

# Asymptote<sup>®</sup> REVIEW AR

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An Entertaining Excursion Into Intellectual Property

No. 1

## Churchill was an inventor, too

By **W. Thad Adams III**

**H**eroic, insightful, confrontational and resolute, Sir Winston Churchill was to many people many things, including a soldier, newspaper correspondent, pilot, politician, author, orator, painter, bricklayer, gadfly, wit, and to some, a general, all-around pain-in-the-neck.

He was also an inventor.

As a war leader during World War II, he saw better than most that wars could not be won as they had been in the past, by sending troops over a hill into the teeth of an entrenched enemy. With France fallen, Britain alone, U-boats blockading its ports and bombing its cities, Churchill wrote to his Cabinet:

*"This war is not however a war of masses of men hurling masses of shells at each other. It is by devising new weapons and above all by scientific leadership that we shall best cope with the enemy's superior strength."*

Churchill was undeniably brilliant, exasperat-

ing, impatient, indomitable, passionate, daring, stubborn and many times wrong, but he simply would not take "no" for an answer. By sheer force of will he imposed on a sometimes reluctant and doubting Parliament and military the imperatives of his far-ranging imagination.



© Karsh / Retna Ltd.  
**Winston Churchill**

It all began much earlier. Even as a boy, Churchill was a student of military history, acting out battles with his own large army of toy soldiers. As a professional soldier in India, Sudan, South Africa and on the Western Front during World War I, he saw firsthand the end of the old ways of war and realized sooner

than most that war had come to drive and be driven by science and technology.

World War I, until after World War II called "The Great War", resulted in human slaughter on a scale never before seen. An entire generation of

European youth died in a stalemated trench war that ended with the battlelines about where they had been years before. Britain alone suffered almost a million dead, two million wounded, 200,000 missing. A friend wrote Churchill: "Imagine a broad belt, ten miles or so in width, stretching from the Channel to the German border near Basle, which is positively littered with the bodies of men and scarified with their rude graves."

It was Churchill, as leader of the British navy, who first suggested in 1915 that the army ...

*"... fit up a number of steam tractors with small armoured shelters, in which men and machine guns could be placed, which would be bullet-proof," speculating that a "caterpillar system would enable trenches to be crossed quite easily, and the weight of the machine would destroy all wire entanglements."*

(See 'Imagination' on page 2)

## Great citizen, great vision

*To many, Winston Churchill ranks as one of the greatest men of our time, perhaps the greatest. Hundreds of books and articles have been written about every aspect of Churchill's life and times. The most that Asymptote Review can do is barely scratch the surface with the hope that the reader's interest will be piqued to read and learn more about this fascinating and important person. Never has a man been better marched for the times. Without Winston Churchill, it would be a very different world.*

**W**inston Churchill was born in 1874 at Blenheim Palace, near Oxford. He was born at the full flood of the eponymous Victo-

rian Era when Great Britain ruled vast areas of the world as an imperial power and thereby accumulated vast wealth and power.

His father was Lord Randolph Churchill, a son of the 7<sup>th</sup> duke of Marlborough, and his mother was an American socialite, Jennie Jerome. They were distant parents, and Winston developed a self-reliant, willful personality at an early age.



Copyright Archive Photos

In 1888 young Winston entered Harrow, the famous boarding school, where he distinguished himself as a troublemaker and indifferent student. Even though brilliant with a

photographic memory that allowed him to quote hundreds of lines of verse by heart, he would not study Latin or the classics, preferring his own English language. Failing to qualify for university, he chose to attend the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, after which he was commissioned as a cavalry officer in the 4<sup>th</sup> Hussars.

(See 'Resented' on page 3)

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# Imagination, perseverance drive tank (continued from front page)

Churchill clearly saw technology as a means of saving lives and reducing the number of soldiers required by the army. The Army pigeonholed the idea. A month later Churchill had an Admiralty designer draw up a “land ship” with caterpillar treads. To maintain secrecy, the project was misrepresented as a new design for water carriers, and for this reason, the land ships were called “tanks.” A few were built, prematurely and poorly used, and relegated by the army to the lowest priority.



The Great War slaughter in Europe continued. Churchill later became Minister of Munitions, and finally had the power necessary to give priority to the further development of tank. Many improvements were made, many hundreds were built and ultimately played a role in

finally ending the war in November, 1918.

