

# Churchill

Presented by Professor J. Rufus Fears

A Great Courses DVD Class

Jim Barber - Instructor

## Overview:

Winston Churchill is arguably the greatest leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and one of the greatest democratic statesmen ever. His friend, colleague, and esteemed political foe Clement Attlee memorialized him as "the greatest Englishman of our time—I think the greatest citizen of the world of our time." Churchill is eminently worthy of study because he is proof that a single individual can change the course of history for the better and make of life a blessed and noble thing, despite public and private trials too numerous to name.

## A Life of Stunning Accomplishment

These twelve lectures will introduce you to:

- A successful politician who won his seat in Parliament at age 26
- A statesman of vision and principle
- A brilliant orator who invoked timeless concepts of valor, honor, and freedom when the civilized world needed them most
- A brave and resourceful soldier in battles large and small
- A gifted public servant who helped his country in a variety of key cabinet posts, never shirking a tough assignment or dodging a tough issue
- A military innovator and strategist who outpaced his contemporaries in his grasp of the impact of technology on warfare
- An eminent bestselling author who won the Nobel Prize for Literature, whose biography of Marlborough has been called the greatest historical work of the 20th century, and who had already become a millionaire through his writings when he took his seat in Parliament
- A gifted painter of landscapes whose artwork, which hangs today in major museums, brought him a considerable income
- A loving son, faithful husband, and doting father who won the devotion of his children.

NOTE: The first 6 weeks will be presented by Dr. J. Rufus Fears and the last two weeks will be based upon a 1961-63 ABC & BBC documentary with twenty six 30 minute chapters. I plan to conduct the course thru the Winter of 2017 into four classes in Spring of 2017 to complete the entire two series on Mr. Churchill.

## **Class Notes**

**Class 1 A & B – Fall 2016 Term - Monday 9/19/2016 – 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

### **Class # 1 A. Heritage and Destiny**

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On June 4, 1940, Winston Churchill spoke to Parliament, rallying a nation during the darkest days of history's most awful war. To see what brought him there, we must begin, as he would have, with the legacy of heroism and public service he received from his ancestors, above all the great First Duke of Marlborough.

### **Class # 1 B. Young Churchill**

Despite his high birth, the "troublesome boy" Winston showed scant promise of greatness. His school career was uneven; his parents distant, even harsh. Yet as he later noted, "the solitary tree, if it grows at all, grows to be strong and sturdy." His own blossoming began at Sandhurst, Britain's Royal Military Academy.

**Class 2 A & B – Fall 2016 Term - Monday –9/26/2016 - 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

**Class # 2 A. On the Empire's Frontier** Churchill began manhood as a soldier of the British Empire, which he would always see as a force for good. His service was noted for its "valor, courage, and resolute spirit," and he wrote successfully and well of his perilous experiences in Afghanistan and Africa.

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### **Class # 2 B. Political Beginnings**

Churchill burned with a strong sense of ambition and family honor. Already a war hero and author, he won a seat in Parliament at 26 (his second try) as a voice for "Tory democracy." He would be a top Cabinet minister by 34 and First Lord of the Admiralty by 37.

**Class 3 A & B – Fall 2016 Term Monday – 10/3/2016 – 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

### **Class #3 A. Churchill and Controversy**

Mediocrity distrusts genius. Such distrust contributed to Churchill's fall from the Cabinet after the failure of the Dardanelles campaign. His own response to adversity revealed the nobility of spirit that enabled him not only to survive, but to triumph.

### **Class # 3 B. Post-War Challenges**

Returning to the Cabinet as Minister of Munitions—a testament to his organizing skills and "can-do" spirit—Churchill pioneered a new weapon code-named the "tank," becoming a founding father of modern armored warfare and paving the way for victory on the Western Front.

### **Class 4 A & B – Fall 2016 - Term Monday – 10/10/2016 - 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

#### **Class #4 A. In the Wilderness**

Churchill returned to the Tory party and the Cabinet in the 1920s. By decade's end, he would resign over India. There followed years of political exile lightened by his warm family life and copious, brilliant literary output.

#### **Class 4 # B. The Nazi Menace**

For most of the 1930s, Churchill was widely considered washed-up and out of touch. Undaunted, he stood nearly alone as he persistently and eloquently made the case for British rearmament and resistance to Nazi aggrandizement.

### **Class 5 A & B – Fall 2016 Term - Monday – 10/17/2016 - 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

#### **Class # 5 A. Rallying the Nation**

Why did Churchill, at last named Prime Minister during the stern days of May 1940, feel that all his life "had been but a preparation for this hour and this trial"? How did he resist pressures to negotiate for peace with Hitler, and instead rally his fellow Britons to meet "their finest hour"?

#### **Class # 5 B. The Tide of War Turns**

In a war of powerful leaders, Churchill proved to be the supreme strategist. What were the skills and experiences that made him so successful? How did he meet the numerous and awful challenges with which the burden of wartime leadership confronted him?

### **Class 6 A & B – Fall 2016 Term – Monday – 10/24/2016 - 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

#### **Class # 6 A. Champion of Freedom**

In 1945, Churchill was determined that freedom's victory not be squandered as it had been in 1918. With the war barely won, voters gave him "the Order of the Boot." In his

last years his health failed but his judgments remained astute (even prophetic) and his principles shone undimmed.

### **Class # 6 B. The Legacy of Churchill**

In what does Churchill's greatness ultimately consist? What did he understand by liberty and democracy? What role did he see for government? Where did he learn his principles, and how did he uphold them so unswervingly over a political life of more than 50 tumultuous years?

**See a preview here:**

<http://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/churchill.html#>

## **Winston Churchill “The Valiant Years”**

Based on his book “The Second World War”

Narrated by Gary Merrill

Churchill's voice by Richard Burton

1960 -1961 ABC Documentary Series

**Class 7 A & B – Fall 2016 Term – Monday – 10/31/2016 - 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

**Class # 7 A. Episode 1: The Gathering Storm**

**Class # 7 B. Episode 2: Combat Deepens**

**Class 8 A & B – Fall 2016 Term – Monday – 11/7/2016 - 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

**Class # 8 A. Episode 3: Dunkirk**

**Class # 8 B. Episode 4: French Agony**

Churchill offers aid to the French, and asks the United States to help also, as the Nazis sweep through France and capture Paris. Petain and Laval sign an armistice with Hitler, and Churchill orders the destruction of the French fleet at Oran.

To be continued Winter and Spring 2017 Terms

8/21/16