control of the government shortly after he took the throne. MacArthur, convinced he needed the Emperor to run a smooth occupation, played no small part in establishing this version. With Hirohito's quiet manner, love of haiku and marine biology, the image of the peace-loving man who was powerless to stop his country's murderous expansion took hold. But in the decade since his death, a more open inquiry into what happened has convinced a number of historians that this version, while partially true, is far from accurate. Hirohito's ability to thwart the militarists was certainly limited -- he was more a symbol of the state than an actual ruler -- but he was not nearly as blameless as his defenders would have it. The occupation official and historian Richard B. Finn sums it up this way: "The decisions that led to the war in 1941 were made unanimously by the cabinet, the emperor was fully informed about them, they were often made in his presence, he knew in advance of the plan to attack Hawaii, and he even made suggestions about how to carry it out."

Adolf Hitler

“In starting and waging a war it is not right that matters, but victory.”

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/hitler.html#ww1>

Hitler was convinced (after WWI) that fate had chosen him to rescue a humiliated nation from the shackles of the Versailles Treaty, from Bolsheviks and Jews.

Assigned by the Reichswehr in the summer of 1919 to "educational" duties which consisted largely of spying on political parties in the overheated atmosphere of post-revolutionary Munich, Hitler was sent to investigate a small nationalistic group of idealists, the German Workers' Party. On 16 September 1919 he entered the Party (which had approximately forty members), soon changed its name to the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) and had imposed himself as its Chairman by July 1921.

Hitler discovered a powerful talent for oratory as well as giving the new Party its symbol — the [swastika](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/Swastika.html) — and its greeting "*Heil!*." His hoarse, grating voice, for all the bombastic, humourless, histrionic content of his speeches, dominated audiences by dint of his tone of impassioned conviction and gift for self-dramatization.

Hitler focused his propaganda against the Versailles Treaty, the "November criminals," the Marxists and the visible, internal enemy No. 1, the "Jew," who was responsible for all Germany's domestic problems. Hitler's first written utterance on political questions dating from this period emphasized that what he called "the anti-Semitism of reason" must lead "to the systematic combating and elimination of Jewish privileges. Its ultimate goal must implacably be the total removal of the Jews."

The failure of the [Beer-Hall putsch](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/beer.html) and his period of imprisonment transformed Hitler from an incompetent adventurer into a shrewd political tactician, who henceforth decided that he would never again confront the gun barrels of army and police until they were under his command. He concluded that the road to power lay not through force alone but through legal subversion of the Weimar Constitution, the building of a mass movement and the combination of parliamentary strength with extra-parliamentary street terror and intimidation. Helped by [Goering](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/goering.html) and [Goebbels](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/goebbels.html) he began to reassemble his followers and rebuild the movement which had disintegrated in his absence.

The destruction of the radical SA leadership under [Ernst Rohm](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Roehm.html) in the Blood Purge of June 1934 confirmed Hitler as undisputed dictator of the Third Reich and by the beginning of August, when he united the positions of Fuhrer and Chancellor on the death of von Hindenburg, he had all the powers of State in his hands. Avoiding any institutionalization of authority and status which could challenge his own undisputed position as supreme arbiter, Hitler allowed subordinates like [Himmler](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/himmler.html), [Goering](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/goering.html) and [Goebbels](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/goebbels.html) to mark out their own domains of arbitrary power while multiplying and duplicating offices to a bewildering degree.

During the next four years Hitler enjoyed a dazzling string of domestic and international successes, outwitting rival political leaders abroad just as he had defeated his opposition at home. In 1935 he abandoned the Versailles Treaty and began to build up the army by conscripting five times its permitted number. He persuaded Great Britain to allow an increase in the naval building programme and in March 1936 he occupied the demilitarized Rhineland without meeting opposition. He began building up the Luftwaffe and supplied military aid to Francoist forces in [Spain](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/Spain.html), which brought about the Spanish fascist victory in 1939.

The German rearmament programme led to full employment and an unrestrained expansion of production, which reinforced by his foreign policy successes--the Rome-Berlin pact of 1936, the Anschluss with Austria and the "liberation" of the Sudeten Germans in 1938 — brought Hitler to the zenith of his popularity. In February 1938 he dismissed sixteen senior generals and took personal command of the armed forces, thus ensuring that he would be able to implement his aggressive designs.

Hitler's saber-rattling tactics bludgeoned the British and French into the humiliating Munich agreement of 1938 and the eventual dismantlement of the Czechoslovakian State in March 1939. The [concentration camps](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/cc.html), the [Nuremberg racial laws](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/nurlaws.html) against the Jews, the persecution of the churches and political dissidents were forgotten by many Germans in the euphoria of Hitler's territorial expansion and bloodless victories. The next designated target for Hitler's ambitions was [Poland](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/Polandtoc.html) (her independence guaranteed by [Britain](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/Englandtoc.html) and [France](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/Francetoc.html)) and, to avoid a two-front war, the Nazi dictator signed a pact of friendship and non-aggression with Soviet Russia.