The lessons of tank warfare were not lost on the Germans. While little additional development to the tank took place in Britain until World War II, Germany used the time between the wars not only to improve the designs, but to develop new strategies that would take advantage of the speed of the improved tanks and change warfare forever.

It was once said “it is commonplace in military history that there exists a continuity between the closing phase of one war and the opening phase of the next, (and that) the weapons and the ideas invented or formed toward the end of one armed conflict dominate the opening stage of the next conflict.”

But there wasn't supposed to be a “next conflict.” This was the war that would end war for all time, because war had become too horrible to contemplate. There were no winners, only losers.

**FRANCE, BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES DISARMED**, and imposed draconian reparations on Germany — then disarmed themselves, certain that universal disarmament would prevent future conflicts. Some Germans had a different view of the future, and in less than a generation it was clear that not only had the Great War not ended war, but had laid the foundation for an even larger, bloodier, scientifically sophisticated war.

Churchill was one of the first to see it coming. During the 1930's he watched in horror as Germany rearmed. He cajoled, hectored, and railed against the British government, of which he was no longer a part, for its unwillingness to see what was happening in Germany. He did more than talk. He formed an informal group of scientists and thinkers to investigate ideas for improved weapons and defenses. He used like-minded sources within the government and even in Germany to acquire secret information about the state of Germany's rearmament effort and Britain's inadequate response.

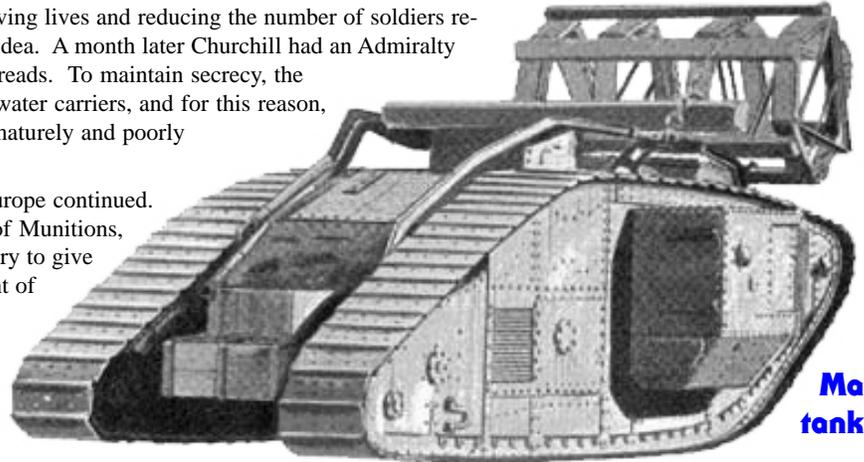
**We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end.**

**We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and the oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, 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.**

Radio broadcast on June 4, 1940



**Mark V tank**

**After the war Churchill was officially credited with the first practical application of the tank. A royal commission reviewing claims of inventors whose inventions had been used without compensation during the war reported:**

*Due to the receptivity, courage and driving force of the Rt. Hon. Winston Spencer Churchill, the general idea of the use of such an instrument of war as the tank was converted into practical shape, but Mr. Churchill has very properly taken the view that all of his thought and time belonged to the State and that he was not entitled to make any claim for an award, even if he had wanted to do so. But it seems proper that the above view should be recorded by way of tribute to Mr. Winston Churchill.*

**If this long island story of ours is to end at last, let it end only when each one of us lies choking in his own blood upon the ground.**

Responding in May, 1940, to government ministers' suggestion he negotiate with Hitler



Appeasement – then not a dirty word – was the official policy of the British government. Appeasement meant “buying off” Germany by giving it what it wanted in Eastern Europe in return for a promise not to attack Britain. Churchill and a small band of colleagues constantly fought appeasement and suffered ridicule and political isolation as a result. Eventually, the inevitable happened. After having digested Czechoslovakia, Germany attacked Poland, with whom Britain had a treaty of mutual defense. War began, France and Belgium were attacked and overrun, and the British army barely escaped capture at Dunkirk.

