



BLOOD, TOIL,
TEARS AND SWEAT

studysync^{tv}

Winston Churchill Background

Winston Churchill was made Prime Minister of Great Britain on May 10, 1940. This was also the date on which Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, invaded France, Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg. Neville Chamberlain, who had been Prime minister up to this point, had tried to make a treaty with Hitler two years earlier, in 1938, announcing “peace for our time.” The treaty was an attempt to avoid yet another war with Germany, but Chamberlain’s plan had clearly failed. With these new attacks, Chamberlain had to resign. This excerpt from “Blood, Toil, tears and sweat” provides readers with key parts of a speech Churchill delivered to the House of Commons on May 13, 1940, just three days after taking on the task of leading the nation.

Winston Churchill background (continued)

The speech was designed to elicit support for a nation going to war. The methods by which Winston Churchill addresses both the struggles Great Britain has endured since the German attacks, but also the power and legacy of Great Britain are complex. To help understand Churchill's context and purpose, read the following for more clarification.

The British Government

At this time, Britain was a monarchy led by King George VI. He was also the father of Queen Elizabeth II, and she's the current monarch. Parliament is a two-chamber system comprised of the House of Lords, whose members inherit their seats, and the House of Commons, whose members are democratically elected. The Parliament is presided over by a Prime Minister who, in consultation with the king, leads to the nation. Winston Churchill's references to the political parties that comprised the British government at the time Labour, Opposition, and Liberals refer to various parties of differing viewpoints among themselves as well as with Churchill's Conservative Party.

Tip: Annotate means to highlight AND write your thinking about the text you highlighted. Write your thoughts in the margin.

1. Highlight two sentences that show Churchill's commitment and unwillingness to back down.

Mark these sentences as #1. In the margin, explain your thoughts about what you highlighted. (You will have two annotations noted #1 and two notes listed as #1)

2. Highlight at least one sentence that shows the kind of person Churchill was.

Mark this sentence as #2. In the margin, explain your thoughts about what you highlighted. List your thoughts for this prompt as #2

3. Highlight two examples of action Churchill has already taken.

Mark these examples as #3. In the margin, explain your thoughts about what you highlighted. (You will have two annotations noted #3 and two notes listed as #3)

4. Highlight two examples of action Churchill expects to take (or expects others to take).

Mark these examples as #4. In the margin, explain your thoughts about what you highlighted. (You will have two annotations noted #4 and two notes listed as #4)