

## Why I Admire Winston Churchill

By Molly Bentley

Who better to minister a country amidst a great war than a man with 14 total years of education, a first class degree in Modern History, who served as a captain, then a major in the Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons, held the position of Governor-Generalship of South Africa, President of the Board of Education, and Minister of Agriculture? According to the history of Prime Ministers of England, not him, but the competitor who took three tries to get into military school. Many members of the British Parliament and citizens of Great Britain were under the impression that Viscount Halifax would be granted the position of Prime Minister during World War II because of his credentials and strong desire for the position. Instead, in order to appease both parties of Parliament, Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was offered the position of Prime Minister of Great Britain, despite having a more controversial ideology of how the war should be handled. He accepted the grievous task, and set to work saving England and the Western Hemisphere from Nazi rule. Throughout his time as Prime Minister he gave many speeches, often to audiences who were vehemently opposed to his morals and ideas about how to conduct war. I admire his speeches because he stood his ground and insisted on maintaining high morale of the people of England, ultimately winning England the war.

Churchill was determined to handle World War II in the best way he saw fit, even when he faced opposition from some people on his war committee, who were supposed to assist and advise him. Despite this, he kept the attitudes of the audiences up and fighting, and never gave in to making a peace treaty. He believed that because of Germany's history with peace treaties, it could never work and they must be defeated. Despite Churchill being under fire at the time for lying to the public and refusing to compromise with Germany, and though there are still people

who think there were better ways he could have ruled, the Allies won the war, as a team, and Nazi Germany was defeated. It is impossible to win a war without the help of all the citizens of the country, and thanks to Churchill's speeches, he got the people on his side, and successfully won World War Two.

There is a lesson to be learned from standing one's ground, as Churchill did during the period of his leadership. As a female going into the male-dominated field of science, looking to this attribute of Churchill can help me succeed. In addition to his endurance, I also admire his fearlessness. Possibly the most crucial part of being a leader during wartime is maintaining the courage of the people. His speeches in particular were always motivational, and restored the victorious mindset of the public. He had a habit of making the war out to be going much better for the Allies than it actually was, and his philosophy was that it would not hurt the people to tell them that they were winning, in order to keep morale up, and soldiers and civilians fighting, which was a crucial trait of his leadership.

Winston Churchill was an influential political leader before, during, and after World War II. His confidence, persistence, and oratorical abilities are traits I hope to see and improve in myself as I grow through my academic journey. I can look to Winston Churchill for inspiration and guidance.