With Britain and the rest of Europe on the brink, only Churchill was left with the credibility to lead the country. He became Prime Minister in May, 1940, and appointed himself Minister of Defense. In addition to the usual responsibilities of office he plunged into weapons development at ground level. He formed committees that investigated aircraft catapults, radio direction finding stations, anti-torpedo nets, infantry shields, defenses to magnetic mines, river mines, radar-directed rockets, bomb sights, smokescreens, amphibious landing craft, artificial harbors, “swimming tanks” and many more. “Don't argue the matter”, he would tell his subordinates, “the difficulties will argue for them-

## Want More?

Turn to the [Back Page](#) for

- Wonderful Winston Websites
- Favorite Churchill Hardbacks

**(See 'Dogged Determination' on page 5)**

# Resented by many, respected by most (continued from front page)

In 1895, Churchill saw his first action, in Cuba, as a military observer and correspondent with the Spanish forces fighting a guerrilla war. He was then sent to India with his cavalry regiment. While there he finally realized the holes in his formal education. His mother sent him dozens of books, and Churchill spent many hours studying the classics, including Darwin, Macaulay and Gibbon, learning much that he would find of great benefit in his future. He developed a hard-nosed, fatalistic philosophy of life as being a struggle with survival favoring the fittest, to be lived with courage, and enjoyed to the full.

In 1897 he served in the army in the Malakand expedition against the tribesmen of the Northwest Frontier of India, and the next year published his first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*. Using his influence and name, he came home and managed to insinuate himself onto General Kitchener's staff during the campaign to retake the Sudan from the rebels, led by their charismatic leader, the Mahdi. He fought at Omdurman in one of the last battles of classic warfare, with cavalry charges by a small, professional, well-equipped army fighting against a vast, moiling army of fanatics. Churchill wrote the history of the campaign in *The River War*, an excellent eyewitness military history that earned him praise as a writer and enemies among professional soldiers due to his many criticisms of military tactics and strategy.

Already well-known and either respected or resented by many, he went to South Africa during the Boer War as war correspondent for a London newspaper, and had no sooner arrived there than he was captured, carrying a firearm, by the Boer officer Louis Botha, who later was the first prime minister of the Union of South Africa and Churchill's dear friend. Taken to a prison, Churchill escaped over the fence and by several strokes of good fortune that defy the laws of probability, made it to Portuguese East Africa. He promptly went back to the front.

His escape made him world-famous, and he parlayed his fame into a seat in Parliament as a Conservative. His time in South Africa left him appalled by what he viewed as British cruelty, particularly toward civilians, and he publicly expressed sympathy with the Boer cause. He very quickly lost favor with his own party over this,

and his opposition to tariffs and his proposals for employee rights. By 1904 he was forced out of his party and joined the Liberal Party. He was for years a pariah to the Conservatives, and equally unpopular with the military – ironic, given what was to come.

As a Liberal Member of Parliament, he prospered politically in the years before the Great War, playing a major role in many social improvements, such as health insurance, minimum wages and maximum working hours laws enacted to soften the harsh conditions of the Industrial Revolution. In 1908, he married

**I felt as though I were walking with destiny and that all my past life had been a preparation for this hour and for this trial.**

On becoming Prime Minister, May 1940



Clementine Hozier, his "Clemmie", and began his life as a domestic partner and father. He wrote incessantly, principally as a means of income to support his family, and served in government.

He was First Lord of the Admiralty from 1911 until 1915, and in that position quickly recognized

that German naval power was increasing. He forced modernization of the British fleet to meet this threat, introducing oil-fueled vessels, creating the first naval air service, and, even though in the admiralty, insisted on the first development of the tank – which was largely his idea, something the army wanted no part of. It was here that he first put into practice what he had recognized during his army service in India and Africa – that superior technology in the hands of a

few can overcome vastly greater numbers of the enemy without such technology. In 1916, he went back to the army and volunteered for service on the western front. He commanded the 6th Royal Scots Fusiliers with daring and bravery, and was soon returned to government and became Minister of Munitions, where he again pushed for weapon and tactical improvements against the advice and prejudices of the professional military.

At the end of the war, Churchill became Secretary of State for War and also for air. In this post he pushed through further army reforms and development of air power, to the point where he, himself, became a pilot.

Churchill called the period of the 1930's his "Wilderness Years." Though in Parliament, he was out of the government. The slaughter of the Great War, in which soldiers charged across fields as in the 1700's, but in vastly greater numbers and against modern machine guns and artillery, caused a national revulsion against the very idea of war, leading to a pacifistic determination that anything was better than what Europe had just been through.

Politicians reflecting this national mood held power, and were willfully blind to what was happening in Germany. Churchill and a few others, those who knew history and saw what might lay ahead, warned in speeches and writings of the danger of trusting Germany to live up to its promises made at the end of the Great War. At the same time, Churchill saw the reparations imposed against Germany after the war as cruel and likely to breed further resentment in the German population.

No one in government would listen to his warnings. He was viewed as a nuisance, carping endlessly on about imaginary dangers; as a war-monger seeking to inflict another slaughter on an exhausted population less than a generation away from the catastrophic waste of the Great War. A man of less stern stuff may have wilted before the continuous ridicule. Churchill merely bore in harder, assembling a team of scientists and technicians to evaluate British aircraft and weaponry, and

**From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent.**

Speech at Westminster College, Fulton, Mo., on March 5, 1946



## Technology Explored at Churchill's Prodding

- Aircraft catapults,
- Radio direction finding stations,
- Anti-torpedo nets,
- Infantry shields,
- Defenses to magnetic mines,
- River mines,
- Radar-directed rockets,
- Bomb sights,
- Smokescreens,
- Amphibious landing craft,
- Artificial harbors,
- 'Swimming' tanks

# Same values aid Churchill's many roles

(Continued from page 3)

to uncover the truth of what was going on in Germany.

Meanwhile, Neville Chamberlain, Britain's pacifist Prime Minister, came home from Berlin waving a piece of paper signed by Hitler, promising "Peace in Our Time." Yet war came in 1939 when Germany, after having been given part of Czechoslovakia, invaded Poland. Churchill was inevitably recalled, as First Lord of the Admiralty. In 1940, Germany's "lightning war" overwhelmed France. By this time no politician but Churchill was left with sufficient credibility to lead the government. He had been right, and most everyone else wrong. His Wilderness Years had insulated him from responsibility for the consequences of the appeasements of the 1930's.

For the next five years, perhaps the most heroic period in Britain's history, he held supreme power as both Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. In hindsight it seems that his entire life had been directed toward this moment in history – an entire world at war with only Britain, lead by Churchill, standing between civilization and the abyss. Until 1941 Britain fought alone. Churchill saw the need to inspire resistance at home and abroad, to organize the defense of the island against an anticipated German invasion, and prepare for an eventual return to the continent of Europe. He swept away the appeasement and blindness of the 1930's. He became the personification of British resolve, whatever the odds. His entire lifetime of writing and orating became his principal weapon and he enlisted it into the battle. Upon becoming Prime Minister he uttered the words to the assembled House of Commons that have become famous throughout the world:

***"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat: You ask, what is our policy? I will say: It is to wage war, by sea, land, and air, with all our might. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory."***

Hitler's invasion of Russia brought Russia into the war, and Churchill seized the opportunity to make an alliance with a former ideological enemy. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor finally brought the United States fully into the war.

Churchill, already of retirement age when the war started, soldiered on during the entire war with resolute energy. He traveled constantly, delved into weapons development at the "nuts and bolts" level. He was instrumental in the development of radar, further

**Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands.**

**But if we fail, the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age, made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science.**

**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 hour.'**

Speech on June 18, 1940



**It is no use saying, 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.**

Winston Churchill,  
aka The Master Orator

## Modular Harbor Concept



The Mulberry Harbor complex was a four-mile long breakwater, located 1½ miles from shore, and constructed of 17 scuttled de-commissioned ships and 117 concrete pontoons, each 220 feet by 60 feet by 52 feet, and weighing 3,000 to 6,000 tons.

Each pontoon was towed across the English Channel to Normandy, then sunk into position.

Seven floating piers, totaling 2,300 feet in length, were linked to the shore by smaller pontoons linked by metal bridges.

The complex was towed to France and assembled in less than a week, but was severely damaged shortly after construction by a violent storm.

development of the tank, landing craft, and the so-called Mulberry Harbor used so effectively during the Normandy invasion. He involved himself in every facet of the war and, in time, the war was won at great cost and, in consequence, left a very changed world.

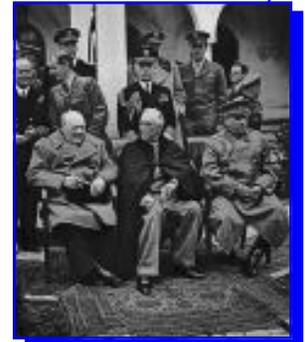
After the war, Churchill returned to writing and soon received a Nobel Prize for the totality of his writings, which did not yet include his personal history, a six-volume work entitled, *The Second World War*.

In his retirement, Churchill resumed his hobby of painting. He remained outspoken in his concern about the Soviet Union's presence in eastern Europe, and was again ahead of his time in predicting the dreadful consequences to mankind of the Soviet Union's westward expansion. He clearly saw both tragedy and irony in the fact that the war had started because one dictatorship had invaded Poland, and ended with another and even more virulent one in Poland with the connivance and consent of the United States and Britain.

In his famous "iron curtain" speech at Westminster College ("From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent."), he warned the West against Russia's aims. Events soon proved that Churchill's view of the world picture was again the correct one.

In 1963 he received, by act of the U.S. Congress, the unprecedented honor of being made an honorary American citizen. When he died in London on January 24, 1965, at the age of 90, he was acclaimed as a citizen of the world and was given a hero's funeral.

In the view of many, Winston Churchill was the greatest citizen of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will not see his like again.



# The Oratorical Master

**W**inston Churchill was English to the bone, and his command of the language was beyond compare. He spoke in measured and cadenced phrases, using short but often antique words to achieve precisely the desired meaning and intensity of emotion. His skill at imposing with his words a visual and visceral impact on the listener and reader remains unsurpassed.

Phrases such as “blood, toil, tears and sweat”, “iron curtain”, “this was their finest hour” and “so much owed by so many to so few” have entered the language for all time. Scattered throughout these pages are short excerpts from just a few of Sir Winston’s most memorable speeches.



**Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.**

Speech made in the House of Commons as the Battle of Britain peaked on August 20, 1940, in tribute to the airmen who prevented the German Luftwaffe from gaining air superiority over Britain in anticipation of a land invasion

## Dogged Determination

(Continued from page 2)

selfes.” He nagged incessantly to ensure that his orders were being followed. Many of his ideas were impractical, but at least two – amphibious landing craft and man-made, floating harbors, later to be called “Mulberry” harbors, had originally been proposed by Churchill during World War I, and would have a profound impact on the war.

### ANY INVENTOR IS WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH FAILURE.

Thomas Edison tried hundreds of materials before finding a filament that made the light bulb practical. Churchill was no different. Many of his ideas were impractical, or at least well ahead of their time. Others were simply silly – for example, using flat-topped icebergs as ocean-going aircraft landing fields.

Churchill, though, had sufficient confidence in his imagination to drive his scientists and generals toward solutions that no one else thought would work. Churchill was also well aware of the need for weapons for “irregular” warfare, and he formed a unit of the Military Intelligence Research Department to design special weapons for this purpose. This unit acquired the nickname “Churchill’s Toy Shop”, and during the war its inventors designed twenty-six booby traps, mines, bombs, shoulder-fired anti-tank and other types of guns that were put into use, many to breach the “Atlantic Wall” erected by the Germans along the coast of France after its capture.

Churchill was particularly insistent that the tank be developed to the utmost level of sophistication. It is well that he did, because even with huge efforts by the British and Americans, German tanks were still far superior at the end of the war. Fortunately, the Allies made so many that the shortcomings in their technology were at least partially compensated.

Sad to say, it took World War II to finally lift the world out of depression. During the war vast improvements to existing technology and radical new inventions were made in virtually every aspect of science and engineering – aviation, space, vehicle design, radio, radar, electronic miniaturization, computers and cryptography to name a few. Winston Churchill did his part with zeal, determination and spirit – and a bit of craziness.

**It is no use saying, ‘We are doing our best.’ You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.**

**The price of greatness is responsibility.**

**I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.**

**Short words are best and the old words, when short, are best of all.**

— Winston Churchill

## Sir Winston’s Wit

**F**ew are better known for a blade-sharp wit than Winston Churchill. His long public career offered ample opportunities to exercise it. Over the years he has been accused of saying things that he never actually said, but here are a few that are well-documented and that demonstrate the master wordsmith’s unabashed derogatory dexterity.

**Nancy Astor once said** to Churchill in a fit of exasperation, “If I were your wife I’d poison your coffee,” to which Churchill replied: **“If I were your husband, I would drink it.”**

**On Stanley Baldwin:** **“He occasionally stumbled over the truth, but hastily picked himself up and hurried on as if nothing had happened.”**

**On Clement Attlee:**

- **“A sheep in sheep’s clothing.”**
- When Harry Truman observed that “He (Attlee) struck me as a very modest man,” Churchill added: **“He has much to be modest about.”**



**On being told** by Bessie Braddock, MP: “Winston, You’re drunk!” Churchill replied **“Bessie, you’re ugly. But in the morning I shall be sober.”**

**“I am prepared to meet my maker. Whether my maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter.”**

**Written by Churchill** in the margin of a memo by a clerk objecting to a preposition being placed at the end of a sentence, **“This is the sort of pedantic nonsense up with which I will not put.”**

**Spotting Churchill dozing off** in his seat in the House of Commons, a fellow MP asked, “Must you fall asleep when I am speaking?”

**“No,”** replied Churchill, **“it is purely voluntary.”**

**Playwright George Bernard Shaw** wired Churchill before the opening night performance of his new play, *St. Joan*: “Am reserving two tickers for you for my premiere. Come and bring a friend – if you have one.”

Churchill fired back: **“Impossible to be present for the first performance. Will attend the second – if there is one.”**

**Recognizing in 1936 that the Nazi threat** was growing, Churchill blasted the British government’s lack of resolve:

**“The Government simply cannot make up their minds, or they cannot get the Prime Minister to make up his mind. So they go on in strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all-powerful to be impotent.”**

## Winston Websites

### The Churchill Centre (based here in the U.S. – in Washington) <http://www.winstonchurchill.org>

This is the place to begin for information about the man and his long career and accomplishments. This is an extensive website with a vast amount of solid information – including the debunking of myths. They publish an excellent magazine, *Finest Hour*.

#### Membership & Other Inquiries, **Contact:**

Daniel Myers, Executive Director  
 1150 17th Street NW, Suite 307  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 Toll Free: **1-888-WSC-1874**  
 dmyers@winstonchurchill.org

#### Churchill Links

<http://www.geocities.com/rafalhm/wsc.html>

There are more than you might think – an indication of the importance of the man's six-decade political and literary career.

#### Churchill Online

<http://www.churchillonline.org.uk>

Very extensive British site chock full of information on "the Greatest Englishman" including many photos, discussions, and further (well-annotated) links.

## For Further Reading

Many hundreds of books have been written about Winston Churchill, and he figures prominently in hundreds of others on many subjects, particularly World Wars I and II. He himself was a prolific author whose best works rival the best historical works ever written. Many can be purchased through the Churchill Stores and the Churchill Book Club ([www.winstonchurchill.org](http://www.winstonchurchill.org)). Many others, including out-of-print works, can be located and purchased through an on-line bookstore such as Alibris ([www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com)).

#### Here are some favorites:

Birkenhead, Earl of. *The Professor and the Prime Minister*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1962.

Churchill, Winston. *The Second World War*. 6 vols. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1948-1953.

Delaforce, Patrick. *Churchill's Secret Weapons: The Story of Hobart's Funnies*. London: Robert Hale Limited, 2000.

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Lukacs, John. *Five Days in London, May 1940*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999.

Manchester, William. *The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill: Visions of Glory, 1874-1932*. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1983.

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Massie, Robert K. *Dreadnought-Britain, Germany and the Coming of the Great War*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1991.

Morgan, Ted. *Churchill: Young Man In A Hurry: 1873-1915*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982.

Soames, Mary, ed. *Winston and Clementine-The Personal Letters of the Churchills*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998.



Winston Churchill

## Who We Are

The firm specializes solely in patent, trademark and copyright law, and the related areas of unfair competition and trade secret law. Our eight lawyers have expertise in a broad range of intellectual property issues.

Our practice within this specialty is diverse, including prosecution of patent and trademark applications in the United States Patent and Trademark Office; domestic and international patent, trademark and copyright prosecution and licensing. The firm also has extensive litigation experience and regularly litigates patent, trademark, copyright and related trade secret and unfair competition matters in Federal and State Courts and before government agencies.

The firm is United States patent counsel for a large number of foreign corporations, many of whom have facilities in the Charlotte area. We assist both foreign and domestic companies and individuals in planning and executing overall patent and trademark strategy.

The firm's clients are involved in diverse areas of science and business, and include companies that design and manufacture textile machinery, hosiery and other apparel, filtration equipment, medical equipment, orthopedic products, child safety products, power transmission equipment, jet engines, electronic controls, microprocessor wafer processing equipment, high-speed audio and video duplication equipment, flooring products and aircraft passenger seats.

The firm also represents advertising and public relations agencies, record producers, golf courses, computer programming specialists, a nationwide photographic film processor, trucking companies, a large fiberglass processor, a national restaurant chain, and the owners of the New Orleans Hornets NBA professional basketball team.

Overall, approximately 50% of the firm's practice involves international issues. For this reason, we have very close relations with the international community in Charlotte, and therefore have access to information and services which are not normally available to those without such a large concentration of business in the international intellectual property area.

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